

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

BOOK AND PLANT SALE ON SUNDAY MAY 12TH

Please join us on Sunday 12th May for a book and plant sale in

St Michael's Hall from 11am – 3pm

If you would like to donate any plants or books
(please only good as new books).

Donations can be left on the table in the office
or in the boxes at the back of Church.

All proceeds will be given to the Reading Refugee Charity
and CIRDIC. For more info contact Krissie in the office

Email stmichaels.rc@hotmail.co.uk

YOUTH MASS

3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

THE NEXT YOUTH MASS IS ON THE 19TH MAY AT 10.30AM

NEXT PPC MEETINGS JUNE 11TH AND JULY 9TH 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

FIRST COMMUNION MASS - SUNDAY 16TH JUNE AT 10.30AM

CONFIRMATION MASS - SUNDAY 30TH JUNE AT 12.00PM

INTERNATIONAL MASS JULY 2024 date to be confirmed

ECUMENICAL SAFARI SUPPER Saturday, 6th July.

This is a free event and a sign up sheet for catering numbers
is now available at the back of Church.

SEPTEMBER date to be confirmed

Special Mass for those having a significant

Marriage Jubilee this year e.g. 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 years

OCTOBER date to be confirmed

MASSES FOR THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Thought for the week

28th April, 2024

5th Sunday of Easter

This Easter came after many of us had pruned our roses; now in our 5th week of the Holy season the reward of this pruning is the emergence of many buds of promising abundant blooms and fragrant scents.

It seems counterintuitive to cut something back when you want it thicker, more bountiful. But it works. It's a skill I've developed over many years as an editor. By paring down words, to a few key ones, meaning can be put across more clearly.

Not unlike a plant, we tend to wake now from our winter torpor and find the energy to have a Spring clean. We de-clutter our homes by pruning back our clothes, books ornaments and other possessions. '*Less is more*', as the saying goes. We make more space to move freely; fewer distractions that might sap our energy; and we are able to enjoy our surroundings more.

In this week's Gospel St John explains that Jesus is the vine that nurtures us. In likening each of us to a branch of the vine, John puts over sparely and powerfully God the Father's message to us.

"Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away."

"and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more."

This pruning of something strong, and flourishing can be difficult. For me getting rid of books involves much deliberation. But a house, a life, filled with too many all-consuming interests, can lead one into a labyrinth of dead-ends. So twisted and convoluted can become the vine of unchecked human curiosity that the connections to Jesus, the true vine, may become very tenuous.

"Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away - he withers;

Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty."

By listening to His word by following His ways we help shape our life into one rich in blessings, loving action, wonder and contentment. Amen.

Jim



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

Please pray for the repose of the soul and the consolation of the family of George Hrabowy

Thank you for your prayers for Sarah Britton .

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 as his operation was not successful and will have to be repeated.

Thank you for your continued prayers for Robert Brooks who is now undergoing chemotherapy.

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 continue to pray for Father Paul Rowan. Both cancer surgery and corneal graft are at last showing positive outcomes.

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 also remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time including;
Mary Burns, Lebbeus "Edward" Horden,
Gilbert Lousley, Anne Ouro, Christopher Stone,
Yvonne De La Harpe, Norman Morey, Robert Downs,
Patrick Keogh, Marjorie Burge, Peter McCann,
Eileen and Jo McDermott, Edmund Pike, Gunter Plum,
Tom Reilly, James Allison, Robert Brown,
Philip Hoban, George Pascoe, Jean Howarth,
Mic Micotti, Anthony Michael Stitt,
Christopher John Stitt.