

ST MICHAEL'S NEWSLETTER



Vol. 59 No 13
22nd/23rd February 2020

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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.

Seventh Sunday of the Year

Love your enemies and pray for those who
Persecute you.
Sirach 15:17



6.00pm Gerard McCabe RIP
8.30am Desmond Morrison RIP
10.30am People of the Parish

Mon 24th Weekday
NO MASS

Tues 25th Weekday
9.30am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

Wed 26th **ASH WEDNESDAY** (Fasting and Abstinence)
9.30am John Swain RIP
8.00pm People of the Parish

Thu 27th Weekday
9.30am Intentions of Jo Forster
followed by Adoration

Fri 28th Weekday
9.30am Margaret Gosden RIP

Sat 29th Weekday
10.0am Intentions of the Gruzalski Family
Followed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation and at 5.45pm

29 Feb/1st March First Sunday of Lent

6.00pm Elsie Dennett RIP
8.30am People of the Parish
10.30am Stephen Jayes RIP

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

Anthony Culver, Albert Taylor, Phyllis Newbery,
Dreda Curties, Pat Cushion, Madge Martin
Mark Potts, Michael Quinlan, Michael Kelly,
Lilian Sheehan
May they Rest in Peace

PLEASE PRAY FOR

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,
Johanna Rainsbury, Stephen Sullivan, Rachel Fulton and
Michael Machese

and all who need our prayers.

My Dear Friends,

THE CHALLENGE OF LENT

It will be Ash Wednesday just a few days from now. For anyone who takes their Faith seriously Lent is a challenge. The Church asks us to keep Ash Wednesday itself and Good Friday as days of fasting and abstinence, but apart from that does not make any further demands. In the past the rules were much stricter and more demanding. Lent today is not an imposition but an invitation.

Even in modern secular Britain Lent gets some attention in the media, but usually it amounts to no more than the question, "What are you giving up for Lent?" Once you remove Lent from its real context as part of the Christian life it has lost its meaning.

Lent is an invitation to prepare for Easter, the most important feast in the Christian year. It is doubtful if many people in Britain today have any sense of what Easter is about. Easter cards usually focus on bunny rabbits and chocolate eggs in what is really a celebration of Spring time. There is nothing wrong with that, but it has nothing to do with Easter.

Lent invites us to deepen our relationship with the person of Our Lord. We do this so that we can enter fully into the celebration of Jesus' Rising from the Dead in the Liturgy of Holy Week and Easter. I want to invite you this weekend to think about how you intend to keep Lent 2020. It is the Lord who invites us. There is no compulsion but only an urgent invitation that we should not ignore.

With my love and prayers for each of you,

Fr Tony

Thursday Masses in Lent March 5th/12th/26th

During Lent in order to give more parishioners the opportunity to come to Mass for three of the Thursdays, there will be Mass in the evening at 7pm, (instead of the morning).

Shift is an annual night of worship, taking place on Friday 13 March 7:30-9:30pm at St George's Ashted for young people in Surrey. It's great for anyone in school years 7-13, for people in youth groups and their friends too.

Free youth event for 11-18s and their leaders with two well-known faces from the Soul Survivor festivals. Caz Talbot (Worship Pastor, Hackney Church) will be leading an amazing time of worship and Laura Hancock (National Ministries Director, Youth for Christ) will give an inspiring talk. Whether you're new to faith, been a Christian for a long time, or not sure yet, this will be a great night for you and a great thing to bring your friends to.

Want to promote this to your youth group? Download the promo pack with slides, posters, and videos:

<http://bit.ly/shiftpromo20>

There's no need to book, but we'd love to know if you're coming - email youth@ashtedparish.org - and youth leaders, please come with your group!

Join us for a series of talks by Fr Tony Milner BSc STD 8pm at the Parish Hall at St Joseph's, Falkland Grove, Dorking, RH4 3DL

27 Feb: Genesis 1-11, God's Word and Creation
26 Mar: The Gospel of John, focusing on the Lent readings
23 Apr: The Acts of the Apostles, living the Resurrection
21 May: Who were the Prophets? Messengers of God's Word

HCPT Group 2 have 1 space left for a disabled guest aged 8 - 18 for a full funded trip to Lourdes this Easter (April 12th - 18th). If you know of anyone who would benefit from such a trip, please get in contact with John-Paul Indoe on 07787 327739, group2@hcpt.org.uk "

There will be a short service at St Michael's for the **World Day of Prayer (a women led global, ecumenical movement)** at 10.30am on Friday 6th March. Refreshments afterwards. All welcome.

Altar Serving Practice – 9.30am Sunday 8th March & Sunday 29th March and let Deacon David know your availability for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday.

Bereavement coffee morning – 11-12 on Friday 28th February in the Church Hall, all welcome

The acclaimed film "The Two Popes" is to be screened at the Leatherhead Theatre from March 3rd to March 5th. There will be both Matinée and Evening performances. Box Office: 01372 365141.

Week of Guided Prayer

Sunday 15th - Friday 20th March 2020

This event is a valuable opportunity to explore different ways of praying in the midst of your daily life. A trained Prayer Guide will accompany you, listen, encourage and help you to explore ways to deepen your relationship with God through prayer. You can meet your Prayer Guide at St Michael's, Ashtead, or St Joseph's, Redhill, at a time of day that suits you or in your home if you are housebound. The Week begins with an Opening Service on Sunday 15th March and will conclude with a Closing Service on Friday 20th March. The closing date for bookings is Monday 24th February but no one will be turned away. Booking forms are available at the back of the Church or you can email John Roberts, one of the co-ordinators, on johndandmau@yahoo.co.uk for more information.

Lenten Groups - get to meet some new people in your Parish.
The meetings take place once a week during Lent and they are based on Bible readings. No knowledge needed.
All meeting run for 4 weeks, one day a week STARTING the week of Ash Wednesday.
1. MONDAY EVENINGS starting at 7.30; Leader Caroline King, Phone: 01372 379244
2. MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY at 8.00 pm; Leader Paul Gruzalski Phone: 01372278692
3. WEDNESDAY MORNINGS From 10.30 -12.00 ; Leader Lorraine Lynch Phone 07547343124
4. TUESDAY MORNINGS at 10.30 at 10:30 -12.00; Leader Mary Merrett Phone: 07969192423
5. MONDAY EVENINGS. at 8.00 pm Leader Ted Le Riche phone: 07809049364

Suggestions for Lent

Usually in Lent people choose to give up chocolate or something similar, but we thought of using the opportunity to mobilise the community regarding environmental issues.
Option 1 - Go vegetarian two days a week
Option 2 - Have two 'car free' days a week
Option 3 - Reduce shower time to 5 minutes
Option 4 - Turning the taps off whilst you brush your teeth (we're aiming this one at kiddies!)
Option 5 - Don't buy bottled water or takeaway coffee cups.

Happy Birthday to:

Liam Rainsbury 11 Today!

Liam Henderson 4 on Monday

William Ralph 13 on Tuesday

Rebecca Amos 7 on Wednesday

James McDonald 2 on Thursday

Alexander McFarvey 9, Toby Ross 7, Nancy Ribet 4,

Freddie Fontana 7 all on Friday

Next week's readings Genesis 2: 7-9; 3: 1-7;
Romans 5: 12-19; Matthew 4: 1-11

I will be swimming a mile for the **Meeting Room** in February. Please sign the sheet in the back of church if you want to support this charity. **Paul Gruzalski**

£££££££

Offertory Collection last week came to £1,240.97
The collection for the **Diocesan Lourdes Fund** came to £162.84

My Day by Day Lent Booklets for Adults, Juniors and Infants. Please do pick one up to take home and read for yourself and your children. There is also a **Walk with me Calendar** for Lent for Children, do pick one up and take home.
Lent 2020 leaflets on also in the Porch for a more detailed list of what's happening in Lent at St Michael's.

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 Rogers Tel. 279606 #

Angela Archer Tel. 274984

Tesco shop - day and time to be arranged

Rotas for Weeks Commencing:

Church Cleaning 23rd Feb Philippa Dupenois

1st March Keith Higgins

Sunday Coffee 23rd Feb Maureen Anderson

1st March Caroline Fitzherbert

Recorders 23rd Feb Alan and Norma Kelly

1st March Bill and Angela Archer

Ministers' rotas – 29Feb/1 March First Sunday of Lent Saturday 6:00 pm - Vigil Mass

WM: Maureen Chappell and Jean Wheeler

R: Sara Brammall

EM: Peter Tisi and Fina Tisi

Sunday 8:30 am

WM: Tom Dore and Sally Yacob

R: Betty Lapham and Martin O'Donovan

EM: Rocio Opazo-Aniotz and Keith Higgins

Sunday 10:30 am

WM: Cristiana Benini and Alick Friend

R: James Close and Cara Heden

EM: Denise Rouse and Jacqui Shabankareh

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

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