

## ST MICHAEL'S NEWSLETTER



Vol. 59 No 17  
21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020

St Michael's Parish Office,  
The Marld, Ashtead KT21 1RS Tel: 01372 272267  
Email: [smichaeloffice@gmail.com](mailto:smichaeloffice@gmail.com)  
Parish Priest: Rev. Provost Anthony Churchill  
Priest's House – 01372 270842  
Deacon: Rev David Pattinson Tel: 07788 916910  
Website: [www.stmichaelashtead.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelashtead.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.

### Fourth Sunday of Lent

## NO MASS

**The bishops of England and Wales have decided that Mass and other liturgies will not be celebrated in public until further notice.**

**Priests will celebrate Mass in private, but churches will remain open for private prayer.**

**Baptisms in public, First Holy Communion and Confirmation are all to be deferred. Weddings should be deferred but may be celebrated with just immediate family present. Funeral services must be held only at the graveside or crematorium.**

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

Richard Aspinall, Maureen Botting, Oswald Gill,  
Richard Cribb, Paul Coombes, Mary Taylor,  
Josephine Hughes, Thomas Shepherd,  
Roy Christopher Jones, Kathleen French,  
Rosina McGrath  
**May they Rest in Peace**

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR**

Peggy Brogan, 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,  
I had planned to write to you today about almsgiving as part of our Lenten discipline along with prayer and fasting. However, I think that I need to say something, however brief, about the unprecedented situation in which we find ourselves today.

During these next few weeks we need to develop other ways of prayer.

Even as I get used to the idea of celebrating Mass in an empty church, I will be aware that there will be so many people unable to come to Mass who will be uniting themselves with Our Lord in the Mass in different ways.

I hope that many of you will try to follow Mass either on TV (EWTN) or on the internet, especially on Sundays. Those of you who are more technically skilled could help older relatives to do so.

(Each time younger friends visit me I learn new tricks in that regard!)

I suggest that we can use this strange period to rediscover other ways of prayer from our Catholic tradition. Family prayer is a good way to bring people together in the family. (But don't make it too long drawn out. People have been put off in the past by what seemed interminable devotions).

Reading a chapter of the Gospel each day will bring us closer to Jesus.

The Rosary is a well-tested and simple way of being led by Mary to think about the key events in the life of Our Lord.

I will write more in the coming weeks but I want to stress now that our prayer must also lead us to practical care for others. I know that many of you are already doing a lot for neighbours who are vulnerable at this time.

Don't underestimate the value of cards and phone calls to people who are lonely and perhaps afraid.

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

### **From today's Gospel reading:**

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, the one speaking with you is he."

### **Reflection:**

We cannot predict or define God's saving presence in the world. The Pharisees couldn't imagine that God was present in Jesus, or that the blind man could discern the presence and actions of God better than they could. God is bigger and greater than any of us could imagine. The more profound darkness is to claim to have all the answers. Adapted for our purposes, this Lent we might pose the blind man's question this way, "Who are you Lord, that we might believe?" For we always are in need of more sight – more light on the "subject!"

### **So, we ask ourselves:**

Do I see Christ's presence in people and places that surprise me?

What person(s) has helped me "see" and grow in faith?

### Children's Easter craft session

THIS HAS HAD TO BE CANCELLED.

### Easter Trumpet -

**This Edition** will be deferred until Whitsun (at the moment). You will all have plenty of time to write/research...gather your thoughts together for some wonderful articles

**New Lectern outside the Lady Chapel** – There will be a Lectern on this new stand with the readings of the Day.



The God who Speaks  
*'Scripture is at the centre of everything the Church does. The Word of God shapes our prayer and worship. The Bible shows us how to understand the world, how we are called to live and relate to each other.'*

### Gift Aid

To those of you who use weekly envelopes to make your donations to St Michael's, please note that sets of envelopes for the new tax year are now available at the back of the church in number order. Please do pick up your new supply otherwise they have to be delivered by hand.

Although there are no Masses and no collections if you still feel you can donate your weekly offering as normal, please post through the letterbox, it will be greatly appreciated.

### Bishop Richard says:

We want everyone to understand that in these emergency circumstances, and for as long as they last, the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is removed. This is, without doubt, the teaching of the Church (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2181). This pandemic is the 'serious reason' why this obligation does not apply at this time.

Please look at the **Mole Valley draft local plan** which will affect Ashted. **Comments/emails needed by March 23rd 2020.**

Also the future of Epsom General Hospital, closing date for consultation 1st April. Information and questionnaire at <https://improvinghealthcaredtogether.org.uk/consultation/questionnaire>

The NHS wants to build a new hospital at Sutton, but that would mean downgrading both Epsom and St Helier, with no consultant A and E, no consultant inpatient maternity or paediatrics or intensive care. Epsom is geographically in the centre of our area and could become the site of the new hospital! Local comments from Mole Valley needed.

*Thank you Dr Sylvia Roberts Trustee Epsom Medical Equipment Fund.*

During these disturbing and threatening times, the rhythm of the prayer of the Church will continue. Please play your part in it. The effort of daily kindness and mutual support for all will continue and increase. Please play your part in this too. For your commitment to this, we thank you.

££££££££

Offertory Collection last week came to £1,387.72  
If you still feel you can give your weekly offering as normal, please post it through the letterbox outside the office.

Thank you to all who supported the March Soup Lunch. You raised £316 for CAFOD, the Princess Alice Hospice and Besom. Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus, we have been directed by the Bishop to cease the Lunches until further notice.

**CAN WE HELP?** Do you find yourself in need of a helping hand, eg. **shopping, collecting prescriptions, transport to hospital or GP?**

*Dear Parishioners, perhaps at this moment you could all check with your neighbours if they need any help. Nearly all our volunteers are over 70.*

**Rotas – all suspended until further notice.**

Church Cleaning

Recorders

**Ministers' rotas – These are suspended for the time being**

**Happy Birthday to:**

**Loracan Henderson 10 on Sunday**

**Brooke Thornton 11 on Monday**

**Jack Barry 2 on Wednesday**

**William Pearson 9, Sebastian Richardson 8,**

**Noah Novoa Matos on Thursday**

**Isabel S 11, Kian Buckley on Friday**

**Kate O'Neill 11 on Saturday**

**CAFOD –**

Philip and Hillary Ward have been co-ordinating our Parish CAFOD collections and information for many many years. Philip now feels he needs to step down from that role and would like to handover to someone new. Please get in touch with the office [smichaeloffice@gmail.com](mailto:smichaeloffice@gmail.com) or ring 272267 if you feel you could take on this role.

You can e-mail contributions to the Newsletter to [newsletter@stmichaelashtead.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@stmichaelashtead.org.uk) to arrive by 9.30am on Friday morning

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