

1st Sunday of Advent

Sunday Missal Page 5

Entrance Antiphon:

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

Psalm response: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Show us, O lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

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

After the Bidding Prayers:

Holy Mother of God, in silence and peace
you have carried and given birth to He who bears all:
be our guide on the path to Nativity,
so in celebrating the birth of your son, Jesus Christ our Saviour,
our hearts will be filled with joy and hope. Amen

To conclude the Bidding Prayers:

We give you thanks, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have gained for us,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for us.
Most merciful Redeemer, friend and brother,
may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly
and follow you more nearly. Amen. *(St Richard of Chichester)*

Communion Antiphon:

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

*The newsletter is also available at 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.*

If you would like to receive the Archdiocese weekly newsletter you can sign up at
<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/e-news>

Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity No 234216



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

1st Sunday of Advent

29/30 November 2025

This Sunday marks the beginning of Advent—a season of hope, expectation, and preparation. Outside, the days grow darker and colder, yet lights begin to sparkle on streets and homes. Shops overflow with gifts and endless sales, drawing us into the rush of the season. It is easy to be swept along by the noise and glitter.

But Advent calls us to pause. Amid the wrapping paper and festive plans, can we find space to prepare our hearts? The Gospel reminds us that life often goes on as usual—eating, drinking, celebrating—yet Christ urges us to stay awake, ready for His coming.

As we await the joy of Christmas, let us not lose sight of its meaning: God entering our world in humility and love. Giving gifts and sharing joy are good, but the greatest gift is Christ Himself. Advent is not only about remembering His first coming; it is about preparing for His return.

May this season help us draw closer to Him—through prayer, reflection, and acts of kindness—so that when He comes again, we will not be found unprepared, but ready and rejoicing.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, as we begin this Advent season, help us to pause amid the busy-ness and prepare our hearts for Your coming. Teach us to watch and stay awake, to seek Your presence above all else, and to live each day ready for Your return. May our hope and joy be rooted in You, the greatest gift of all. Amen.

A Parishioner

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

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

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

SECOND COLLECTION: next weekend for the Poor Parishes Fund.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION COURSE WITH CANON PAUL

...continues this week.: Wed. 3rd at 7.30pm on Zoom. Meeting ID 847 7279 9050.

Passcode: 034423 OR Thurs. 4th at 10am in the church.

A BIG BIRTHDAY!

One of our parishioners, Ches, celebrates his 100th birthday and you are invited to a Tea Party in his honour from 3pm this coming Saturday, in the Hall.

The 5.30 Mass will be offered for Ches. There is also a card at the back of the church and a tin for any donation towards a gift for Ches. 100 years is a great age.

FIRE DRILL - THANK YOU...

...for your willing co-operation last weekend during the Fire Drill.

BIG CLEAN - SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER - FROM 9.30AM

Please don't forget to join the merry band wielding dusters, vacuums and polishes this coming Saturday. Whatever time you can spare. Cleanliness is next to Godliness!

ADVENT TREE: GIFTS FOR SICK AND ELDERLY PARISHIONERS AND CIRDIC

Please take a card from the tree, buy the gift described, wrap it, attach the label and leave your gift under the tree by 21st December - at the very latest. Thank you for your support.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS CARDS NOW AVAILABLE...

...help yourself and spread them around among friends and neighbours

CHOIR REHEARSALS FOR CHRISTMAS

If you enjoy singing but don't feel you can commit to regular choir practice, how about just joining us for the Christmas season? You'd be very welcome!

We meet at 7.30pm on Tuesdays in the church. For more information contact Frances: frances.theobald@btopenworld.com

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative 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 30 November 2025

Weekend Celebrants: Fr Andrew Foster & Fr Michael Doyle

29 / 30 NOVEMBER

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Yr A)

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	9.00am	Holy Souls
Sunday	10.30am	Holy Souls
Monday	9.30am 7pm	Eucharistic Service Holy Hour
Tuesday	12.00pm	Mass
Wednesday	2.15pm	Mass at St Martin's School: all welcome
Thursday	9.30am	Mass
Friday	9.30am	Eucharistic Service

6 / 7 DECEMBER

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Yr A)

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	Ches Black – 100th Birthday
Sunday	9.00am	Holy Souls
Sunday	10.30am	Holy Souls
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; 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:

David Ivimey Miller; Oscar Wilde; Dennis Graham; Raymond Graham;
Mary Raybould; Madge Barnard Smith; Jane Mikhail; Daniel Roughneen;
Florrie Clifford; Mrs Mary Dowd; Peter John Fay.

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