

Entrance Antiphon:

O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

Psalm response:

O Lord, you have been our refuge, from generation to generation.

Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. *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:

You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste

*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**

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

3 August 2025

'Vanity of vanities . . . all is vanity' the Preacher tells us in the first reading. 'You fool', Jesus has God saying as he tells his parable of the rich man in the Gospel. Confronting words about the way we see life, the way we arrange our priorities.

We live in a time and a culture and a society that stores up some strange treasures for itself: the world of advertising tells us to buy very nice clothes and very nice shoes that strangely seem to have no ability to make people happy; and so many have no concern where they came from: whether they came from sweatshops or places with just working conditions. The prosperous nations of the world have an increasing proportion of people who want to make their treasure a nation which excludes people of other ethnic origin, culture or tongue; and sadly, even many Christians think that such an attitude is compatible with making themselves rich in the sight of God.

'Vanity of vanities'. So much is vanity. Because the treasure we'll take with us is simply the person we're making ourselves to be. And so, today's Gospel is asking us just how rich we are in that regard. Perhaps the question then is how do we tally up the value of that treasure, how do we make a stock-take of these riches in our own life?

I think if we go through the Gospel we could sum up the things that make us truly rich under these headings:

* firstly, a spirit of service - that our lives are about self-giving; that we're filled up inwardly in so far as we give away something of ourselves generously.

and then a passion, an enthusiasm, a fire in the belly, to build the kingdom of God; that our faith is not something peripheral to our lives, but something that gives us a passion about how we live, about what effect we have in our little part of the world, and our little part of time.

that we're a person of prayer: that our seeking for, our touching of God, is what gives life to our heart, and heart to all that we do.

* that our life is about relations: that faith is leading us to open up our lives, our hearts to others, that we find God IN others, that we serve God IN others, that values like justice and compassion dominate everything about how we think and about how we act.

* and finally love - that love overrides every other consideration: law, and self-righteousness, and the need to be right, and the need to get even; that love for human beings, of every shape, colour, size, nationality, language, is the absolutely typifying mark of who we are.

Perhaps this can be a thumbnail sketch of what can make us truly rich, of what true treasure is made of, the treasure which today's Gospel says makes us rich in the sight of God.

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: 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

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 this Wednesday, 6th August, and that for **Pat Skidmore** at 12.30pm this Friday, 8th August. May they rest in peace.

HOLY HOUR...

... for the first Monday of the month. From 7pm.

Peace and spiritual refreshment before the Exposed Blessed Sacrament for whatever time you can spare between 7 and 8pm. We end with Evening prayer and Benediction.

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.

CARE FOR OUR CHURCH GROUNDS

We're blessed to have our volunteer gardening team who keep our grounds and gardens looking so beautiful through their work on Tuesday mornings. Most of our team are of a more senior age and they would love some help from our young families. To that end we'd like to form a second team who could be on a roster to do some work on a Saturday. Could your family give an hour or two once every four, five or six weeks? A great thing for the children and parents to do together. If you could help there's a sheet at the back of the church where you can put your name down.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: ST MICHAEL'S PATRONAL WEEKEND

Friday 26th September - Sunday 28th September

Services and events to celebrate St Michael's feast day and the life of the parish including Talks, a Craft and Produce sale, a Chilli and Quiz evening and a Shared Parish Lunch.

MARRIAGE HELP

Retrouvaille helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage.

Next date: 17th-19th Oct. www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 0788 7296983

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 3rd August 2025

Celebrant: Fr Colin Blayney

2 / 3 August

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	9.00am	Holy Souls
Sunday	10.30am	Maddy Sharman, R.I.P.
Monday	- 7pm	No Mass HOLY HOUR
Tuesday	6.30pm	Mass <i>N.B. Change from usual time</i>
Wednesday	1.30pm	Funeral Mass for Barry Gibbons, R.I.P.
Thursday	9.30am	Mass
Friday	12.30	Funeral Mass for Pat Skidmore, R.I.P.

9 / 10 AUGUST

19TH 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:

Andreas Van Well; William Kingswell Frewen; "Bobby" Deighton; Margaret Green;
Nicola Juniper; Bernard Morgan; Sean Smyth; Henry Alvarino; Alan Tillotson;
Marie Wardle; Ted Dockrell; Mary Fogarty; Sylvia Buffery; Josefa Cano;
Agnes Agatha George; Catherine Elizabeth; Smith (Betty); Elizabeth Regan.

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