

The Baptism of the Lord

Sunday Missal Page 65

Entrance Antiphon:

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

Psalm response:

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia! The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son; listen to him. *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:

Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

*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.*

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

The Baptism of the Lord

10/11 January 2026

Resolutions and Repentance

For us today, used to a tradition of Infant Baptism, this feast following on so soon after the birth of Jesus seems quite natural. But John the Baptist was not offering infant baptism; his call was to adults.

St Matthew tells us that people across the region were coming to John to confess their sins and receive a baptism of repentance in the River Jordan. With this perspective, the positioning of this feast at the beginning of the calendar year calls us too to repentance.

In this season of *New Year Resolutions* are there things from 2025 (and beyond) that you repent of? – I know I have my own list!

Don't burden yourself with the whole list but pick one (or two) things that you want to do better in 2026 and ask the intercession of St John the Baptist to help and sustain you in your efforts.

Jesus' coming to John for baptism emphasises His fully human nature. He understands that we try and fail but when we turn again to Him in a spirit of repentance: He picks us up, comforts us and encourages us with the knowledge of His unbounded love.

A Parishioner

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

If you would like a home visit please call Deacon Brian Theobald

Tel: 07484332580 or email dcn.brian.theobald@rcaob.org.uk

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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

If you have a child in Year 3 or above NOT at St Martin's Primary School and you would like your child to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist, please contact

Deborah West by email on dwest@stmartins.reading.sch.uk. There will be a meeting for parents on **Thursday, 15th January at 5pm** in the Church.

The first session for children will begin on **Thursday, 22nd January at 5pm**.

DEACON TENNY ANTONY

Archbishop Bernard has appointed Deacon Tenny Antony to Sacred Heart, Henley for six months prior to his ordination to the priesthood in July 2026. Tenny will work across the South Oxfordshire Deanery, including assisting Fr Michael Doyle at St Michael's. As well as being a priest within the Archdiocese of Birmingham, Tenny is part of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy and is learning the Orthodox Rite of Holy Qurbana (Holy Mass) in Malayalam (Keralan).

I am sure we will give him a warm welcome.

TO ALL READERS AT MASS

Fr Colin before he left, suggested that all Readers take time to go through a leaflet about "Reading at Mass" as part of St Michael's ongoing ministry. We now have copies of these leaflets which are in named envelopes in a folder at the back of Church. Even if you have been reading at Mass for years, please do take your leaflet this weekend and read it, to refresh and renew your Ministry. Many thanks.

VOLUNTEER FORMS

If you volunteer for St Michael's at Mass or in any capacity, gardening, visiting parishioners etc. and have not yet filled in a 'Volunteer Form' please do take one from the back of Church, fill it in and return to the Church office at 18, Peppard Road. The form will be used to examine the level of volunteers we have in the Parish and the areas of work that are undertaken. It will also help us fulfil our duty of care under the Health and Safety at work Act 1974. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

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 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 11 January 2026

Weekend Celebrant: Fr Paul Martin

10/11 JANUARY

The Baptism of the Lord

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	John Vanheems, R.I.P. (died 2nd January)
Sunday	9.00am	Antao Family, deceased R.I.P.
Sunday	10.30am	People of the Parish
Monday	9.30am	Eucharistic Service
Tuesday	12 noon	James Smyth RIP
Wednesday	-	No liturgy
Thursday	9.30am	Mass
Friday	9.30am	Eucharistic Service

17/18 JANUARY 2026

2ND SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME (A)

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	World Peace
Sunday	9.00am	James Smyth RIP
Sunday	10.30am	People of the Parish YOUTH MASS
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; TJ.

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:

Patrick O'Sullivan; Constantino Antao; Thomas Stewart; Charles Harris; Sheila Stone; Willem Anschutz; Sylvester Cottrell (snr); James Creighton; Eirlys Godfrey; Keng Leow; Jan Manning; Bill Hoban; Marie Prendergast; Eileen Drever; Eileen Levy; Ramsay Mikhail; George Wright.

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