

**Entrance Antiphon:**

The Shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the Infant lying in a manger.

**Psalm response:**

Blessed are all who fear the Lord, and walk in his ways

**Acclamation:**

*Alleluia! Alleluia!* Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. *Alleluia!*

*The Apostles Creed is on page 456. / Nicene Creed is on page 455*

**After the Bidding Prayers:**

Remember, O most loving Virgin Mary,  
that it is a thing unheard of  
that anyone ever had recourse to your protection,  
implored your help, or sought your intercession, and was left unaided.  
Filled, therefore, with confidence in your goodness,  
I fly to you, O Mother, Virgin of Virgins.  
To you I come, before you I stand, a sorrowful sinner.  
Despise not my poor words, O Mother of the Word of God,  
but graciously hear and grant my prayer. 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:**

Our Lord has appeared on the earth, and lived among 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 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**

**The Holy Family**

**27/28 December 2025**

I hope everyone had a happy and Holy Christmas. Let's also pray for a peaceful Christmas season everywhere especially in the war-torn and unsafe parts of our world. May the New Year bring new hope and kindness to all.

Today is the feast of the Holy Family- the blessed family which we all try to use as our pattern for our own lives.

St Paul says as God's chosen ones we should

*"Put on compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness and patience with one another..."*

What a lot we are asked to aspire to and how hard it can be sometimes. Ask our blessed Lord to teach us always to appreciate the precious gift of being part of a family, our own and the family of our church and community and finally the family of the world.

Our families should be havens of peace - even if they are chaotic at times. As parents/ guardians we are meant to be the peacemakers. Fathers and mothers must be kind to each other and to their children, providing the haven they all need; mothers and fathers must be patient, loving and compassionate providers of faith and hope; children must be obedient, loving and thankful to their parents and siblings. We must welcome everyone into the family without judgement and sometimes without worry that it is wrong. There are times when we will be wrong and not succeed but keep praying as the Lord has a plan which we do not know.

This is part of a prayer which we use in our Mothers Prayer's Group but it can apply to everything we do:

*"Dearest Lord, when we find family or workplace or even world responsibilities more than we can bear, please strengthen us and help us to help each other that our burdens may turn to joy."*

Pray and hope together.

## 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

## GREETINGS FROM FR MICHAEL (SHARKEY)

Fr Michael sends his very best wishes to all of us. He is most grateful for all the cards and good wishes he has received which, he says, 'are very welcome reminders of eight very happy years at St Michael's.'

## THANK YOU

As we come close to the end of another year, it is important that those who give freely so much in time, energy and ability, feel properly appreciated. You are not taken for granted and you play a vital role in maintaining the healthy, thriving parish we have here at St Michael's. *Take a bow!* And, we, the parishioners would like to express our thanks to Deacon Brian for his hard work, which has intensified greatly with the loss of a resident parish priest.

Thank you, Brian. *Now - back to work everyone!!*



## WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The Prayer Service for Christian Unity will be hosted by Christ the King, Sedgewell Road, Sonning Common, at 6.30pm on Sunday 25th January.

## LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2026

Booking is now open for the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes from Monday 25 to Saturday 30 May 2026 under the leadership of His Grace, Archbishop Bernard Longley and Bishop David Evans. Pilgrims are invited to make initial enquiries about the pilgrimage via the Lourdes Administrator, Kath White: [admin.lourdes@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:admin.lourdes@rcaob.org.uk) or call 0121 230 6288.

## YOUR GIFT TO OUR PRIESTS

On behalf of the deanery priests who have served our parish so faithfully for several months, thank you for your very kind Christmas offerings and prayers. May God bless you.

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 28 December 2025

Weekend Celebrants: Fr Andrew Foster & Fr Michael Doyle

### 27 / 28 DECEMBER

### THE HOLY FAMILY

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	Priests of the Deanery: in thanksgiving
Sunday	9.00am	Holy Souls
Sunday	10.30am	People of the Parish
Monday	9.30am	Eucharistic Service: [St Thomas Beckett]
Tuesday	12 noon	Mass
Wednesday	-	No liturgy
Thursday	10am	Mass: [MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD]
Friday	9.30am	Eucharistic Service: [Ss Basil & Gregory Nazianzen]

### 3 / 4 JANUARY 2026

### 2ND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	9.00am	World Peace
Sunday	10.30am	Maddy Sharman, R.I.P.
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

We pray for all who have died, and for those whose anniversary occurs about this time:

Kenneth de Silva; Danny Jenkins (sr); John Owain Lewis; Iiona Bakaes; Julia Welemars;  
John Forbes; Jack Oswald; Ivy Roberts; Philomena Rodrigues; Louise Coulehan;  
Mary Williams; Yvonne Fernandes; Terence Vincent Anthony Fernandes; Matt Kearney;  
Jenny (Winifred) Thompson; Maryann and Charles Smith.

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