

**Entrance antiphon:**

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.  
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.  
Nor let my enemies exult over me;  
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

**Psalm response:**

God of hosts, bring us back;  
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

**Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia.

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!

**The Apostles Creed** is on page 8.

**Remember,** O most loving Virgin Mary,  
that it is a thing unheard of,  
that anyone ever had recourse to your protection,  
implored your help, or sought your intercession,  
and was left forsaken.

Filled, therefore, with confidence in your goodness,  
I fly to you, O Mother, Virgin of Virgins.

To you I come, before you I stand, a sorrowful sinner.  
Despise not my poor words. O Mother of the Word of God,  
but graciously hear and grant my prayer. Amen.

**To conclude the Bidding Prayers:**

May He support us all the day long  
til the shades lengthen  
and the evening comes  
and the busy world is hushed  
and the fever of life is over  
and our work is done.  
Then, is His mercy,  
may He give us a safe lodging  
and a holy rest  
and peace at the last. Amen.

**Communion Antiphon:**

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

The newsletter is also available at  
[www.saintmichael.sonningcommon.org.uk](http://www.saintmichael.sonningcommon.org.uk) If you do not need to take this  
one home, please do return it to the console at the back of Church after  
Mass, so that it can be reused. Many thanks.



Roman Catholic Parish of St Michael, Sonning Common  
Parish Priest: Fr Michael Sharkey Tel: 0118 972 3418  
Email: [stmichaels.rc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stmichaels.rc@hotmail.co.uk)  
Or [stmichael.sonningcommon@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stmichael.sonningcommon@rcaob.org.uk)  
Parish Deacon: Deacon Brian Theobald  
Tel: 07484332580 Email: [dcn.brian.theobald@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:dcn.brian.theobald@rcaob.org.uk)  
3rd December, 2023  
The First Sunday of Advent



Stay awake, because you do not know  
when the master of the house is coming.

## WELCOME TO ST MICHAEL'S

If you are a visitor or new to the parish, we welcome you warmly.  
All Masses are live streamed and Mass streaming links can be found at  
[www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk](http://www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk)

If you would like a home visit please call Fr Michael Tel: 0118 972 3418,  
Deacon Brian Theobald Tel: 07484332580 or email the parish office.

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR LAST WEEK:** Non Gift Aid £138.20

There will be a **SECOND COLLECTION** next weekend on behalf of the **POOR PARISHES**

### FAMILY MASS THIS SUNDAY AT 10.30AM

**WALK WITH ME BOOKLETS** are now available at the back of Church

AND WE ALSO HAVE **CHILDREN'S ADVENT CALENDARS**  
(for children not at St Martin's school (who will receive one at school))

### THE YEAR OF PRAYER

This liturgical year, starting this weekend, has been designated a Year of Prayer  
by Pope Francis. Please see the handout that accompanies the newsletter.



**THE ADVENT TREE** - Once again parishioners are asked to take a label from  
the tree, buy the gift printed on the back, wrap it and fix the label securely to  
the parcel. Parcels should be returned to the base of the tree **no later than**  
**Sunday 17th December**. They will be distributed to the sick and elderly of  
the parish and to CIRDIC the drop-in centre in Reading.



### MISSIO RED BOXES

Please would all red box holders bring their boxes to Church to be emptied by  
the beginning of December. If you are not able to come to Church please call  
Jacqui on 07970 692056 who will be happy to collect.  
There are Missio direct debit forms by the second collection basket for those  
who might prefer not to have a Red Box in the future, but would still like to  
contribute. Any amount is gratefully received.

### WE ARE INVITED TO TWO FURTHER ADVENT SESSIONS ON PRAYER

At the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Vicarage Road, Henley on Thames  
**TUESDAYS 5TH DECEMBER AND 12TH DECEMBER 7.30PM—9.00PM AND**  
LECTURER: JEAN KHOURY FOUNDER OF THE SCHOOL OF MARY - **ALL WELCOME**

**THE THOUGHTFUL LIVING GROUP** would like to thank our parishioners for all their  
generosity at the parish weekend sale, the card exchange and the Christmas Pudding  
Evening which all together raised over £600 for CIRDIC. Please see the flyer in the  
Thought for the week with more details of how the money will be spent.

### THE BIG CLEAN

Please pencil in **SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER, 9.30AM** onwards for the cleaning of the inside  
of the church before Christmas. Sign up sheet now at the back of church - even if you can  
come for just half an hour or an hour every bit of help makes the work easier.

## THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

3rd December, 2023

Vigil Mass	5.30 pm	The Sakrouge Family
Sunday	9.00 am	Henry Belletty People of the Parish
	10.30 am	Alan Buck RIP / Maddy Sharman RIP
Monday	9.30 am	Steve Ayres
Tuesday	12.00 pm	Henry Belletty (90th Birthday)
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>Mass at St Martin's School, All Welcome</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>9.30 am</b>	June Godfrey RIP
Friday	9.30 am	Monica Fox RIP

## THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10th December, 2023

Vigil Mass	5.30 pm	Marian Fallon Private Intention
Sunday	9.00 am	People of the Parish
	10.30 am	Peace in the Middle East

**Please note the change of Mass time and location on Thursday  
and Wednesday this week.**

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)** will be available in the Sacristy this  
Saturday, 2nd December, from 10.00am - 10.30am or at any time on request.

**The Sacrament of the Sick** - is available any time on request. Tel: Fr. Michael on 0118 972 3418

### PLEASE REMEMBER THE SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS

Dominic Antão, Catherine Belletty, Phyllis Belletty, Robert Brooks,  
Joe Bunton, Savanna Clark, Jean Davies, Bob Ely, Alison Flynn,  
Cecilia Fung, Mary Hagger, Jim Hardiman, Rogan Hodgson,  
Vivien Kear, Jennifer Learmonth, Mary Lewis, Louise Milledge,  
Reuben Muston, Veronica Parker, John Raynard, Elizabeth Rogers,  
Fr. Paul Rowan, Dominic Sakrouge, Peppin Sanz, Beth Selwood,  
Geoffrey Stitt, Shirley Trollop.

**May the Lord bring them healing and peace.**

**GOSPEL SHARE** - Wednesdays at 7.00pm - please email Brian for the zoom  
codes [dcn.brian.theobald@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:dcn.brian.theobald@rcaob.org.uk)

**CIRDIC** are now collecting: Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Deodorant, Shower Gel,  
Soaps, Shampoos, Razors, Medium underwear for men and size 12 for ladies and socks  
for all. Please put in a bag and leave in or by the box at the back of Church (in the alcove)

**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](mailto:sg.stmichael.sonningcommon@rcaob.org.uk)

or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on  
0121 230 6240 / [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.