

ST MICHAEL'S NEWSLETTER

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8th/9th. December 2018



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To book the Parish Hall please email the office.
Hall wi-fi password: tbc
The office is open mornings from 9.30-1pm
on Monday, Wednesday & Friday.

Second Sunday of Advent

Prepare the way of the Lord.

Luke 3:4



6.00 pm Special Intention

8.30am Michael & Margaret Hanks RIP

10.30am Philip Christopher Scarborough RIP

Mon 10th. Weekday in Advent

9.30am People of the Parish

Tues 11th Weekday of Advent

NO MASS

Wed 12th **NO MASS**

Thu 13th St Lucy

9.30am Well-being of Mary

Fri 14th St John of the Cross

10.30am Funeral Mass for David Weaver

Sat 15th Weekday of Advent

10.00am Neen Callaghan RIP

Followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation and at 5.15pm-5.45pm

Saturday/Sunday 15th/16th. December

Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

6.00 pm People of the Parish

8.30am Tony Sydenham RIP

10.30am David Owens RIP

Please pay for the souls of those whose anniversaries occur at about this time

John Bird, Michael Brown, Regina Hickey, Michael Lynch, Vera Union, Margaret Garrett, Elena Mashman,

Mary Sreeves, Gerry O'Leary

May they rest in peace, Amen

PLEASE PRAY FOR

"Recently it has become impractical to continue provide for my wife, Sheila's care needs (Parkinson's Disease) at home. She is now in residential care at Hartfield House Care Home, Leatherhead. This is a difficult time for both of us and your prayers would be appreciated. Tony Hanks."

Clare Derry, George Stuart Baxter, Leonard Anderson, Pauline Hooper, Monica Leonard, Fr Alan Sharpe, Robin Johnson, Bill Danson, Jean Rawlinson, Kay Fry, Margaret Beeby, Anne Burman, Alfredo Sheffield, Fr. Felipe Ortega, Nina Grant, Barbara Long, Mary Turner, Grace Sheridan, Johanna Rainsbury, Stephen Sullivan, Monica McAllister, Margaret Cleere, Rachel Fulton and Michael Machese

and all who need our prayers.

My Dear Friends,

I was in Manchester last Monday to celebrate the Feast of St Ralph Sherwin, the First student of the Venerable English College to be put to death for his priesthood in England. He was executed at Tyburn in London on December 1st 1582 along with St Edmund Campion and St Alexander Bryant. In subsequent years another 43 English College men gave their lives for the crime of being a Catholic priest in England. Each year the College celebrates "Martyrs' Day" and "Old Romans" gather for Mass and lunch in different parts of the country.

Normally I go to the London Mass at Tyburn Convent, which is next door to the site of Tyburn Tree where so many of the martyrs died. This year I was in Manchester which is in the Diocese of Salford. I mention this because Salford is also going through a process of discernment and planning for the future. They are facing similar problems to ours, but their approach is rather different.

The Salford plan involves the closure and amalgamation of many parishes and the closure of a number of churches. That is not the Arundel and Brighton plan.

Bishop Richard is keen to avoid closing down parishes or churches except where absolutely necessary. He wants to enable the different parishes and communities to flourish even when there will not be a resident priest.

This policy can only work if we have sufficient laymen and women to provide the leadership we need. This is not going to be easy with the pressures that so many of you already experience in balancing your work and the needs of your families. None the less the stark fact remains that unless we can find people to accept responsibility for the life of the parish the future does not look good.

At the present time here in Ashtead, we have to rely far too much on people who are in their 70's and 80's. We are certainly greatly blessed in them. The Parish owes them a tremendous debt of gratitude, but where are the next generation? There will be no future without them.

With my love and prayers for each of you. Fr. Tony

The **Diocese** is not producing an **Advent booklet** this year. They recommend "**Global Healing**", a film-based resource for parishes, groups and individuals, responding to Laudato Si and Pope Francis' vital call to care for our common home. Further details from www.ourcommonhome.co.uk

Alternatively, from House On Rock, they suggest their **Lift up your Hearts** programme, which has the themes of mercy and forgiveness, in preparation for the Christmas period. Go to www.houseonrock.co.uk/faith-sharing

Advent Please visit the Repository in the Porch if you would like to buy one or buy Advent Calendars and Christmas Cards.

Ashtead Churches' Men's Breakfast, Saturday 15 December, 8.00 - 9.30am, St Giles' Church Hall, The Dell

Our annual Christmas Special; cooked breakfast for £5. All men are very welcome, no need to book; come and join us.

More information from ashteadmensbreakfast@gmail.com.

NEW ROTAS

If you are involved in Sunday Coffees, Church Cleaning or Offertory Recording, first of all THANKYOU, secondly please collect your copies of the new rotas from the pockets at the rear of the church.

Advent CAFOD Raffle

This weekend is your last chance to buy raffle tickets. The draw will take place next weekend after the 10.30am Mass.

Bingo - My Time Do you enjoy having a chat with good company, a little flutter and having fun while raising money for My Time, a local group providing respite activities for youngsters with caring responsibilities? Then try out our next friendly monthly bingo session this coming Wednesday afternoon, 12th December at 2pm in the Hall. Why not bring a friend with you - the more the merrier and the bigger the winnings!

Advent Services of Reconciliation

Banstead St Ann and Tadworth St John joint service at St Ann's Wednesday **12th December** at 7:30pm.
Ewell St Clement Thursday **13th December** at 7:30pm.
Leatherhead Our Lady & St Peter Thursday **13th December** at 7:00pm.
Effingham & Fetcham Sunday **16th December** at 3:00pm.
Ashted St Michael Monday **17th December** at 7:30pm.
Epsom St Joseph Thursday **20th December** at 7:30pm.
Dorking St Joseph Sunday **23rd December** at 3:00pm.

Asia Bibi is on death row waiting for her appeal in the Pakistani courts. She is accused of insulting the Prophet Muhammad by offering her fellow farm worker a glass of water who said that it was "unclean" because Asia Bibi was a Christian. **Please sign the letter demanding her release.**

Lift wanted A delightful lady, partially sighted, who has recently moved into Lime Tree Court from Leatherhead, would very much appreciate a lift to the 6pm Mass at Ashted on a Saturday evening. If there is anyone who could offer this lady a lift on a regular basis, contact Caroline King 01372 277140, caromking8@gmail.com

Flying Start Nursery Our very good neighbours, are going to use our Church for their Nativity play. This is a lovely idea for their 3 & 4 year olds and their parents to be in a Church setting for the traditional Christmas story. However, on Tuesdays there will not be a Mass or Liturgy on those mornings as the children prepare and then perform their play.

Action in Africa Christmas Appeal 2018

If you would like to make someone's Christmas this year, please donate to our Christmas Appeal? For as little as £5, a needy family will receive a delivery of rice, cooking oil, tea, sugar, milk & sardines. A £10 Christmas package will contain a chicken. Please help feed the most vulnerable of our Nyaishozi community this Christmas. Please visit our website for details: www.actioninafrica.org or donations can be posted to 3 Broadhurst, Ashted KT211QB – please make cheques payable to Action in Africa. Thank you for your support in 2018 and we wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

CAFOD World Gifts Give a gift that will change a life. There are gifts for every budget from Happy Queen Bee at £4 to Help a Refugee child at £46. Each CAFOD World gift has been chosen for the real and lasting difference it makes to families living in developing countries. Catalogues are available at church or you can buy online at cafod.org.uk/worldgifts



Epsom Medical Equipment Fund have **local schools and choirs singing carols in The Ashley Centre** in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Mon 10 Dec 10am – midday
Thu 13 Dec 11:10am – 12:10pm

Children's Christmas Craft Morning in December

If anyone would like to help with a Christmas Craft morning for the children of the Parish, please ring Polly on 07775 851562 or email pollyribet@hotmail.com

Coffee after weekday Mass. As there will be no Mass or liturgy on the Tuesdays, service of coffee/tea after Mass is transferred to Thursdays until further notice.

The Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Trust is a charity - No. 252878

Happy Birthday to:

Benjamin Newman 8 Dylan Watkins 8, TODAY!
Helena Mansefield 4 on Monday.
Brendan Owen 9, Ava Atkins, 3 on Wednesday.
Hannah Lay 10 on Thursday
Luke Eynon 12, Austin Stack 6 on Saturday.

St Joseph's Epsom will be holding a **Marriage Preparation Course** on Saturday 26th January 2019.

The Woodfield Entertainers present **Treasure Island**, by Tina & Rob Burbidge. A Panto for all the Family, at the Ashted Peace Memorial Hall on Thursday December 13th & Friday December 14th at 7.30pm and Saturday Dec 15th at 6.30pm. Doors open 30 minutes before each performance. (Matinee on Dec 15th Sold Out). **Box Office: 07941 105612**

'Lunchbox'

This local drop-in centre for the homeless and others facing hard times has written to say how grateful it is for a £300 Sainsbury gift card recently donated by the Parish from the proceeds of 10.30am Sunday Mass coffee/tea donations. The gift card will help fund the purchase of food for the centre and for families in dire need also helped by the centre. 'Lunchbox' is also very grateful to parishioners who donate non-perishable food and toiletries throughout the year. Whenever you can, please place donations of non-perishable food/toiletries in the basket in the porch.

Next Week's Readings. Zephaniah 3:14-18
Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:10-18

££££££££

Last week's offertory collection came to £1347.82
This week we collect for Action in Africa

CAN WE HELP? *Do you find yourself in need of a helping hand, eg. shopping, collecting prescriptions, transport to hospital or GP? Ring one of these people and they will help if they can.*
Karin Rodgers 279606 #
Margaret McGarr 277839
Tesco shop – (day to be arranged)

Rotas for Weeks Commencing:

Church Cleaning	9 th	Angela Archer
	16 th	Maria Adams
Sunday Coffee	9 th	Philip Ward and Pauline Clark
	16 th	Denise Rouse
Recorders	9 th	Bill and Angela Archer
	16 th	Tom Dore and Charles Vossier

Ministers rotas 16th December 2018 – 3rd. Sunday of Advent Saturday 6:00 pm - Vigil Mass

WM: Mark McGaugh and Helen McGaugh
R: Geraldine Hardwick and Angela Archer
EM: Peter Tisi and Fina Tisi

Sunday 8.30 am

WM: Ruth Sydenham and David Warnock
R: Tom Dore and Anastasya Beeston
EM: Keith Higgins and Judith O'Neill

Sunday 10.30 am

WM: Alick Friend and James Close
R: Julian Ribet and Steve Rouse
EM: Caroline King and Susan Marsh

You can e-mail copy for the Newsletter to newsletter@stmichaelashtead.org.uk to arrive by 9.30am on Friday morning or phone Steve Rouse on 818698