

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

THE NEXT PARISH PASTORAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Is on **Thursday, 9th January at 7pm** . If you would like anything added to the agenda or discussed, please do telephone the office
Tel: 0118 972 3418, or email stmichaels.rc@hotmail.co.uk
or pop your message into the silver box at the back of Church
(on the desk, under the noticeboards)

MASS OF THANKSGIVING

On the 12th January at 10.30am we will have a Mass of thanksgiving for Fr Michael Sharkey's pastoral care of our parish.
Please save the date.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY.

St Michael's will be hosting next year's Unity Service for the local Christian community at 6pm, Sunday 19th January.

YOUTH MASS

Every third Sunday of the month during term time

SANTA DOESN'T ALWAYS GET IT RIGHT RAFFLE

Jan/Feb 2025

We know Santa doesn't always get the right presents to the right people every time

So if you have one of those presents please do consider dropping it off at the back of Church in the New Year to go towards our fundraising raffle in February.

2025 PARISH QUIZ WITH FISH AND CHIP SUPPER

Date to be confirmed

Thought for the week Feast of the Epiphany 5th January, 2025

I would love to know how the wise men reacted, and the discussions they had, when they first caught sight of 'The Star.' Was their decision to follow it instantaneous, or did they reflect on its significance for a prolonged period? Whatever happened, they set out on a pilgrimage of faith to seek the newborn king of the Jews, despite the obstacles and risks they might encounter. Once they found Jesus, they had no need of the star since he is The Light of the World. In this encounter God showed that Jesus had come to reconcile not only the Jews with his Father, but the whole world.

As individuals, and as a parish community, it is not a star we are invited to follow, but the Light of the World. As we begin this New Year, we as a parish community find ourselves somewhat unexpectedly on a pilgrimage of faith.

The certainties we had this time last year are gone and we are having to travel a less comfortable path together, with its potential obstacles and risks. Yet if we place our trust in Jesus, as the wise men did in the star, he will draw us closer to himself and his Father, guiding us through any difficulties we might encounter.

The Lord invites us to help him by encouraging one another in our Catholic faith and each playing their role in sustaining the life of our parish.

As people of faith, our calling is to reflect the light of Christ to those who don't know him, and so encourage them to begin their own journey of faith towards the newborn king of the Jews.

Every blessing for 2025.
Deacon Brian



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

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

Please pray for Mary Edwards who is awaiting knee surgery and for her son Ian who is unwell.

Thank you for your continued prayers for Robert Brooks who is now undergoing chemotherapy and awaiting further blood test results

Thank you for all your prayers for Joe Bunton who is transitioning into a care home and continues to need our prayers as he lives with Tuberos Sclerosis, Epilepsy and Autism with Severe learning difficulties. These conditions present huge challenges to his life.

Please Pray for Maria McNamara's niece who is undergoing chemotherapy. Her name is Alison Flynn née McNamara.

Please pray for Savanna Clark (aged 3 with eye trouble).

Please pray for Isobel Messenger (Vera Bird's great granddaughter) she has now had her operation to improve her hearing.

Please pray for Mary Hagger.

Please pray for Vivien Kear (Krissie's friend) who has cancer.

Please pray for Vera Bird's 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;

Kitty Cottrell, Roberto Roman Arrieta, Richmond Buike, Richard Cannings, Will van Bree, Henry Clay, Paul McDermott, Doug Buck, Kieran Cotter, Lucy Emma Disouza, Delcia Rose Ingram, Patrick O'Sullivan