

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

HOLY HOUR MONDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY, 7 - 8PM
Here at St Michael's

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This Friday

1st March 2024 at 6:30pm hosted by our Church

here at St. Michael's, Sonning Common.

This is a Women led Global Christian Ecumenical Service written this year by the women of Palestine, and the theme is

"I beg you, bear with one another in love."

We need the help of the women of our Parish to help host the event.

Greeting people at the Church. And then helping serve a light supper at the Hall. So, we need people to serve food/tea/coffee and clear up afterwards.

It is a time to meet fellow local Christians, everyone is welcome, so please do come along and sing and pray with the people of Palestine.

And if you can help, please contact

Sue Reid 0118-9481423 or Judy Fox 01491-681646

EXPLORING PRAYER - A LENTEN RETREAT:

Saturday 9th March, 9.45am -2.30pm in the church hall.

Discover or rediscover traditional prayers and explore alternative ways of praying. The day will be between you and God.

Please bring a packed lunch.

YEAR OF PRAYER 2024:

A young diocesan priest, Fr Toby Duckworth, is producing a series of short videos called 'Pause for Prayer.'

The first was released in December introducing the Year of Prayer and the Jubilee.

It can be found on the diocesan website:together with other resources.

<https://www.vocations.org.uk/year-of-prayer-2024>

ECUMENICAL SAFARI SUPPER

Saturday, 6th July

Parishioners from the Churches in Sonning Common and the surrounding villages come together to meet and share a three course meal.

Thought for the Week **2nd Sunday in Lent (B)** **25th February 2024**

Our readings today are extraordinary and troubling in so many ways. Why would God ask Abraham to sacrifice his only son? Why, or how, was Jesus transfigured on the mountain. Why did Elijah and Moses suddenly appear and then disappear? What sense did Abraham make of what had happened to him, as he reflected in slower time? We know that the apostles wrestled with Jesus' meaning in talking about the Son of Man rising from the dead. You would, wouldn't you. Many still do.

The Church seems to be challenging us, as we continue our Lenten journey, to be prepared to persevere and take a lot on trust, especially when we experience doubt, or struggle to understand the true meaning or relevance of what the scriptures tell us. As we walk towards the Cross we venerate on Good Friday, and the Resurrection we celebrate two days later, we will encounter things we do not fully understand: in ourselves, in the world around us (Gaza for instance) and in the biblical stories that are intended to nourish us along the way.

We don't have to understand everything to be faithful disciples. Abraham didn't understand why he was asked to sacrifice Isaac. It was the trust he had in God's word that saved him, and saved Isaac. And it is the same trust that saves us too. As St Paul so confidently proclaims *'With God on our side who can be against us?'* He doesn't mean no-one will ever accuse us of being foolish. Our faith attracts ridicule in some quarters. He is saying we shouldn't worry, get distracted, or lose hope. If we rely on God, and turn to Him with our needs, our concerns, our doubts – all will be well.

A parishioner



**We ask you please, to pray for the following people
who continue to ask for your prayers;**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Beth Selwood whose funeral is on Tuesday at 1.30pm

Please pray for Mary Edwards who has had Hip surgery, after a fall at home, and is now recovering in The RBH.

Please pray for Carl Stitt the Uncle of Krissie for a safe and successful outcome for his heart operation.

Thank you for your continued prayers for Robert Brooks who had an operation for Bile Duct Cancer and is still recovering.

Rosemary continues to need our prayers having undergone major surgery, as the recovery will be long and slow.

Please pray for Kim, Paul and Joe Bunton (Joe has severe learning difficulties). Please pray that they get the help they need.

Please pray for Father Paul Rowan who has had a second corneal graft to save the sight in his right eye. The final stage of his cancer treatment is further delayed.

Please pray for Peter Halter's sister Jean who has macular degeneration and for her great grandson Rogan who continues to need our prayers following his bone marrow transplant,

Please Pray for Jim Hardiman.

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

Please pray for Reuben Muston aged 17 (Theresa and Mike Muston's grandson) who had Aplastic Anaemia. He still needs our prayers that he will continue to improve.

Please pray for Savanna Clark (aged 2 with eye trouble).

Please pray for Shirley Trollop.

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

Please pray for Simon Keen who is recovering from an operation.

Please pray for Mary Hagger.

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

Vera Bird has asked for our prayers for her Great, Great Grandson Harry.

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



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

Father Robert O.F.M., Wyn Hyman, Michael Coulehan
Violet Kathleen Taylor, George Jones, Pauline Joyce,
Margaret Seymore, Patricia Bateman, Andrew Britton,
Eleanor Fanning, Henry Ernest Gibbons,
Thomas Hoban, Oscar Roman Lambrano,
Christine Lester, Alfred May, Patricia Nicholson,
Lillian and Leslie Peach, Jerome Reilly,
Lambertus van Bree, Timothy Keogh, Joseph Pollard.