

ST MICHAEL'S NEWSLETTER



Vol. 59 No 3
14th/15th Dec 2019

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Deacon: Rev David Pattinson Tel: 07788 916910
Website: www.stmichaelashted.org.uk
To book the Parish Hall please email the office.
Hall wi-fi: **Netgear41 (password) grandcomet148**
The office is open mornings from 9.30-1pm
on Monday, Wednesday & Friday.

Third 'Gaudete' Sunday of Advent

See how the Farmer awaits the precious
Yield of the soil.
James 5:7



6.00pm Deceased relatives and friends of Mary Turner
8.30am David Owens RIP
10.30am People of the Parish

Mon 16th Weekday of Advent
9.30am Michael Paul Cassar RIP

Tues 17th Weekday of Advent
9.30am For the Intentions of Hong Ping Xie & Zheng Zhou
Adult Baptism and Confirmation

Wed 18th NO MASS

Thu 19th Weekday of Advent
9.00am Imogene McGrath RIP
10.00am St Peter's School Carol Service

Fri 20th Weekday of Advent
9.30am Roger Chan Lok RIP

Sat 21st Weekday of Advent
10.00am Bereavement Mass –
'for those you have loved and lost'
Sacrament of Reconciliation only at 5.15-5.45pm

21st/22nd December, Fourth Sunday of Advent

6.00pm Joanne Smith-Carter RIP
8.30am People of the Parish
10.30am For the intentions of Emily Warner
Adult Baptism and Confirmation

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

Mary Sreeves, Gerry O'Leary, Dorothy Passow,
Bert Crayden, Mary Guy, Tim Adams,
Helga Maria Suwalski, Sheila Coking, Bill Sharpe,
Mary McDonald, Peter William Harvey, Richard Tufnell,
Fr Bernard McGrath, Thomas Dowd, Frank McCaffry,
May they Rest in Peace

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Genevieve Rodrigues, daughter of Olivia and Gary,
Leonard Anderson, Aloysius Keeley, Vincent Smyth,
Emily Scarborough, George Stuart Baxter, Bart Gruzalski,
Sheila Hanks, Sarah Bishop, Clare Derry, Michael Roche,
Pauline Hooper, Elizabeth Samson,
Fr Alan Sharpe, Bill Danson, Jean Rawlinson, Kay Fry,
Margaret Beeby, Anne Burman, Alfredo Sheffield,
Nina Grant, Barbara Long, Mary Turner,
Johanna Rainsbury, Stephen Sullivan,
Rachel Fulton and Michael Machese
and all who need our prayers.

My Dear Friends,

So often these days news about the Church is negative, but this weekend I want to write about encouraging signs of growth and new life. Each year in the autumn we are asked to take a count of those at Mass each weekend. I was very encouraged to see that this year our numbers each week have gone up by an average of fifty. Our Sunday Mass count was around 340. It has recently been around 400.

It is especially encouraging to see so many young families at Mass, and that is true of all three Masses. It is very important, I believe, to welcome parents and children. For parents it is not easy to get children ready for Mass, and to keep them involved. Parents need to understand that even if it is almost impossible for them to concentrate on the Mass, their efforts in bringing the children is in itself their prayer, and very pleasing to God.

In recent months I have spent time with four people who are wanting to become Catholics. They are all quite young, and have come to the Church from no faith at all. All four are being received into the Church before Christmas. I would ask you to pray for them and make them welcome.

I hope that these stories will encourage you in your own "journey in Faith". It is very easy to become depressed these days. It is a temptation to be resisted. Our Catholic Faith has so much to offer to the people around us. We need to ask the Holy Spirit to give us new confidence in living our faith and witnessing by our lives. "We are ambassadors for Christ".

With my love and prayers for each of you,

Fr Tony

The Wooden Christmas Tree at the back of the Church is for you to hang your messages to those whom 'you have loved and lost'. This will be the centre point of the Bereavement Mass on Saturday the 21st December at 10am. The decorations for you to write on are in a basket underneath the tree.

Altar serving practice Sunday 22nd December at 9.30am in the Church. Please don't take the Albs home and please can you bring back any that you have taken. Thank you.

DECORATE OUR JESSE TREE. Since medieval times Jesse Trees have helped tell the story of the Bible from creation to the birth of Jesus. They were found in churches as stained glass, tapestries, and carvings. Now an Advent tradition is to decorate a Jesse tree with Bible symbols so linking the custom of decorating Christmas trees to the events leading to Jesus' birth. Do join in and decorate the Jesse tree in St. Michael's with readymade decorations provided OR take a Jesse symbol to colour at home OR make your own decoration from old Christmas greeting cards OR draw and colour a Jesse symbol to hang on the tree.

Something different for Advent?

If you would like to come and try something different for Advent, come and experience 'take time'. This is a series of relaxed guided meditations based on the stories of Jesus and Ignatian tradition. The meditations encourage the use of the imagination to encounter Jesus, and can be a very helpful way of praying with scripture.

There will be one more session during Advent on Monday 16th Dec. from 7.30pm – 9pm, at 50 Taleworth Road. For information please contact Sue Marsh 07890658951 or Caroline King 07905360466

An hour of prayer and light for peace in the world will be held here at St Michael's on Sunday 15th December from 3 to 4pm. Please, do try to come.

Thank you to all who supported the **December Soup Lunch**. You raised £350, to be split between CAFOD, the Princess Alice Hospice and Besom. The Soup Lunch has raised a total of £4043 in 2019 for charity. The first lunch of 2020 will be on Friday, 3 January.

Please pick up a copy of the *Christmas Trumpet*
Suggested donation of a £1
100 Club draw takes place this weekend at coffee time after 10.30am Mass

Children's Advent Banner we invite the children to bring a photo of themselves to put on the final banner which will be hung up for mass on Christmas Eve. Please bring your photos to children's liturgy or leave them in the basket next to the Jesse tree.

Parish Environment Captain sought! To be a rep for the Ecological Conversion Group, acting as a contact for your parish, distributing our materials at Mass
Our first magazine was sent out on the 1st Sunday of Advent for the Launch of "The Journey to 2030" which the diocese of Arundel and Brighton has committed to in tackling our ecological crisis. To find out more, visit the 'about us' section of the Journey to 2030 site. Please email John Paul de Quay ASAP at: info@journeyto2030.org

Dyscover, a small registered charity providing long term support to people with aphasia is seeking a **Charity Administrator**. 25 hours per week, based in Leatherhead Surrey with free car parking. Salary £13,332 p.a. For more info please email Julia Baker jbaker@dyscover.org.uk or call 01737 819419. The closing date for applications is Monday 6th January.

Besom. A handful of Volunteers is needed to help tidy an Ashtead Resident's small garden, 2-3 hours work, in January. Mostly hedge and lawn trimming. Refreshments provided. To join the Team, please call James Close on 01372 273554.

Don't forget to put your names down as a sponsor for the FHC and Confirmation groups for this year.

Crib offering 2019 This Christmas our Crib Offering will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society's A&B Crisis Fund. This fund provides emergency grants for children and families in our Diocese who are facing a crisis in their lives. Every single penny donated to the Crib will be given out via these grants.

Missio/APF. Apologies to all promoters and box holders regarding the delay in delivery of 2020 calendars. I have phoned the office three times and have now been promised delivery by the weekend. A little prayer may help them on their way. Mavis Bazeley

The **St Michael's 2020 diaries** have arrived!! Please take one for yourself and your family.

Advent Services of Reconciliation around the Deanery Effingham & Fetcham Parish Our Lady of Sorrows Sunday 15th December 2019 at 3:00pm
Ashtead Parish St Michael's Monday 16th Dec at 7:30pm
Ewell Parish St Clement's Thursday 19th Dec at 7:30pm
Redhill, Reigate & Merstham Parish of the Nativity of the Lord Service at St Joseph's Friday 20th December 2019 at 6:30pm.

Happy Birthday to:
Luke Eynon 13 and Austin Stack 7 on Sunday
Olivia Rowles 9 on Monday
Amelia Bennetts 13 and Dexter Chan Lok 9 on Wednesday
Madeleine Ciesco 12 on Thursday
Ava Atkins 4 on Friday.

CAFOD Advent Raffle The draw will be after the 10.30am Mass this weekend. There's still time to buy tickets if you catch Phil directly after 10.30 Mass. Do not miss out on your chance to win great prizes!!

ROTAS – Church Cleaning, Sunday Coffees, Offertory Recording I will soon be preparing new rotas for 2020. Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like your name to be removed from or added to the lists. Some wonderful new volunteers have come forward recently but we can always use more. You can contact me on 01372 379244 or at mary.merrett@gmail.com Mary Merrett

CAROLS FOR CHARITY Ashtead Choral Society invites you to join in their Carols for Charity event in Ashtead Peace Memorial Hall next **Saturday morning, 21st December** anytime between 10am and 12 noon. Admission is £2 and our chosen local charities this year are **Sight for Surrey** and **Love Me, Love My Mind**. Do note that parking at APMH is **FREE** that day.

Next week's Readings: Isaiah 7:10-14;
Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

££££££££
Offertory Collection last week raised £1,335.47
Last weekend's retiring collection for **Action in Africa, £870.31**
This weekend we will collect for the Allsaints Apprentice Scheme in Leatherhead.

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.*
16th to 29th Dec IN EMERGENCY ONLY
Ruth Sydenham Tel. 272007 #
Margret McGarr Tel. 277839
Tesco shop - day and time to be arranged

Rotas for Weeks Commencing:
Church Cleaning 15th Dec. Keith Higgins
21st Dec. Angela Archer
Sunday Coffee 15th Dec. Gill Gruzalski
21st Dec. Caroline King
Recorders 15th Dec. Bill and Judith O'Neill
21st Dec. Tom Dore and Charles Vosser

Ministers' rotas 21st/22nd December – 4th Sunday of Advent
Saturday 6:00 pm - Vigil Mass
WM: Mark McGaugh and Helen McGaugh
R: Fina Tisi and Alan Waters
EM: Philippa Dupenois and Fina Tisi
Sunday 8:30 am
WM: Angelika Tybura and David Warnock
R: Martin O'Donovan and Tom Dore
EM: Sheila Hayter and Garry Hayter
Sunday 10:30 am
WM: Marina Channing Pearce
R: Mike King and Mary Merrett
EM: Jacqui Shabankareh and Denise Rouse

You can e-mail contributions to the Newsletter to
newsletter@stmichaelashtead.org.uk
to arrive by 9.30am on Friday morning