

**Entrance Antiphon:**

We should glory in the Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered.

**Psalm response:**

Never forget the deeds of the Lord.

**Acclamation:**

*Alleluia! Alleluia!* We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your Cross you have redeemed the world. *Alleluia!*

*The Apostles Creed is on page 456. / Nicene Creed is on page 455*

**After the Bidding Prayers:**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee...

**To conclude the Bidding Prayers:**

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity

so that we may journey together to eternal life

and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

*(based on the ancient prayer Adsumus Sancte Spiritus, which has been used as Church Councils and Synods gathered together. It has become a prayer associated with the Synodal pathway inaugurated by Pope Francis).*

**Communion Antiphon:**

When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself, says the Lord.

*The newsletter is also available at [www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk](http://www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk)  
If you do not need to take this one home, please return it to the console at the back of  
Church after Mass, so that it can be reused. Many thanks.*



## Catholic Parish of St Michael's Sonning Common

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

[www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk](http://www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk)

**PARISH NEWSLETTER****The Exaltation of the Holy Cross****14 September 2025**

Today we celebrate The Holy Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. This Feast day is also called The Triumph of the Cross, Elevation of the Cross, Holy Cross Day, Holy Rood Day or Roodmas.

In Scotland where I grew up I often saw Celtic crosses when travelling in the northwest highlands and islands. The Celtic cross is a ringed cross and some of these are known as high crosses, which are freestanding stone crosses, some over 12 feet high. The earliest examples are from the 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> century found in Ahenny in the Tipperary-Kilkenny border lands of Ireland and in the Isle of Iona, Scotland. It is unclear how this form of the Cross came about. Some consider it to be the work of St Patrick who in his conversion of the druids put on the cross a symbol of the sun (worshipped by the druids). This was to demonstrate that everything including the sun is given to us from God.

I had the opportunity to visit Iona a few years ago, in which I attended a service at the Abbey Church and stood later in contemplation before the magnificent St Martin's Cross in the Abbey grounds. This Celtic cross, made from granite, is some 14 feet high, intricately carved with biblical scenes, plants and flowers. The early Celtic Christians laboured hard at their art to give testimony to their faith.

Another strong childhood memory I have is of a school outing to the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Glasgow, where I first saw Salvador Dali's painting 'Christ of St John of the Cross' in which Christ is viewed from high above. I found this painting, which has become one of the most popular in Scotland, very moving.

In his Angelus address on this Feast Day in 2014 Pope Francis said:

*"When we look at the cross where Jesus was nailed, we contemplate the sign of love, of the infinite love of God for each of us and the source of our salvation. Through the Cross of Christ, the Evil One is overcome, death is defeated, life is given to us, hope is restored.*

*While we contemplate and celebrate the Holy Cross, we think with emotion of so many of our brothers and sisters who are being persecuted and killed because of their faith in Christ. So today we remember them and pray for them in a special way."*

In celebrating this Holy feast we can contemplate Christ's suffering on the Cross, and also how this tree, which had been used as an instrument of death becomes, in this redemptive act, a symbol of victory and liberation.

This is proclaimed clearly in John's Gospel: *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."*

JM

## 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](mailto:stmichael.sonningcommon@rcaob.org.uk)

Website: [www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk](http://www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk)

**St Michael's Hall Hire** Tel:01189723418

**St Martin's Catholic Primary School**

Tel: 0118 901 5544 Website: [www.stmartinscaversham.co.uk](http://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](mailto:dcn.brian.theobald@rcaob.org.uk)

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

### BAPTISM

This Sunday there is the baptism of Rosalind Celia Madeleine Smith whom we welcome into the Church.

### SCRIPTURE REFLECTION COURSE WITH CANON PAUL

We begin our reflection on St Mark's Gospel this week with two options available:

Wednesday 17th at 7.30pm on Zoom. Email Deacon Brian for the Zoom codes.

Thursday 18th at 10am in the church

The Reflections will continue fortnightly. All are welcome.

### PATRONAL WEEKEND 26 - 27 SEPTEMBER

We will be celebrating the feast of St Michael with a series of events. Details on a separate sheet. Please do keep this weekend free and join in the celebration of our wonderful parish community.

### JUBILEE TOUR TO WESTPORT, KNOCK & CO MAYO, 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2025.

£799.00 pps. Price includes flight from Birmingham, 10kg hold luggage, 4 nights' in 4\* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Full use of leisure facilities. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock Shrine, Ballintubber Abbey, Fr. Peyton Centre & Kylemore Abbey. Irish music nightly. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or mail [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com).

### SECOND COLLECTIONS

There are second collections for the next **two weekends**

21 Sept.: in aid of the Catholic Evangelisation Home Mission

28 Sept.: in aid of Fr Hudson's Society

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](mailto: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](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concerns

## Parish Liturgies for week commencing 14 September 2025

Weekend Celebrants: Revv. Andrew Foster & Michael Doyle

### 13 / 14 SEPTEMBER

### The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	Alice Sakala, R.I.P.
Sunday	9.00am	Cathie Szulc, R.I.P.
Sunday	10.30am	Aldworth & Cotter families dec'd R.I.P.
Monday	9.30am	Eucharistic Service
Tuesday	12noon	Mass
Wednesday	-	No liturgy
Thursday	9.30am	Mass
Friday	-	No liturgy

### 20 / 21 SEPTEMBER

*Cel.: Fr Michael Doyle*

### 25TH SUNDAY IN O.T.

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	Holy Souls
Sunday	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday	10.30am	World Peace
Confessions	Available before and after each of the weekend Masses	
Sacrament of the Sick	On request: ☎ 0118 972 3418	

**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; Joe Bunton; Savanna Clark; Mary Edwards; Mary Hagger; Rogan Hodgson; Vivien Kear; Jennifer Learmouth; Dominic Sakrouge; Peppin Sanz; Richard Szulc; Rosalyn Thomas; Daniel Carroll.  
*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:

Donald Andrews; Johnny Gaudencio; Freda Miller; Esther Roman Zambrão; Seraphino Antao; Helenor Kizer; Minnie Tillotson; Winnie Hickey; John Warman; Florence Ada Gibbons; Arnold Fox; Frank Pearce; Wendy Pearce; Alf Wade.

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