

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

HOLY HOUR MONDAY, 4TH MARCH, 7 - 8PM

Here at St Michael's

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.

MOTHER'S DAY - 10TH MARCH

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>

MAUNDY THURSDAY - 28TH MARCH

GOOD FRIDAY - 29TH MARCH

EASTER SUNDAY - 31ST MARCH

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 3rd Sunday in Lent (B) 3rd March, 2024

If we are honest with ourselves, I imagine most of us feel we have shortcomings which make us less lovable people. Sometimes we may feel incredulous that anyone could possibly love us regardless of our flaws and faults. We may well know what it is like to 'go off someone' or find that we just can't quite 'gel' with a particular person. All of which makes it hard to understand how God, knowing us through and through as He does, can love us so perfectly and unreservedly. How can it be so?

If I look at the picture on the front of our Lent and Easter Programme, two things strike me: first, the intense suffering inflicted on Our Lord by us, every sin striking another hammer blow to the nails in His hands. And second, the immense love of the innocent Christ who underwent such agony, simply to save those who were the cause of His pain:

'Forgive them, Father...'

If we can dedicate some time this Lent to try and understand, appreciate the depth of that divine love, to feel that love, to 'let ourselves be loved by God' (as Fr Michael has encouraged us to do), then maybe we will learn how we can love God more and find it easier to be more forgiving of ourselves and others with all our shortcomings.

We are encouraged by Our Lord to '*be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect*' (Mt 5:48). This would seem to be something of a counsel of excellence and not achievable in this life. But we can try to be as perfect as we can! And charity is always the best place to start. There is good in everyone...

A quote attributed to US President Abraham Lincoln always gives me pause for thought. He said,

"I don't like that man. I must get to know him better."



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

Prayers please for Beth Selwood RIP and her family.

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;**

Caetano Coutinho, Honey Cooke, Gus Weldon,
Joyce Butler, Timothy F Pereira, Peter Smith,
Mariano Rozo Gama, Janet Kierulf, Henry Littlewood,
Cyril Lowther, Francis White, Francis Fallone.