

ST MICHAEL'S NEWSLETTER



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9th/10th May 2020

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To book the Parish Hall please email the office.
Hall wi-fi: [Netgear41](#) (password) [grandcomet148](#)
The office is CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
Please ring Fr Tony on the number above in an emergency.

Fifth Sunday of Easter **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 only.
Churches will be closed until further notice.**

St Michael's Online Prayer and Worship during the pandemic.

Thursday at 7pm – 7.30pm

Thursday online prayer services are proving popular. We have another one this Thursday 14th May (with gathering from 6.55pm). This gives us a lovely opportunity to meet and see one another; and to share our worship and prayers during this difficult time. Do look out for the emailed link - and then it's easy - you just click on the link and wave to everyone before the meeting begins. *If you don't regularly receive these emails, do please let Bill know (at smichaelweb@gmail.com) and he'll add you to the Parish circulation list.*

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

Yvonne McIntosh, Vincent McArdle, Mary Keys,
Connor Barrett, Owen O'Neill, Evelyn Kavanagh,
Albert Gathercole, Zena McCann, Richard Chawner,
Arthur Howard, Alice Poole, Eileen Powell-Davies,
Bruno Bettini, Marjorie Hearne, Andrew Robinson and Wlad
Zwolinski

May they Rest in Peace

Please pray for Mark Amos who has died earlier this week at the age of 44.

Please remember his widow, Gayle, and their three young children, and Mark's parents in your prayers

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Myra Vanner, Sylvia Crampin, Paul Gruzalski, Clare Derry,
Peggy Brogan, Leonard Anderson, Vincent Smyth,
Emily Scarborough, George Stuart Baxter,
Bart Gruzalski, Sheila Hanks, Sarah Bishop,
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 think we are all getting very tired of the "Lockdown" and all the restrictions. There is always the temptation to impatience: it is certainly one that I feel at the moment. I know that we must be patient in the face of the severe risk to life that this virus represents, but we really need to do more than just be patient.

I don't think that we can predict at all accurately how these last few weeks will have changed our society. It has become a commonplace to say that "things will never be the same again", and perhaps that is true. The same could be said for the Church. What can be said both for the Church and Society in general is that it is very much down to us to shape that future.

I want to suggest that we should use the coming days and weeks to think about how we ought to change. That will be true of each of us in our own lives, but it will also be true of the Parish. I don't believe that we can just pick up where we left off. From so many telephone conversations in the last few weeks I detect a renewed sense of community. In a strange way, being isolated from one another has made us more aware of our neighbours and their needs. This must not be lost, and must help us as we rebuild parish life.

This is not the place for me to set out a range of my own ideas for the future. It is not for me to set an agenda for post virus parish life. Rather I want to invite each of you to think about how we move forward together.

During the "Lockdown" many of our key people, including the Parish Priest, have had to "self-isolate". This only goes to show that we depend too much on the generosity of wonderful people now in their seventies and older.

The health crisis has demonstrated the good will and generosity of many of our younger people and families. This too must be reflected in the life of the parish in future. You are the ones who must help us to re-create the parish for the future.

Whatever new expressions of parish life develop in the future they must reflect the two central realities of worship and service.

During these weeks our worship has been different. We have had to find ways of praying at home, even as our desire for the Eucharist has grown through its absence. At the same time, it seems to me, we have deepened our practical concern for one another. Perhaps we have come to see more clearly what it means in practice to love and care for our neighbours. When we are able to come together again for Mass we must find ways to build on what we have learnt.

I invite each of you think about how we might go about this. It is your parish and your future.

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

Month of Our Blessed Lady - St Michael's on-line celebration at 11am on Saturday 16th May 2020

More than ever this year, we want to celebrate May - the month we dedicate to Our Blessed Mother Mary. We intend to do this at St Michael's with an online celebration at 11am on Saturday 16th May. Although we're encouraging all parishioners to take part; we want to make this event very child - focused. **So, we're encouraging children to draw or paint pictures of Our Lady and to make crowns or coronets which they wear for the event.** Then the service will finish with a "show and tell" session in which we all see what the children have created.

CHRIST IS RISEN. ALLELUIA!

Parish Communications

Do keep an eye on the media while we're in lockdown! Visit the **Parish website** <http://www.stmichaelashtead.org.uk/> you will find the Newsletter page and Father Tony's Sermons, where you can download copy online. On the Home page you will find current news items. Try some of the other pages, including 'links to other Catholic websites'. During lockdown our **Face Book Group** has grown to **190+** members The group has been pretty active over the past few weeks and it is a great way to keep in touch. **Do not miss** Father Tony's homilies (3-4 minutes) on video. To join us, sign up to Facebook, log in and search for **St. Michael's Ashtead**. We'll be expecting you!
Alison. Steve & Bill

This Week's Readings:

Acts 6:1-7 Psalm 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 r. 22
1 John 3:18-24 John 15:1-8
You can see these readings at:
<https://www.universalis.com/20200510/mass.htm>

Mass for the Sick and their Families, NHS Front-Line workers and those working in Social Care

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales recognise that this time of the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting everyone. The sick and their families are suffering many hardships of isolation from contact with those they love. Front-line workers in hospitals and in care homes all over our lands are giving exceptional service to those who are vulnerable at this time. Each Thursday during May at 7.00pm, a Catholic Bishop will celebrate Mass in their Cathedral which will be live-streamed for people to join.
14th May Bishop Robert Byrne, CO Newcastle Cathedral
21st May Bishop Mark Davies, Shrewsbury Cathedral
28th May Bishop Terence Draney, Middlesboro Cathedral
Visit the Bishops' Conference Webpage (cbcew.org.uk) for links to the live-streaming of these Masses.

Men's Breakfast Online Our programme for 2020 is back on the rails. For the next 3 months we will be meeting virtually, thanks to Zoom. We will be starting at 9.30 am and running for about 40 minutes and you will need to bring your own bacon sandwiches. Otherwise, everything is as previously advertised.

May 16	Sean Skinner	St. George's Youth Leader
June 20	Kauser Akhtar	Guildford Diocese, Surrey Faith Links Adviser
July 18	Mikey Dicken	Leatherhead Youth Project

V.E. Day 9.5.1945

Alan Waters writes –

On VE Day 1945 I was, at 19, near the end of the second year of a three year B.Sc (Eng) degree course at London University and celebrated that great day with student friends in Trafalgar Square. I'd been granted in 1943 a three-year deferment from military call-up as the forces needed engineers. VE Day came with much joy and relief but also sadness as 9 of my classmates at Wimbledon College gave their lives for King and Country. Why was I not one of them, but spared to enjoy such a wonderful life?
Deo Gratias. Alan Waters.

Fr Tony is saying Mass every day in private and is offering each Mass for the intention that was requested on that day. The only exception is on Sundays where the intention is for the People of the Parish.

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Ava Jacob 9 and Aiden Jacob 9 on Monday
Patrick Malcolm 7 and Mathew Harish Lara 6 on Tuesday
Henry Costello 6 on Wednesday
Harrison Beaudoin 3 on Saturday

CAFOD launched its coronavirus emergency appeal on 30 April. The effects of coronavirus on developing countries where CAFOD works are likely to be devastating. The poorest and most marginalised communities will be pushed further into poverty. Your prayers and gifts are needed now more than ever to help protect the lives of those in poor communities. While we are not able to hold physical collections in our church, you can donate as individuals at cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal

Each year many parishioners are involved in the house to house collections for **Christian Aid Week**, raising more than £9000 last year. Because of Covid 19 we will be unable to collect money in this way, and yet the need is even greater than usual. Please take time to look at the CA website and, if you are able, give in the several ways that the Ashtead Churches Together are offering: by cheque, phone, online or on the 'Just Giving' page on the Sgsgashtead website. If you click on the red Christian Aid Week banner on the left. It is advertised as Ashtead Churches Together. At the same time please pray for those in poor countries, refugee camps, and disaster areas that rely on CA every year. Thank you so much for your help and support.

V.E. Day I was five years old at the end of the war. My principal memory is of the street party that was held. We lived in quite a long cul-de-sac in Merton and everybody brought out their dining room tables and lined them up in the middle of the road. All the children sat down and we had Jelly and trifle. **Steve Rouse**

Online Giving - Coronavirus

With the closure of our Church, the Coronavirus is affecting us materially as well as spiritually. Bills keep coming, but income is down. A good many parishioners give via standing order, cheques or weekly envelopes. If you can do this, it simplifies the admin and is great for self-distancing!
For more details email smichaelweb@gmail.com
About half the week's income usually arrives via the collection baskets so we are missing that. The Diocese has set up a web page for online giving. The web link for this donation page is: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/parishoffertory>
The money will come in to the Diocese and then be sent to the parishes accordingly. **So don't forget to name the parish, area or priest when donating.**
For more info, contact Laura Maydew-Gale E: comunications@abdiocese.org.uk T: 07552 249 829

To access Mass online visit the following websites:

St Dunstan's, Woking <https://www.churchservices.tv/woking>
Sacred Heart, Hove <http://sacredhearthove.org.uk/videos.html>
Sacred Heart, Caterham-Mass (live and recorded), Adoration and the Rosary. <https://www.churchservices.tv/caterham>
St Paul's, Haywards Heath will be streaming via Facebook.
The Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham offers a 12 noon online Pilgrim Mass each day
<https://www.churchservices.tv/churches/> provides live streaming and recordings from churches around the country and Ireland.
Try Also: Vatican TV Live, Angelus news, EWTN

Email Addresses During the pandemic we have been sending out invitations to online Easter services, Thursday Prayers and weekly Newsletter via emails. If you or your friends have not heard from us, it could be that we don't have a valid email address for you! To fix this, just drop an email to smichaelweb@gmail.com