

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FAMILY MASS

THIS SUNDAY, 1ST DECEMBER, 10.30AM

HOLY HOUR

Monday 2nd December 7pm—8pm
And Monday 9th December 7pm—8pm

NEXT PPC MEETING 4TH DECEMBER AT 7PM

If you have any suggestions on the life of the parish please leave them in the silver box at the back of church or email the office:
stmichaels.rc@hotmail.co.uk

ADVENT DISCUSSION

Thursdays 5th, 12th and 19th December at 7pm in Church
The Nativity through the eyes of Matthew, Luke and John. What about Mark?
It might be useful to have a Bible or New Testament with you.

YOUTH MASS

Every third Sunday of the month during term time

THE BIG CLEAN

Please pencil in **SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER, 9.30AM** onwards for the cleaning of the inside of the church before Christmas. Please join us for 30mins - 2hours to get the Church ready for Christmas. Sign up sheet now available at the back of Church

THE CHRISTMAS FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOP IS NOW FULL

BISHOPSWOOD, CAROL SERVICE 10.30AM

FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER

ST MICHAEL'S SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION

With individual confession

16TH DECEMBER AT 7PM

ST MARTIN'S CAROL SERVICE WILL NOW BE HELD AT ST MARTIN'S

Thought for the week **First Sunday of Advent** **1st December, 2024**

This week begins Advent, a period of hope, of waiting for better things to come.

As we heard during last Sunday's Mass celebrating Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, we are encouraged to reflect on our spiritual journey to date.

We start another new year in the Church's calendar, and have much to look forward to, always with hope. What is certain is that this new year will no doubt bring its own doubts, worries, fears and uncertainties. The Gospel reading this week confirm this: '*...on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world....*' Events world-wide, both natural and man-made, also demonstrate this.

But hope we must. In God we must trust, while we resolve to run forth to meet our Christ at His coming.

I cannot help but reflect on the remarkable timing of change in our parish community. To think that Fr Michael has now retired and left our parish at a time we are to reflect on the past, with him, and a future without his reassuring presence. Our anxieties over what happens next, for now, have been swiftly allayed. In this we are more fortunate than most and are grateful.

Fr Michael introduced the church's traditional prayers, said after the petition prayers during different seasons of the liturgical year. The Rosary and Stations of the Cross booklets, and most recently, the 'Pocketful of Prayers' are just a tiny sample of the tools we have, to aid our prayers on our journey. Would Fr. Michael have left his fruit cake recipe? This we may have to do ourselves.

A Parishioner



We ask you please, to pray for the following people who need your prayers:

Please pray for Rogan, (Peter Halter's sister Jean's great grandson) whose Leukaemia has returned and very sadly they say nothing more can be done. Prayers are needed more than ever now. Please also pray for Jean herself who has macular degeneration.

Please pray for Mary Edwards who is awaiting knee surgery and for her son Ian who is unwell.

Thank you for your continued prayers for Robert Brooks who is now undergoing chemotherapy and awaiting further blood test results

Thank you for all your prayers for Joe Bunton who is transitioning into a care home and continues to need our prayers as he lives with Tuberous Sclerosis, Epilepsy and Autism with Severe learning difficulties. These conditions present huge challenges to his life.

Please Pray for Maria McNamara's niece who is undergoing chemotherapy. Her name is Alison Flynn née McNamara.

Please pray for Savanna Clark (aged 3 with eye trouble).

Please pray for Isobel Messenger (Vera Bird's great granddaughter) she has now had her operation to improve her hearing.

Please pray for Mary Hagger.

Please pray for Vivien Kear (Krissie's friend) who has cancer.

Please pray for Vera Bird's Great, Great Grandson Harry.

Prayers please for Antonita's nephew Peppin who has long covid.

Please pray for the children and staff at St Martin's school

Please pray for our parishioners in St Luke's and Abbeycrest Nursing Homes



Please also remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time including;

Dennis Graham, Raymond Graham, Mary Raybould, Madge Barnard Smith, Jane Mikhail, Daniel Roughneen, Florrie Clifford, Mrs Mary Dowd, Peter John Fay, Zemica Priscilla Fernandes.