

## 4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday Missal Page 17

### Entrance Antiphon:

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

### Psalm response:

Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.

### Acclamation:

*Alleluia! Alleluia!* Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel - which means, God with us. *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:

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name  
will be called Emmanuel.

*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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Website: [www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk](http://www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk)

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



## PARISH NEWSLETTER

4th Sunday of Advent

20/21 December 2025

# Presents of Mind

An early Christmas  
present: not a Thought from me,  
but Thoughts from better minds,  
as we complete our journey  
through Advent: God's gift of  
wisdom, put into words by some  
of His created ones.

Don't shine so that  
others can see you.  
Shine so that  
through you,  
others can see  
Him.

No act of kindness,  
no matter  
how small,  
is ever wasted.

When we work,  
we work.  
When we pray,  
God works.

What you are is  
God's gift to you;  
what you become  
is your gift to God.

Have faith in God;  
God has faith  
in you.

Anxiety does not  
empty tomorrow of  
its sorrows,  
but only empties  
today of  
its strength.

God loves each  
of us as if there  
were only one  
of us.

You can give  
without loving,  
but you cannot love  
without giving.

God never made  
a promise  
that was  
too good to be true.

Be yourself -  
but kinder.

To trust God in the  
light is nothing;  
but to trust Him in  
the dark - that is  
faith.

Try to be  
the person  
your dog thinks  
you are.

fhg

## 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

### CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS - FROM THE PRIESTS OF THE DEANERY

The priests who have been supporting us this year, wish you all a joyful and blessed Christmas. They look forward to continuing to be with us in 2026. And I would like to thank you all for all that you do to contribute to the life of our parish and for the support and encouragement you give me. It is very much appreciated. I pray that you, and all those dear to you, have a wonderful Christmas.

*Deacon Brian*

### CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM FR COLIN BLANEY

As the celebration of the Lord's birth approaches I wanted to wish all of you in the wonderful community at St Michael's a very happy Christmas. I can never adequately express how much my time with you all this year meant to me - it was an experience I will always treasure and I thank you so much for your warm welcome and all that we were able to do together during the time I was with you. I very much hope to drop in to visit you during my annual English holiday in 2026.

*Fr Colin*

### KINDLY PARK KINDLY WHEN COMING TO CHURCH!

A little reminder - especially during our busy Christmas Masses - to park considerately please, keeping in mind that easy access must be possible in the case of any emergency. And if you park in neighbouring streets, do take care not to block other cars or access to people's homes. *Thank you.*

### COLLECTING PLASTIC BOXES

If Santa leaves you any plastic boxes of sweets/chocolates (Quality Street, Celebrations, etc) over Christmas, and you have no need of the empty boxes, please do leave them at the back of the church. They will be recycled.

### YOUR GIFT TO OUR PRIESTS

You'll find envelopes at the back of the church if you wish to contribute towards the traditional Christmas offering which will be shared between the priests who have served us so well this year.

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 21 December 2025

Weekend Celebrants: Fr Andrew Foster & Fr Michael Doyle

### 20/21 DECEMBER

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

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	Holy Souls
Sunday	9.00am	World Peace
Sunday	10.30am	People of the Parish
Monday	9.30am 7pm	Eucharistic Service Reconciliation Service
Tuesday	9.30am	Eucharistic Service
CHRISTMAS EVE	5 pm 7.30pm 8pm	Mass for families with young children Carols Christmas Night Mass
CHRISTMAS DAY	10..30am	Mass
Friday	-	No liturgy



### 27/28 DECEMBER

### THE HOLY FAMILY

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	Priests of the Deanery: in thanksgiving
Sunday	9.00am	Holy Souls
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, Daniel Carroll.

*If circumstances change please ask for the name to be removed from the list.*

### For All Deceased Members of our Parish Family

Abigail Gonzalez; Eamonn and Nancey Keogh; Nan and Laurance Maxwell; Paul Fay;  
Bride McGarry; Tessie McNamara; Bridget Mullaniff; Fr. Robert O'Neill O.F.M; Gwen Payne;  
Agnes Roughneen; Fr. Xavier O.F.MQ; Benjamin Roman Zambrano; Phyllis Banning -Gould;  
Robert Nicholson; Alfredus Warwick; Ann Wevlin; Maud Cooper; Gino Dell'Aqua;  
Ivy Edna Roberts; Charles Harris; Kathleen Harris; Mickey Harris; Bridget O'Loughlin;  
Frederick Everett; John Halter

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