

Entrance Antiphon:

See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

Psalm response:

O Lord, who may abide in your tent?

Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Blessed are those who hold fast to the word of God in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience. *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.

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:

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, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders;
he gives food to those who fear him.

*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.*



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 - 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 20 July 2025

What was raised at our Parish Synodal Assembly?

Each table was asked to reflect on three questions: What are we doing well - that we can build on? What are we not doing so well - that we could improve on? What are we not doing - that we could be doing?

Below you will find the core issues that each table identified. Please reflect on these, discuss them with one another, and above all consider areas where you could be involved and make a difference.

Table 1: 1. Singing, prayer, Children's Mass, WhatsApp and welcoming people
2. We could welcome newcomers better. We could listen more to newcomers. Get to know different people at different Mass times.
3. More general information should be shared at Mass so that we are all informed about what is happening. The types of prayer being used should be explained to everyone. There should be more effort to look after the elderly and single parents, the sick and so on. These vulnerable individuals require additional care and support.

Table 2: 1. Liturgy, streaming, and welcoming people within our circles - great job, Deacon Brian!
2. We could improve coordination between groups. We could give better training for different roles. We could welcome newcomers better. Need new volunteers.
3. We should reach out to non-Catholic groups.

Table 3: 1. Friendly, welcoming, strong congregation, great music, an engaging priest, and a multicultural community.
2. Teenagers could attend more often, and there could be more training for new altar servers.
3. The sense of community can be diluted, and we should encourage increased attendance and follow-up after vibrant services. For example, the International Mass is a significant opportunity.

Table 4: 1. Sense of community, activities, and outreach. E.g., food banks and homeless charities.
2. Engage more with Youth, sermons could be Youth-focused, there could be a side room to engage with Children, we could pray for the side room, we could pray for the sick more. We could welcome people better.
3. We should try new things.

Table 5: 1. Active Parish with strong community spirit.
2. We could follow up after the big services better and evangelise more.
3. We should be building a vibrant community, using Youth to encourage people to attend.

Table 6: 1. Friendly, welcoming, and excellent newsletter. Volunteers are excellent—close family, helping others, and Children and Youth Mass.
2. See more children's engagement, more parish activities and social events, more spiritual activities, and interact with the deanery more often.
3. Youth and Children need to be engaged more; we could even reach out to local groups, such as the Scouts, and connect with the community, including other Catholic Schools in Reading.

The PPC will also reflect on these issues and seek to identify several key ones that can be considered in more depth at the next Assembly. In the meantime please ponder them and discuss them and, as I said above, please consider how you could be involved. Fr Colin

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: 0118 972 3418

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

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

WEEKEND MASSES AT ST MICHAEL'S

Canon Paul has asked me to celebrate the Masses at Henley this weekend so that I can introduce the Synodal assembly they will shortly be having. Thank you to Frs Andrew and Michael who will cover our Masses this weekend. *Fr Colin*

THE 'THANK YOU AND FAREWELL...'

...to Mrs Katherine Tilling, our departing Head Teacher at St Martin's, will take place at the 10:30am Mass this weekend.

FR COLIN'S SCRIPTURE COURSE - ALL WELCOME

The final sessions, looking at the Gospels of St Luke and St John, will be **Wednesday 23rd July at 10am and 7pm.**

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The PPC has asked Fr Colin to lead a retreat day for them and this will take place next Saturday 26th, at St Katharine's retreat house at Parmoor. A representative from the Finance Committee will also take part.

FUNERAL MASSES

The Requiem Mass for **Barry Gibbons** will be celebrated on 6th August, and that for **Pat Skidmore** at 12.30pm on 8th August. May they rest in peace.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL...

of Victoria (Vivian) Smith of our parish who died recently and whose Funeral Mass took place here at St Michael's.

SIGN WRITER

We're still seeking someone who could refresh and update the noticeboard on the wall outside the church. Please contact the parish office if you can help. Thank you.

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 20 July 2025

Celebrants: Fr Andrew Foster & Fr Michael Doyle

19 / 20 July

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	Holy Souls
Sunday	9.00am	People of the Parish
Sunday	10.30am	Mass of Thanks for Mrs Katherine Tilling
Monday	-	No Liturgy
Tuesday	12 noon	Mass
Wednesday	9.30am	Mass
Thursday	9.30am	Mass
Friday	9.30am	Mass

26 / 27 JULY

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	9.00am	World Peace
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.

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:

George Gallagher; Michael McDonnell; Patrick Deeney; Anne Harris; Jenny Keogh;
Kevin de Silva; Jacqueline Margaret Clyne; Norman Hutchinson; Judith Gomes;
Margaret Lousdale; Bill Riordan; Michael Collins; Kitty Minter; Rosita Smith

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