

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thought for the week
18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
4th August, 2024

YOUTH MASS EVERY 3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

PLASTIC BLITZ LITTER PICK -

31st August, 10am – 12.30pm

sandwiches and tea and coffee provided

A sign up sheet is now available at the back of Church

Please join in with other parishioners helping to clean up the riverside.

Meeting place: Copa Club, Sonning.

Please see the poster at the back of Church for further details.

ST MICHAEL'S PATRONAL WEEKEND

28TH – 30TH SEPTEMBER

Services, talks and events to celebrate

St Michael's feast day and the life of the parish

Including the return of our craft and produce sale

and a shared lunch on Sunday 30th.

A RAMBLE FOR READING REFUGEES SATURDAY 5TH, OCTOBER

Details to follow

THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

THE WEEKEND OF THE 13TH OCTOBER, AT ALL MASSES

20th OCTOBER Special Mass for those having a significant
Marriage Jubilee this year e.g. 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 years

Being shortsighted can cause all sorts of problems. How lucky we are that modern ophthalmology sorts out those problems with an eye test and a prescription for glasses to correct our myopia.

If only it were that easy to correct other sorts of shortsightedness! If only we could look easily past our problems of today and see our long-term future: the goal we all desire. It is so easy to get bogged down in the minutiae of everyday life, the aches and pains, the frustrations, the petty squabbles. In a recent homily, Fr Michael asked if we were the sort of people who made the best of everything... or the worst of everything. That thought was a bit of jolt for many of us, I suspect!

In our reading from Exodus, the sons of Israel were grumbling. They had lost their distance vision. Although they had been slaves, at least they'd had plenty to eat. Now they were free, but starving. So, the Lord stepped in to help them focus again. He sent them manna, bread from heaven, in the desert, to help them remember that the Lord was their God who would always provide. The food appeared miraculously, and was a pre-figure of the ultimate food given much later by Our Lord whose Body appeared as simple bread, broken and offered by the Son to the Father in atonement, you could say, for our myopia, our shortsightedness. For surely if we could see clearly the outcome of our actions, would any of us slip so easily into offending or neglecting God?

St Paul tells the Ephesians to *'put aside your old self'* – the self which is only interested in short-term satisfaction.

Our Lord is the magnifier we need to see that our future with Him lies in the way we live now. Grumbling is out. Making the best of things is in. Focus!



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

Please pray for Peter Halter's sister Jean who has macular degeneration and for her great grandson Rogan whose Leukaemia has returned and very sadly they say nothing more can be done. Prayers are needed more than ever now.

Please pray for Mary Edwards who has had hip surgery.

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

Rosemary thanks everyone for their prayers - as a result the procedure was successful and she is now reasonably settled.

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

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 3 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 pray for the children and staff at St Martin's school

Please pray for our parishioners in St Luke's and Abbeycrest Nursing Homes



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

William Kingswell Frewen, "Bobby" Deighton, Margaret Green, Nicola Juniper, Bernard Morgan, Sean Smyth, Henry Alvarino, Alan Tillotson, Marie Wardle, Ted Dockrell, Mary Fogarty, Margaret Green, Sylvia Buffery, Josefa Cano, Agnes Agatha George, Catherine Elizabeth Smith(Betty) Elizabeth Regan, Ada Newman, Tommy Keogh, Ralph Mascarenhas, Rebecca Saxby Evans, John Joseph Walsh, Michelle Wells Jacobson.

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