

Entrance Antiphon:

God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house;
he himself gives might and strength to his people.

Psalm response:

On the day I called, you answered me, O Lord.

Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia! You have received the Spirit of adoption as sons,
by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!' *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.

Communion Antiphon:

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.

*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 - 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 27 July 2025

I think we all know that when we take something out of context we're likely to get the wrong meaning. It's a tried and true practice of the media, who can make anybody say just about anything by ensuring the wider context of what happened or what was said isn't reported. It's a principle we have to apply to our First Reading this weekend which has so often been used to demonise others because of their sexuality.

Abraham is haggling with God over the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah: 'if just ten good people are found there will you spare it?' And apparently there weren't because they're the stuff of legend as they go up in a puff of smoke! But what did they do that was so bad in the eyes of the writers of the book of Genesis?

Today's passage comes just ten verses after last Sunday's passage: the visit of the Lord to Abraham in the form of three strangers under the oak at Mamre. And that incident, above all things, was a story of *hospitality*. Hospitality was everything to a nomadic, desert people: it wasn't just politeness, but a matter of life or death. In an environment where food and water was scarce or absent, not to welcome a stranger was to sentence them to death. What Abraham did wasn't to offer a nice afternoon tea: he honoured those strangers as his brothers by treating them as he would hope to be treated by them in return.



In the famous icon by Rublev (pictured) the tables are turned on that event, and the three strangers are seen as an image of the Trinity: the divine communion of Persons which leaves a place at the table for *us*. The scene of Abraham's hospitality becomes an image of God's divine hospitality of heart, which we experience in every Eucharist.

But the common denominator is hospitality. And it was the common denominator missing from Sodom. As we read on, the three strangers, and Lot's family too, were treated with contempt and unwelcome, were misused and abused, were not treated with the hospitality and respect which was the code of honour of a desert and nomadic people.

The great Rublev icon is dominated by that space in the foreground, the place reserved for the stranger at the table of the God who is Trinity, the God who is hospitality. It's the contrast between that scene and the scene which later follows in Sodom which gives us its meaning. The Sodomite is the one whose heart has no hospitality for the stranger, for the one who is different, for the one who is outside the circle of acceptance; the sodomite is the one who sees the refugee as a problem rather than as a brother or sister indwelt by the living God, the one who looks on a prisoner as a problem to be locked away, rather than a child of God as full of the Holy Spirit as any of us are.

The virtue of Abraham was his welcome to the three strangers – and remember, they *were* strangers: he didn't know who they were, they weren't his family, or his friends, not even his countrymen. But he sat them at his table as God does to us. And to everyone. This passage is a challenge to imitate the divine hospitality of the heart of God which sets up no boundaries of exclusion.

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

FUNERAL MASSES

The Requiem Mass for **Barry Gibbons** will be celebrated
at 1.30pm on 6th August,
and that for **Pat Skidmore** at 12.30pm on 8th August.
May they rest in peace.

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY - 15TH AUGUST

On this Holy Day of Obligation, Mass will be celebrated at 7pm on Thursday 14th August and 9.30am on Friday, 15th August.

CHURCH CLEANING

Thank you to those who have come forward to offer help with the cleaning of our church. We now have two extra volunteers on our rota - but there is always room for more, (which would mean the individual turns would come round less frequently!) *Cleanliness is next to Godliness!*
Email the parish office if you can help. Thank you.

THOUGHTFUL LIVING GROUP

The latest newsletter is available at the back of the church

CHILLI & QUIZ EVENING

There's a sheet at the back of the church if you would like to sign up to come along for this very popular parish social event. Tickets will be available for sale from the beginning of September.

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 27 July 2025

Celebrant: Fr Colin Blayney

26 / 27 July

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	9.00am	Mrs Eulria Antao - R.I.P.
Sunday	10.30am	Elizabeth Riley - R.I.P.
Monday	-	No Liturgy
Tuesday	12 noon	Mass [<i>Memoria of Ss Martha, Mary & Lazarus</i>]
Wednesday	9.30am	Mass
Thursday	9.30am	Mass [<i>Memoria of St Ignatius Loyola</i>]
Friday	9.30am	Mass [<i>Memoria of St Alphonsus de'Liguori</i>]

2 / 3 AUGUST

18TH 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:

David Andrews; Michael Bartley; Kathleen Butler; Edward Cottrell; Jimmy Minter;
Brian Stratmore Cleary; June Payne; Patrick O'Flaherty-Hilder; Brian Mudge;
Shirley Anderson-Williams; Joseph Brown; Jeanette Fernandes; James Fornara; Euralia Antao;
Edward (Teddy) Jenkins; Carol Tegg; Rachelle De Souza; Margaret Green; Martin Lousley; Frank Ryan; Joyce Price.

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