

ST MICHAEL'S NEWSLETTER



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23rd / 24th 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.

Seventh 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 28th 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.

Eduardo Sanchez, Eileen Early, Christopher Waters,
Fr John Chatterton, Maureen Fitzsimmons, Charlotte Rees,
Marian Brown, Fr Tony Whale, Rev William McKenna,
Ruby Cunningham, Muriel Fairs, Karen Gill,
Len Blaskowski, Charlotte Rees, Marian Brown and
Romano Galelli and those who have died recently
Aloysius Keeley, Eugene Murphy (Carol O'Sullivan's father)
Timothy Pride (Nina McCaffrey's nephew) and Jim Jones,
father of Richard Jones, Rector of St. George's and St. Giles
May they Rest in Peace

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.

What we are missing

My Dear Friends

I have noticed some changes in our Liturgy over the last few weeks. No one now comes late or leaves early. No children have to move about during the Mass. There is no sound of people rustling Mass leaflets. I see no small boy in the front bench waving to me. Altar servers holding the book for me don't try to make me laugh during the prayers. Everything is quiet and calm.

And that is what is missing. Sunday Mass is about people coming together to worship God. All those things that I am missing are part of what happens in a living community. We are not a community of angels but people with all our different ways.

I know that many of you are enjoying following Mass being "live-streamed" from different churches and cathedrals. It is wonderful that this is possible. Many people have told me how much that means to them, especially those who are self isolating. It gives us a chance to be united, albeit at a distance, with others around the world who are missing the Mass. I hope that we will soon be able to "live-stream" Sunday Mass from St. Michael's.

At the same time, it is just not the same as actually being at Mass. In these "virtual" Masses we can see and hear but we can't touch. In the liturgy of the Mass all our senses are involved. We touch the holy water as we come into church. We can often smell the scent of flowers.

We stand, and sit, and kneel at the different parts of the Mass. We touch each other at the Sign of Peace. We touch and taste the Blessed Sacrament as we receive Holy Communion. We miss all this in our "on-line" Masses.

Until recently, like many of you, I have been "self-isolating". I have enjoyed going out for a walk, enjoying the beautiful spring weather most of the time. I have certainly enjoyed seeing other people, at a suitable distance, of course. I enjoy the silence of the church in the early morning, but the self-isolation at Mass is something different: It is very strange and somewhat alien

I don't know when it will be possible for us to come together again for Mass.

Meanwhile we share in the Liturgy from home as best we can. I hope that when we can be together in church we will have a new appreciation of each other. I think that we will enjoy the physical reality of the Liturgy in a way we took for granted before, even the awkward bits that happen because we are human. Even if we cannot hug each other at the Sign of Peace we can at least look each other in the eye and smile.

Hugging is on hold. You can't do it online. Meanwhile Keep praying and keep smiling.

With my love and prayers for each of you

Fr. Tony

'Lunchbox' and 'The Meeting Room'

These two local organisations normally provide drop-in centres and mobile food banks for those in need. Because of the Coronavirus pandemic, each is currently unable to provide its normal drop-in centres but is continuing to function but in a different way. 'Lunchbox' is operating its mobile food bank. If you would like to donate money, non-perishable food or toiletries, 'Lunchbox' is open to receive donations every Wednesday from 10.30am to 12.30pm at the Methodist Church Hall, Church Road, Leatherhead, KT22 8AY. Last week two parishioners donated £200.

'The Meeting Room' is providing a similar service. On Mondays and Fridays, it is delivering hot meals and sandwiches plus other essentials to its clients. It has established arrangements with supermarkets for basic food donations but would welcome financial donations to enable it to purchase little treats, etc., for its clients. Cheques should be made payable to 'The Meeting Room' and dropped off to Phil Ward at 49 Ottways Lane, Ashted, who will pass them on.

Parish Communications

Do keep an eye on the media while we're in lockdown!

Visit the **Parish website** <http://www.stmichaelashted.org.uk/>
Our **Face Book Group** now has **200+** members. To join us, search for **St. Michael's Ashted on Face Book**. We'll be expecting you!

Alison, Steve & Bill

This Week's Readings:

Acts 1:12-14; Psalm 26:1, 4, 7-8 r. 13
1 Peter 4:13-16; John 14: 15-21

You can see these readings at:

<https://www.universalis.com/20200524/mass.htm>

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

Each Thursday during May at 7.00pm, a Catholic Bishop has been celebrating Mass in their Cathedral and live-streaming it for people to join. The last of these masses will be said on 28th May by Bishop Terence Drainey, Middlesboro Cathedral. Visit the Bishops' Conference Webpage (cbcew.org.uk) for links to the live-streaming.

Men's Breakfast Online

If you missed last Saturday's Breakfast there is a recording online at – <https://photos.app.goo.gl/3rQDggsYeFJx9LSD7>

Action in Africa has been supporting the community of Nyaishozi through the Covid 19 pandemic, £1,000 could enable us to finance the 2020 projects that we have been forced to put on hold.

That's why we'd be really grateful if you could nominate us in the Ecclesiastical Movement for Good awards. 500 charities stand to gain £1,000 and we'd love to be one of them. This would enable to fund initiatives such as our feminine hygiene programme and the expansion of our mosquito nets for boarding schools project.

Just visit <https://movementforgood.com>, click 'nominate now' and enter our Registered Charity No.1072661, and click on the search icon, our name should come up for confirmation. If not enter Action in Africa in the name of charity line. You will also be asked what work we do as a charity, please tick poverty or education. **The closing date for nominations is Sunday 24 May 2020.** The more nominations we get, the greater our chance of winning, so please spread the word to your friends and family

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Edward Smith 11 on Sunday
Joseph Cotton 8 and Fraser Ross 5 on Monday
Maisie Keira Gleeson 10, Florence Llewellyn-Davies 12 and Edward Jackson 13 on Wednesday
Claire Barrett 8 on Friday
Joseph Linton 10 and James McGrath 2 on Saturday

Re-opening of St. Michael's

Attached to this week's newsletter is a short paper prepared by the Parish Management team, on the re-opening of St. Michael's. At this time, of course, we don't know when this might happen, but this article looks at some of the issues and what we need to do as a parish to be ready on day One!

Pentecost Sunday National Rosary Rally

Following Pope Francis' encouragement to Catholics to pray the Rosary in their family homes during the month of May, you are invited you to join in the **Pentecost Sunday National Rosary Rally**, from 9.00am to 9.00pm across Scotland England and Wales.

Full details are attached, but families in our diocese are invited to pray the rosary from 9.00 am to 10.00 am.

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:

communications@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://sacredheartrove.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

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