

Entrance antiphon:

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

Psalm response:

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Acclamation:

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus. I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.'
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

The Apostles Creed is on page 456.

After the Bidding Prayers:

Hail Mary Full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

To conclude the bidding prayers:

We give you thanks, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have gained for us,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for us.
Most merciful Redeemer, friend and brother,
may we know you more clearly,
love you more dearly
and follow you more nearly. Amen.
(St Richard of Chichester)

Communion Antiphon:

You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.

*The newsletter is also available at www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk
If you do not need to take this one home, please return it to the console at the back of Church after Mass, so that it can be reused. Many thanks.*

THE YEAR OF JUBILEE

Information about the Year of Jubilee can be found at www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk



**Catholic Parish
of St Michael's
Sonning Common**

*Sonning Common, Dunsden, Peppard,
Checkendon, Stoke Row, Emmer Green
and Caversham Park*

www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk



PARISH NEWSLETTER

Fourth Sunday of Lent - 30 March 2025



**BRITISH SUMMER TIME - CLOCKS GO FORWARD ONE HOUR
SATURDAY INTO SUNDAY**

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Today, we hear the parable of the Prodigal Son from the Gospel of Luke . This story is a profound illustration of God's boundless mercy and the joy of reconciliation.

In the parable, we hear about a father with two sons. The younger son asks for his share of the inheritance and squanders it in reckless living. When a severe famine strikes, he finds himself in dire need, even longing to eat the pods fed to the pigs. Realising his mistake, he decides to return to his father, hoping to be accepted as a hired servant. As the son approaches, his father sees him from a distance and is filled with compassion. He runs to his son, embraces him, and kisses him. Despite the son's confession of unworthiness, the father orders his servants to bring the best robe, a ring, and sandals for him. He also calls for a celebration, saying, "This son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found". The older son, by contrast, struggles with resentment and jealousy, unable to understand his father's joy.

The parable highlights that, no matter how far we stray, God is always ready to welcome us back with open arms. His forgiveness is not based on our worthiness but on His infinite love for us. However, I find I can sympathise with the elder brother. He was stuck with the feeling that his thoughtless younger sibling was being rewarded for behaving badly. He felt that something was owed in recompense, and it prevented him seeing a positive way forward as a family united.

At this turbulent time around the world, it feels very much as if this very human reaction to dispute may be gaining strength. Successful resolution of conflicts, in Ukraine and Gaza, will rely on parties being generous and forgiving. Neighbours must be willing to look beyond past misdeeds and to look forward with hope. Let us pray that our world leaders may be inspired by the unconditional love and mercy of God, illustrated in this parable, to seek solutions in good faith and not conditional on demeaning reparations or hollow flattery.

AR

WELCOME TO ST MICHAEL'S

If you are a visitor or new to the parish, we welcome you warmly.

Catholic Parish of St Michael,

18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common, RG4 9SU Tel: 0118 972 3418

Email: stmichael.sonningcommon@rcaob.org.uk

Website: www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk

St Michael's Hall Hire Tel:01189723418

St Martin's Catholic Primary School

Pendennis Avenue, Caversham Park. Tel: 0118 901 5544

Website: www.stmartinscaversham.co.uk

If you would like a home visit please call Deacon Brian Theobald

Tel: 07484332580 or email dcn.brian.theobald@rcaob.org.uk

All Masses are live streamed and Mass streaming links can be found on our website

YEAR OF JUBILEE - PILGRIMS OF HOPE - A LENTEN REFLECTION

Wednesday at 7pm in the church

This week: Hope Against Hope: Hoping for Holiness and Eternal Life

EASTER LITURGIES

Twelve women, men and/or children are needed for the Washing of Feet on Maundy Thursday. Also volunteers to watch at the Altar of Repose for periods of 30 mins between 8pm and 10pm. Please sign the sheets.

Altar servers please indicate your availability over Holy Week and Easter on the sheet in the sacristy.

EASTER EGGS APPEAL - WE ARE LOOKING FOR 40 EASTER EGGS

If you can donate an Easter Egg for disadvantaged families, please leave it at the church by 5/6 April. Thank you.

PASSION PLAY IN READING

Rise Theatre, who performed their Oscar Romero play in St Michael's some years ago, are performing their Passion Play in Forbury Gardens on Good Friday 18th April (3.30pm) and Saturday 19th April (3.00pm). It is a FREE event. Take a blanket or outdoor chair to sit on! *The play includes a dramatic interpretation of the crucifixion so parental guidance is advised.*

See www.risetheatre.co.uk/passionplay.

PREPARING THE CHURCH FOR MASS.

We are still looking for volunteers to open the church and prepare it for Mass when deacon Brian or other keyholders are away, particularly to lock up after the Sunday, 10.30am Mass. Please email deacon Brian. Thank you for your



CAR FOR FR COLIN BLANEY 1ST MAY - 1ST SEPTEMBER

Does anyone have a spare car Fr Colin could use for local trips while he is with us? Extra insurance costs will be reimbursed. Contact deacon Brian.



The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is **Mary Lewis** who can be contacted at: sg.stmichael.sonningcommon@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted by telephoning: 0121 230 6240 or emailing safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns

Parish Liturgies for week commencing 30 March 2025

This weekend we welcome Fr Andrew Foster and Fr Michael Doyle

29/30 March Fourth Sunday of Lent (2nd Collection for Holy Places)

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	Holy Souls
Sunday	9.00am	Joan Godfrey, R.I.P.
Sunday	10.30am	Mothers & Grandmothers in the Parish
Monday	9.30am	Eucharistic Service
	7.00pm	Lenten Holy Hour
Tuesday	12.00pm	Mass (followed by Stations of the Cross)
Wednesday	9.00am	Mass at St Martin's School - all welcome
Thursday	9.30am	Mass (followed by Stations of the Cross)
Friday	-	No Liturgy

5/6 April Fifth Sunday of Lent

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	9.00am	Mgr Freddie Miles, R.I.P Anniversary
Sunday	10.30am	Maddy Sharman, R.I.P. / FAMILY MASS
Confessions	Available before and after each of the weekend Masses	
Sacrament of the Sick	On request: ☎ 0118 972 3418	



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

20 MIN BEFORE THE START OF EACH WEEKEND MASS

The funeral Mass for Phyllis Belletty will be at 12 noon, Monday 14th April followed by a committal at Reading Crematorium. R.I.P.

Please Pray for our Sick Parishioners, family and friends; Lord, send your healing Spirit on all who are sick or distressed.

Dominic Antão; Catherine Belletty; Robert Brooks; Joe Bunton; Savanna Clark; Mary Edwards; Mary Hagger; Rogan Hodgson; Vivien Kear; Jennifer Learmouth; Fr. Paul Rowan; Dominic Sakrouge; Peppin Sanz.
If circumstances change please ask for the name to be removed from the list.

For All Deceased Members of our Parish Family

We pray for all who have died, and for those whose anniversary occurs about this time:

May the light and joy of God's peace shine upon them.

Liam Treacey; Kevin Cotter; Eileen Foley; Cedric Baring-Gould; Joseph Anthony Melling; Mary Burns; Derek Graham; Flora Bradley; Gerry Buck; Bernard Lobo; Jim Roginski; ; Elenor and Arnold Fox; Harry and Mary Gardner; Jim Roginski; Bridie McGarry