

Entrance antiphon:

O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for He is the Lord our God.

Psalm response:

In the presence of the angels, I praise you, O Lord.

(10.30am sung response: Before the angels I will bless you, O Lord.)

Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia. Follow me, says the Lord, and I will make you fishers of men. Alleluia.

The Apostles Creed is on page 456.

After the Bidding Prayers:

Hail Mary Full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

To conclude the bidding prayers:

Heavenly Father, we ask you to send labourers into your harvest.
Inspire, in the hearts of your people,
vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life.
Bless our families with a spirit of generosity, so that those whom you call
have the courage to give themselves to your Church in faith.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
(Diocesan prayer for vocations)

Communion Antiphon:

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul and the hungry he fills with good things

*The newsletter is also available at www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.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.*

THE YEAR OF JUBILEE

Information about the Year of Jubilee can be found at www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk



Catholic Parish of St Michael's Sonning Common

Sonning Common, Dunsden, Peppard,
Checkendon, Stoke Row, Emmer Green
and Caversham Park

www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk



PARISH NEWSLETTER Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time 9th February 2025

Thought for the Week

Continuing the reflections on vocations to the priesthood, where do vocations come from? All vocations are a gift from God, and they include a personal call to holiness and the building up of the Kingdom of God. Therefore, every person's unique vocation, whether that be married or single life, priestly or religious life, is the place in which that person will reach their fullest potential and flourish to their greatest extent. The Vatican II document *Lumen Gentium* encourages everyone to holiness, with our aim to be 'perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect'. Embracing our own unique vocation is the 'fast-lane' to holiness and personal sanctification and becoming the person God most wants us to be. From this joy, peace and hope will flow into our communities fostering and supporting one another's faith. Therefore, we must encourage our young people to discern their true vocation including being open to the priesthood and religious life. For priestly vocations there seems to be two important factors found in data collected in the US. Firstly, priestly vocations overwhelming come from families that are active in their faith, regularly go to Mass and pray at home. Secondly, was the importance of young people receiving encouragement from priests and the community to consider the priesthood. For me it was a priest who asked me first if I had thought about the priesthood. I leave two suggestions this week, alongside your continued prayers for vocations. Firstly, ask the Holy Spirit if He is asking you to encourage any young person in your parish on their faith journey, a simple word of encouragement can mean a lot to many young people. More specifically for families with children at home I offer a short prayer that could be added to your daily prayer routine, perhaps after the family meal.

"Loving God, each member of our family is a special gift from You. You have given each of us gifts and talents so that we may enjoy life but also so we can share with others. Generous and loving people are needed for service and leadership in our Church. Help us to know how to encourage and support each other so that we can respond generously to this need. We know that You will be with us, invite us to become the kind of people You desire us to be. Help us to trust in You and in each other. Amen"

WELCOME TO ST MICHAEL'S

If you are a visitor or new to the parish, we welcome you warmly.

Catholic Parish of St Michael,

18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common, RG4 9SU Tel: 0118 972 3418

Email: stmichael.sonningcommon@rcaob.org.uk

Website: www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk

St Michael's Hall Hire Tel:01189723418

St Martin's Catholic Primary School

Pendennis Avenue, Caversham Park. Tel: 0118 901 5544

Website: www.stmartinscaversham.co.uk

If you would like a home visit please call Deacon Brian Theobald

Tel: 07484332580 or email dcn.brian.theobald@rcaob.org.uk

All Masses are live streamed and Mass streaming links can be found on our website

MONTH OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Our month of prayer for Vocations continues with a Holy Hour from 7pm every Monday in February. The rosary will also be prayed before the weekend Masses and after the weekday liturgies.

THANK YOU

Fr Michael Sharkey sends his grateful thanks for all your Christmas cards and greetings and for the very generous Christmas Offerings which came to £2,538.

FINANCE REPORT AND APPEAL

After all Masses on 22nd/23rd February members of the Parish finance committee will hand out an appeal letter giving an overview of the parish finances up to December 2024 and will also explain how to create, or update, a standing order. The forms can be returned on 2nd/3rd March when you can also update your details for the parish database if you so wish.

PARISH PASTORAL COMMITTEE

The next meeting is at 7pm on Thursday 13th February, to be attended by the Dean. Comments or suggestions? Please put a note in the silver suggestion box at the back of the church, or email or ring the office and leave a message.

SATURDAY 15TH FEBRUARY: LAST CHANCE TO BUY...

... tickets for our **Parish Quiz Night with Fish and Chip Supper** - £10 per person which includes fish & chips, Details at the back of church.

SANTA DOESN'T ALWAYS GET IT RIGHT RAFFLE

Tickets on sale at all Masses this weekend and next weekend, 15/16 February.

The Raffle will be drawn after the 10.30am Mass on 16 February.

All money raised will go to CIRDIC and the Reading Refugee Support Group.

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 or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted by telephoning: 0121 230 6240 or emailing safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns

Parish Liturgies for week commencing 9 February 2025

This weekend we welcome Fr Andrew Foster and Fr Michael Doyle

8/9 February

Saturday Vigil

5.30pm Vocations to the Religious Life

Sunday

9.00am People of the Parish

Sunday

10.30am Private Intention (for sufferers with mental illness)

Monday

9.30am Eucharistic Service

7.00pm Holy Hour for Vocations

Tuesday

- No liturgy (Deanery meeting)

Wednesday

- No liturgy

Thursday

9.30am Mass

Friday

- No liturgy

15/16 February

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday Vigil

5.30pm Holy Souls

Sunday

9.00am People of the Parish

Sunday

10.30am Vocations to the Religious Life

Confessions

Available before and after each of the weekend Masses

Sacrament of the Sick

On request: tel. 0118 972 3418

Dates for YOUR Diary

Saturday 15th February	7.30pm	Quiz with Fish and Chip Supper
Sunday, 16th February	10.30am	Youth Mass
Sunday, 16th February	11.30am	'Santa' Raffle Draw
Friday, 7th March	6.30pm	World Day of Prayer - Springwater Church

Please Pray for our Sick Parishioners, family and friends; Lord, send your healing Spirit on all who are sick or distressed.

Dominic Antão; Catherine Belletty; Robert Brooks; Liz Bouchier; Joe Bunton; Savanna Clark; Mary Edwards; Mary Hagger; Rogan Hodgson; Vivien Kear; Jennifer Learnmouth; Fr. Paul Rowan; Dominic Sakrouge; Peppin Sanz.

If circumstances change please ask for the name to be removed from the list.

For All Deceased Members of our Parish Family

We pray for all who have died, and for those whose anniversary occurs about this time:

May the light and joy of God's peace shine upon them.

Joanna Sheehan; Patrick Sullivan; Marie King; Hugh Jerome Morland; Florence Pearce; Elizabeth Doran; Diane Fox; Rex Raven; Willem Anschutz; Delia Davies; Joan Leach; Harold Price; Adrian Watkins.