

Entrance Antiphon:

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High..

Psalm response:

Behold, I have come, Lord, to do your will.

Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia! The Word became flesh and dwelt among us; to all who did receive him, he gave the authority to become children of God. *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:

Heavenly Father, grant us peace in our nations and in our hearts.
Help leaders and citizens alike to work towards a harmonious society.
May Your peace penetrate every corner of our world, touching hearts
and changing lives. Help us to be vessels of Your peace,
spreading kindness and compassion in our interactions.
Let this peace be a foundation for unity and progress. Amen

Communion Antiphon:

You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice

*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****Second Sunday in Ordinary Time****17/18 January 2026**

At this time of year we look forward with resolutions to the year ahead but also look back to years gone by. And reading today's Gospel took me back to the 13th Century Carmelite priory at Aylesford where one summer over 35 years ago I was in a production of the Mystery plays, which have been put on since medieval times to dramatise events from the bible

One of the roles I was privileged to take on was John the Baptist. I did some basic research but got little further than that John lived a simple life, getting by on a diet of locusts and wild honey - and of course that he baptised Jesus and bore witness to his coming as the Messiah. As I wasn't following the Method approach there was no need to follow John's frugal diet, though I did wear a simple hessian robe and sandals, glad that we were performing outdoor in the summer!

Though simply acting in community theatre, there were many moments that felt spiritually profound. Their origin must have been in part from my Faith, in part from the beautiful, Holy setting where we regularly attended Mass – the priory sits in a 40 acre site with mixed mature woodland, a lake, and its grounds and chapels contain beautiful ceramic sculptures by the celebrated Polish artist Adam Kossowski. But a big part was the support of one the Brothers there at that time: the late Fr Wilfrid McGreal O. Carm. who often broadcast on BBC local and national radio. Fr McGreal, who baptised both our children, greatly enriched our spiritual life, in person and through his publications and broadcasts.

While scholars continue to debate the details and chronology of John the Baptist's life it's the words from John's Gospel that have become enshrined in our Mass when the priest holds up the consecrated Host before Holy Communion:

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the World!

Let us draw on whatever connects us to the wellsprings of our faith to make these words we hear each week, come fully alive in us. Amen

J. McG

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

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 18-25 JANUARY

Please come and join all the local Christian churches to pray for Christian unity at 6.30pm, Sunday 25th January, Christ the King, Sedgewell Road, Sonning Common.

OPENING AND CLOSING THE CHURCH

We would like to increase the number of people who open and close the church when Deacon Brian is away, both at weekends and during the week, to ensure we always have cover. Help is also needed to start and stop the online streaming.

Please contact deacon Brian.

ADULT ALTAR SERVERS

Now the new year is here and Lent/Easter will soon be on the horizon I would like to continue to recruit and train more altar servers, both adult and young people.

Please get in touch with Deacon Brian.

"SANTA DOESN'T ALWAYS GET IT RIGHT" CHARITY RAFFLE...

...will take place on Sunday 8th February. Please leave any unwanted Christmas gifts at the back of the church marked: "charity raffle". Raffle tickets will be on sale on 31st January & 1st, 7th and 8th February. This is a great opportunity to "recycle" gifts, make others happy that they won a prize, whilst raising money for charities supported by our church.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Brian Morgan, a regular at the 10.30am Mass, celebrated his 90th birthday last weekend. Congratulations, Brian, from all your friends and parishioners.

THANK YOU

Fr Michael Doyle and Fr Andrew Foster are very grateful for your generous Christmas Offering. Canon Paul Fitzpatrick and Fr Kenneth Macnab appreciate the gift of whisky given to them in recognition of their support for the parish.

There is no Bible Course this coming week as Canon Paul is away.

R.I.P

Patricia Allen (a regular at the 10.30am Mass) died last Sunday. May she rest in peace. Details of her funeral will be announced in due course.

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 18 January 2026

Weekend Celebrants: Fr Andrew Foster and Fr Paul Martin

17/18 JANUARY

2nd Sunday in O.T.

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	James Smyth, R.I.P.
Sunday	9.00am	Joan Godfrey, R.I.P. <i>Anniversary</i>
Sunday	10.30am	Katie McDonald YOUTH MASS
Monday	9.30am	Eucharistic Service
Tuesday	12 noon	Eucharistic Service
Wednesday	-	No liturgy
Thursday	9.30am	Mass
Friday	9.30am	Eucharistic Service

24/25 JANUARY *Cel: Revv. Andrew Foster & Michael Doyle* 3RD SUNDAY IN O.T

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	World Peace
Sunday	9.00am	Ted Cantrell, R.I.P.
Sunday	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; 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:

John Creighton; Ivan Dover; Joan Godfrey (mother of Tony & Fran); Cecil Keane;
Antony C and Regina Pereira; Richard Konazeski; Joseph Smyth; Kathleen Smyth;
Lily Deegan; Bernard C. Oates; Imrie Osz; Philomena Smith; Leslie Archard;
Winifred Dougan; Winifred Halter; Henry Clay.

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