

**Entrance Antiphon:**

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

**Psalm response:**

Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord!

**Acclamation:**

*Alleluia! Alleluia!* I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children. *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 my prayer. Amen.

**To conclude the Bidding Prayers:** [Diocesan Prayer for Vocations]

Heavenly Father, we ask you to send labourers into your harvest.

Inspire in the hearts of your people  
vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life.

Bless our families with a spirit of generosity,  
so that those whom you call  
have the courage to give themselves to your Church in faith.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen

**Communion Antiphon:**

They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them;  
they were not disappointed in what they craved.

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

**PARISH NEWSLETTER****Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time****14/15 February 2026****Week 3 – Hope**

Pope Francis named last year's jubilee 'Pilgrims of Hope'. This was certainly a prophetic name, as a real and deep hope in the Church seems to be growing of late. Let me give you a few headlines that have come out recently: 33 million pilgrims and tourists came to Rome for the jubilee last year, including around 1 million young people for the jubilee of youth. The Vatican before Christmas published its latest data from 2024 showing growth in the Church on every continent (I think Antarctica is excluded!). France recorded a record number of adult baptisms at Easter 2025. Priests who work in UK universities are seeing an increase in the number of young people, particularly young men exploring or returning to the faith. Many seminaries in the US are beginning to fill up again and in the UK we are seeing a growth in the number of applicants to seminary. All this news is very exciting. In the seminary there is a growing zeal and desire for mission, a sense of growth and hope in the Church, resulting in a significant improvement in morale and optimism amongst my brother seminarians. In one sense, this should not surprise us. Jesus promised that he would be with His Church forever, and ultimately, He is the one leading us and inviting all to encounter Him. I hope that this will also be an encouragement to all the parishes in our deanery to continue to be places of community, charity and encounter with God, especially to be welcoming to the many who are seeking to know God.

Next week, I will look at answering the call.

*Luke Theobald*

## 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

### HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS 7PM MONDAY

Our Holy Hour when we pray most especially for Vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life continues every Monday evening this month. Even if you only have a few minutes to spare before the Blessed Sacrament, you would be very welcome.

### ALPHA—What is it and Why?

As a parish we would like to gently reach out and invite Catholics who no longer practise their faith to reconnect with the Church and others seeking God. Many parishes have found running an Alpha Course over 11 weeks an effective way of doing this. However it needs a committed parish team. To find out more, please come to one of the introduction sessions in the church hall:

**10 March at 7pm, repeated 12 noon 22 March.**

### LENTEN RETREAT DAY - SATURDAY 14TH MARCH - 10.30AM - 3PM

#### ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH HALL

As Lent gets underway we are very fortunate to have Canon Paul Fitzpatrick lead a Lenten Retreat Day when he will be delving into St John's Gospel for Lenten Weeks 3, 4, and 5. *Feel free to bring a packed lunch; there'll also be soup and drinks. Please sign the sheet at the back of the church to help us with catering.*

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER, FRIDAY MARCH 6TH - 6.30PM.

On March 6th we'll unite with other local churches at Christ the King Church, Sedgewell Rd. This year it's prepared by Nigeria. 146 other countries will be praying on the same day.

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PRAYER SPONSORS.

Five children are being prepared for Holy Communion.

If you wish to sponsor a child through your prayers please sign the list.

### FUN & GAMES! - SUNDAY, 8TH MARCH 3-5PM - IN THE CHURCH HALL

Board Games for everyone over the age of 6 years. A FREE truly fun family event. Please sign the sheet at the back of the church to say you'll be there!

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 15h February 2026

Weekend Celebrants: Fr Michael Doyle with Deacon Tenny

### 14/15 FEBRUARY

### 6th Sunday in O.T.

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	9.00am	Patricia Miles, R.I.P.
Sunday	10.30am	Stephen Aldworth, R.I.P.
Monday	9.30am <b>7pm</b>	Eucharistic Service <b>HOLY HOUR</b>
Tuesday	12 noon	Mass
<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>	12 noon 7pm	<b>Mass with Imposition of Ashes</b> <b>Mass with Imposition of Ashes</b>
Thursday	9.30am	Mass
Friday	-	No liturgy

### 21/22 FEBRUARY Rev. Andrew Foster & Michael Doyle 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	9.00am	For Vocations
Sunday	10.30am	Stephen Aldworth, R.I.P. & Cotter Family, dec'd.
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:

Bep Anschutz; Stephen James Aldworth; John Dowd; Richard Savage; Avito Benedict Da Silva; Eileen Arkell; Bridie Bonner; Peter Davies; Eileen Enright; Jimmy Thompson; Mary Ann Kennedy.

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