

**Entrance Antiphon:**

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

**Psalm response:**

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

**Acclamation:**

*Alleluia! Alleluia!* Let your face shine forth on your servant, and teach me your decrees. *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:**

Like the deer that yearns for the running streams, so my souls is yearning for you,  
my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

*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.*



## Catholic Parish of St Michael's Sonning Common

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

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



### PARISH NEWSLETTER

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

7 September 2025

#### Good News

At Mass last Sunday you will have discovered that the Parish has a new book. Not just any book but a very special one: a Book of the Gospels.

At Mass, the Book of the Gospels is shown special reverence: Deacon Brian (or a server if a deacon isn't present) carries it in the entrance procession; it is laid on the altar and then processed to the lectern when it is needed; the reading of the Gospel can be accompanied with candles and incense, and the deacon or priest will reverence the Book of the Gospels with a kiss after the reading (if the Bishop is the principle celebrant the book will be taken to him after the Gospel reading for him to kiss).

At one level this may all seem a bit of fuss and unnecessary pageantry. However, it has a real purpose: to emphasise the importance of sacred scripture and the primacy of the Gospels within it. The reading of the Gospel is the highlight of the Liturgy of the Word at Mass, when we all stand in unity to hear Christ speaking to us through his life and his teaching.

If these outward signs are designed to liturgically emphasise the importance of the Gospels: I then wonder if I give them the attention they deserve at Mass? Sometimes I am aware that I haven't actively listened to them at all. Perhaps because the stories are so familiar I become distracted by other thoughts or because, like this weekend's Gospel, the message seems a bit too challenging and I let it slip in one ear and out the other. I know that every now and then I need to be reminded and re-energised in my attention.

Jesus' teaching this week needs lots of attention and thought: can I give up everything to be a disciple? What does this mean for me now at this point in my life? For each of us the answer will be different but discovering this needs to start from listening to that Gospel read from our new book.

*A Parishioner*

## 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](mailto:stmichael.sonningcommon@rcaob.org.uk)

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

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

### PARISH PILGRIMAGE - SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPT.

Be part of our Year of Jubilee pilgrimage to the Holy Door at St Anne's. Assemble at St Michael's 9.45am for a prompt 10am departure on foot. Those unable to walk are invited to join us at St Anne's at about 12 noon. Everyone please bring a packed lunch. After lunch there will be a short liturgy ending with Benediction. Depart by 2pm. Please sign the list.

### SCRIPTURE REFLECTION COURSE WITH CANON PAUL

Starting the week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> September there will be a 7.30pm Wednesday evening group on Zoom and 10.00am Thursday morning group in the church on a fortnightly basis. A list of dates can be found on the notice by the church door. All are welcome.

### DEBRILLATOR

As you may have noticed, a defibrillator has now been installed on the wall outside our church for use if, when and by whomsoever it may be needed. Thank you again to all who contributed towards its cost. A good witness and sign of community spirit.

### PATRONAL WEEKEND 26 - 27 SEPTEMBER

We will be celebrating the feast of St Michael with a series of events. Details on a separate sheet. Please do keep this weekend free and join in the celebration of our wonderful parish community, so recently admired by Fr Colin.

### TRAINING FOR ALTAR SERVERS: SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 3.30 - 5PM

Luke Theobald will hold a training session for all our altar servers.

Whether you are a regular server, haven't served for a long time or thinking about serving, please come along. Please sign the list to show your interest.

### IT HELP

We are still looking for some help to upgrade our website.  
Any expertise in this area would be very much appreciated!

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](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 7 September 2025

Weekend Celebrant: Fr Joseph Murphy

### 6 / 7 SEPTEMBER

### 23RD 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	9.30am	Eucharistic Service
Tuesday	12noon	Mass
Wednesday	2 pm	Mass at St Martin's School - all welcome
Thursday	9.30am	Mass
Friday	9.30am	Eucharistic Service

### 13 / 14 SEPTEMBER

### 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	Holy Souls [ <i>Cel.: Fr Andrw Foster</i> ]
Sunday	9.00am	People of the Parish [ <i>Cel.: Fr Michael Doyle</i> ]
Sunday	10.30am	Aldworth & Cotter Families -deceased, R.I.P. [ <i>Cel.:Fr Michael Doyle</i> ]
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 Szule.

*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:

Margaret Lawless; Rita Walker; Josefa Cano; Margaret Walter; Pay Walton;  
Thomas Nevin; Alice Sakala; Peter Baylis; Freda Miller; Michael Rehberger ;  
Ron Van Bree; Victims of the Twin Towers NY; Alf Wade ; Christopher Wade;  
David White; Joyce Rebeiro; Joan Bredon.

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