

### 3rd Sunday of Advent

Sunday Missal Page 13

#### Entrance Antiphon:

**Rejoice** in the Lord always; again I say, **rejoice**. Indeed, the Lord is near.

#### Psalm response:

Come, Lord, and save us.

#### Acclamation:

*Alleluia! Alleluia!* The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor. *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:

Say to the faint of heart: be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come,  
and he will save us.

*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.*

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

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



### PARISH NEWSLETTER

### 3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete)

13/14 December 2025

We have been reminded again and again that Advent is the time to get ourselves ready for the Lord who loves us. Bit by bit I prepare myself for the manger, for the incredible event of our Lord's incarnation. The divine made human. I prepare to see the glory of the Lord bursting forth from a humble stable, in an ordinary town, and He a tiny baby.

But as always, as Christmas draws near, my human-ness means I'm caught up with thinking all about how *I'm* going to be ready, what *I* need to do. With all that focus on myself and my preparations, I can easily forget that it is God and not us doing all the heavy lifting. God loves us and he comes to us even when we are too busy to see Him drawing near. We would see Him, running towards us with open arms to embrace us just as we are, if we only looked up from our day-to-day preoccupations.

The readings this Sunday, remind us of this dynamic Lord, hurrying to meet us. At this time of year when our flowerbeds and fields are mainly wet mud and soggy, dead leaves, it's hard to imagine flowers and vegetables pushing up green shoots through the dark earth, but like the farmer we must believe the active energy of God will revive the soil of our hearts. In the Gospel, Jesus passes the message to an imprisoned, and perhaps despairing, John the Baptist that He is truly here on earth and doing amazing things. God will soon come to us, live our lives with us and show us how much he loves us.

*Katie Livesey*

## WELCOME TO ST MICHAEL'S

If you are a visitor or new to the parish, we welcome you warmly.

### The Catholic Parish of St Michael's

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)

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

### MY EXPERIENCE ON THE WEST |BANK: TIM LIVESEY Wednesday at 7pm in the church

Tim has just returned from 3 months on the West Bank as an Ecumenical Accompanier. He will share with us some of what he experienced living in the Jordan Valley where the traditional life of the Bedouin shepherding communities is increasingly threatened by settler violence.

### PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS

Do remember that there is a Holy Hour at 7pm on Monday and a **Reconciliation Service next Monday, 22nd December**, when visiting priests will be available to hear Confessions.

### ADVENT TREE: GIFTS FOR SICK AND ELDERLY PARISHIONERS AND CIRDIC

Thank you to all who have taken cards and bought the requested gifts. Cards still remain if you wish to partake. Gifts under the tree by 21st Dec. please!

### THANK YOU TO ALL INVOLVED WITH THE CHARITY SHOP CHALLENGE

It raised £246 which will be used to buy presents for prisoners at Huntercoombe Prison to give their children (aged 10months to 18 years) on Christmas Day.

### OUR DEFIBRILLATOR PROVES ITS WORTH

It was used for the first time last Monday. We have no more details, but at the very least it was available to help.

### NEURODIVERSITY AND THE CATHOLIC FAITH

If you or someone you care for is affected by this condition the bishops invite you to complete a questionnaire by 12 January to help their understanding:  
[www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/News/neurodiversity-and-the-catholic-faith](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/News/neurodiversity-and-the-catholic-faith)

### Could you be a Healthcare Volunteer in Lourdes?

Healthcare professionals, if you would like to try something new please consider joining us on next year's Lourdes Pilgrimage. For details go to:  
[www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes-pilgrimage](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes-pilgrimage)

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](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 December 2025

Weekend Celebrants: Fr Andrew Foster & Fr Michael Doyle

### 13 / 14 DECEMBER

### 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Yr A)

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	9.00am	Mgr Freddie Miles, RIP (anniversary of birth)
Sunday	10.30am	Holy Souls
Monday	9.30am 7pm	Eucharistic Service Advent Holy Hour
Tuesday	12 noon	Mass
Wednesday	-	No liturgy
Thursday	9.30am	Eucharistic Service
Friday	9.30am	Eucharistic Service

### 20 / 21 DECEMBER

### 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Yr A)

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	Holy Souls
Sunday	9.00am	World Peace
Sunday YOUTH MASS	10.30am	People of the Parish
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:

Anna Maria Dias; Margaret Skevington; Joanne Webb; Paquita Wettenhall; Albert Eeckelaers; Lesley Farquhar; ; Margaret Hall; Reg Adams; Margaret Allison; Mr Wojciech Motyka; ; Simon Barrow; Bill Condon; Agnes Creighton; Alfred May; Barbara Small; Peter Ellison; Bridget Mullaniff; George Raynard; Sheila Wright; Mgr Freddie Miles.

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