

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

HOLY HOUR MONDAY, 7TH AUGUST, 7PM - 8PM

SUNDAY 6TH AUGUST

Please join Keith May on Sunday 6th August at 3pm in the church hall for a **talk and slide show** of his recent visit to Uganda to meet the young boy he has been sponsoring through the charity World Vision

THE THAMES CLEAN UP Saturday 9th September

Come and join a group from St Michael's clean up the River Banks near Sonning. Meeting at Sonning bridge 10am - 12pm - followed by tea and sandwiches. Please see the sign up sheet at the back of church

ST MICHAEL'S PATRONAL WEEKEND 29TH SEPTEMBER—1ST OCTOBER

Fr Paul Fitzpatrick will give a talk on Friday evening and Saturday morning.

Saturday, 30th September - St Michael's Ceilidh 7pm - 11pm

Sunday, 1st October - Produce sale on behalf of CIRDIC
Shared Lunch after the 10.30am Mass & AGM

MASSES FOR THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK Saturday 14th and Sunday, 15th October

DAY FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Saturday, 14th October. 9.45am—3.00pm

An opportunity for spouses to remember their wedding day and reflect on their marriage journey together.

The day will be led by couples from St Michael's and St Anne's using words, images and music.

Drinks will be provided. Bring your lunch.

There is no cost

Thought for the week

6th August, 2023

The Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord

'Let there be light'.

Those words appear in the third verse of Genesis. Before the birth of Our Lord, *'the people walked in darkness'* (Is. 9:2). With Christ came His words, *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness"* Light gives clarity, illumination, understanding. But while light brings consolation in the darkness, it can also be blinding and disconcerting, painful and overwhelming.

On this Feast of the Transfiguration, we are told that Our Lord's radiant appearance, coupled with the words spoken from the bright cloud, so dazzled the three disciples who witnessed it, that they *'fell on their faces, overcome with fear.'* I give thanks for the fact that *'for now, we see through a glass, darkly'* (1 Cor. 13:12). If we could truly understand the depth of God's love for us, the sheer magnitude of Christ's sacrifice for a largely uncaring world, we would surely be blinded by such illumination and fall on our faces, incapable of raising our eyes to meet the unfaltering and merciful gaze of Love Incarnate. Such Love has given us our human limitations and protects us from the blinding pain of full realisation of the effects of our sinfulness. It's perhaps comparable to the way we would be blinded if we tried to look directly at the sun.

The fact that the disciples were not 'illuminated', if you will, by what was taking place at the Transfiguration, did not stop St Peter later relaying the experience, assuring us that this is no 'cleverly invented myth' but 'a lamp for lighting a way through the dark.'

Faith is our lamp; sometimes flickering, sometimes burning strongly. C.S. Lewis summed it up:

"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it, I see everything else."



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

Please pray for Peter Halter's sister Jean who has macular degeneration and for her great grandson Rogan who is 10 and whose Leukaemia has returned. Rogan had a bone marrow transplant, so he continues to need our prayers.

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 has had his stem cell transplant to treat the Aplastic Anaemia. He still needs our prayers please for a successful outcome.

Please pray for Father Paul Rowan who continues to recover after chemotherapy.

Please pray for Beth Selwood.

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 pray for the residents and staff of Abbeycrest and St Luke's.

Please pray for the pupils, teachers and parents of St Martin's school.



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

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, Anthony Christopher Boulton, Sean Kennedy.