

ST MICHAEL'S NEWSLETTER



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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.

See page 3 about opening for Private Prayer

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 18th June (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.

Ida Gregory, John Burman, John McKeever,
Fr Edward Maxwell, Cris Cushion, Patrick Queally,
Tony Laguarda, Paulette Baker, Joan White,
Cardinal Basil Hume, Lucy Kemp, Mina Bond,
Sr Brendan, Don McGregor, Tom Punt.

May they Rest in Peace

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Philip MacDonald (*Michelle's husband*), Margaret McArdle,
Myra Vanner, Sylvia Crampin, 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.

The Patience of a Saint

My Dear Friends,

I think I understand better after these weeks of Lockdown the expression "The patience of a Saint." I don't know about you, but I am finding my patience stretched to its limits. More and more I find myself appreciating the prayer I mentioned last week.

It was emblazoned on a plate in the sacristy of the church at Keymer, my first appointment as Parish Priest. It read simply; "Lord, give me patience - But Hurry."

Like many of you I suspect, if not most of you, I am growing tired of my own company, and tired of the restrictions placed on our lives. Whenever I feel like that, I think of so many people whose lives are so much more stressful.

I talk on the phone to doctors and nurses, and others working in the hospital and in our nursing and care homes. They are, many of them, exhausted by the daily struggle to care for people in extreme need.

I speak to families at home. They won't necessarily admit it, but the struggle to combine working from home and home-schooling the children is really taking its toll on many.

The news that schools will not be able to re-open properly before September is just one more source of stress.

Meanwhile our teachers have been under huge pressure to make up for what is missing. Quite a number of parents have told me that having to help their children to deal with maths or history has given them a whole new appreciation of teachers. If once they thought that teachers "have it easy", they certainly don't think that now.

If you are wondering how to pray at this time, these are all people who really need our prayers.

If I am feeling impatient, and I am, imagine how these and so many others are feeling. We have a duty to support them with our prayers. They really need them.

I know that many of you are impatient to get back to Mass. I hope that might be possible before much longer.

Meanwhile we are hoping to re-open our churches for private prayer this coming week. Here too, I am afraid, we need some patience. We need to comply with various government regulations before we can open up.

As you might expect, nothing emanating from Whitehall is ever simple, but with goodwill and the generosity of many of you, I hope that we can re-open very soon.

We will announce it as soon as we can.

Meanwhile let's pray for each other for the patience we need to get through the days ahead. Yes, Lord, give me patience, but Hurry.

With my love and each of you,

Fr Tony

Parish Finances in the time of Coronavirus

It is hard to believe that our church has already been locked for over 70 days, including the Feasts of Easter and Pentecost. One day soon, the church will be open again. However, there is a reality that all churches now face, including us. This is financial reality. Since the lockdown began, there have been no Masses and therefore no church collection baskets. Income has decreased dramatically. St Michael's is better off than many others. The level of our decrease is around 45%. The situation would have been worse if we had not had the number of standing orders that parishioners have kept going. This has been an income lifeline.

These are trying times for everyone. Some people will have been hit harder than others because they have been furloughed or worse. Money is tight. However, if you are able and would like to contribute, please look at the Just Giving link in the newsletter or on the parish Facebook page. You might have already done this. I must emphasise that you should only consider this if you are able to afford to do so.

Like everyone, I look forward to seeing you all again, face-to-face, in the not-too-distant future. Thank you.

Tom Dore, Chair of Parish Finance

Dear All,

As you know the Kagera region in Tanzania has been affected by the Corona virus for some time. Unfortunately, Father Vitalis has now confirmed that Covid 19 has reached Nyaishozi village - the hub of the district. To date, there have been 12 cases with 2 deaths.

We are so grateful that some Ashtead residents have already generously donated to our campaign. If ever there was a time that our friends in Nyaishozi needed our help, it is now. Please visit our website to donate if you can. Many thanks for your support,
Tina Rayburn – Action in Africa



This Week's Readings:

Deuteronomy 8: 2-3, 14b-16a; 1 Corinthians 10: 16-17; John 6: 51-58

You can see these readings at:

<https://www.universalis.com/20200611/mass>.

'Lunchbox' and 'The Meeting Room'

These two local organisations normally provide drop-in centres and mobile food banks for those in need. '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

'The Meeting Room' is providing a similar service and 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, Ashtead.

Sunday sees the start of Refugee Week. For more go to: <https://refugeeweek.org.uk/news/>

On the Parish Facebook page you can see a short video giving an update on the refugee family in Ashtead.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Alexandra Shiels Sarawan, Jack Dodge 11 on **Sunday**
Sofia Faiello 10 on **Monday**, Jonah Griffiths 10 on **Tuesday**, Treasure Kalekezi 11 on **Wednesday**
India Rose Clack 8, Thomas De Schulthes 13,
Isabelle & Daniel Gogy, 11 Mathew Harris Milan, 9
Owen Murphy 11 on **Thursday**
Ivy Fontana 3 Florence Jenkins 7 on **Saturday**

Children's Liturgy

Children's Liturgy continues on Sunday at 9.30am when we will be thinking about the feast of Corpus Christi. Children's Liturgy can only continue if there are some volunteers to help with the preparation. Anyone who is willing please contact me. (Emma)

The link will be posted on the Face Book page or from emmalangbridge@btinternet.com who will send it to you.

Parish Communications Do keep an eye on the media while we're in lockdown! Visit the **Parish website**

<http://www.stmichaelashtead.org.uk/>

Our **Face Book Group** now has **200+** members. To join us, search for **St. Michael's Ashtead** on Face Book

Alison, Steve & Bill

Online Giving – Coronavirus Lockdown

With the closure of our Church, the Coronavirus is affecting us materially as well as spiritually. Bills keep coming, but income is significantly down.

A good many parishioners give via standing order. 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

CAFOD says Unite against coronavirus

We are living through the biggest public health crisis in a century. Right across the UK, coronavirus is having a devastating impact on all of our daily lives. But in many developing countries the effects are likely to be disastrous.

We must never forget that we are one global family, united in this struggle. Now is not the time to build barriers, but for the world to unite in love and compassion. **Please sign the petition at:**

<https://e-activist.com/page/59334/petition/1>

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

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

As soon as is possible St Michael's will be open for Private Prayer. At the moment we are putting together a rota of stewards/welcomers (a diocesan requirement). The bullet points below are the guidelines that you will be asked to adhere to should you wish to enter the Church. Please rest assured that you are very welcome during our opening hours that will be advertised soon:

- On the Church door
- On the website
- On Facebook

This is the notice that will be in the Porch of the Church

Welcome back to St Michael's for Private Prayer

- We are open for private prayer on xxxx between yyyy and zzzz
- Please adhere to social distancing rules at all times. Remember, you are responsible for your own safety and the safety of others.
- Hand sanitizer gel is provided – please use it on entrance and exit.
- Available seats in centre benches have been marked.



- Side benches are for use primarily by families and households.
- Before leaving the church, please clean the area you used. Anti-viral spray is provided at rear of church. Please take care to spray areas touched. Paper towels should be placed in the lined bin provided.
- Toilet facilities are not available during this period.
- Votive candles cannot be made available at the moment.
- Entry and exit will be via the same doors – adhering to distancing rules.
- Doors will remain open at all times to reduce physical contact and maintain airflow.
- If you have any Flu-like symptoms, fever, cough, sneezing etc, please do not enter.
- Please ensure that your children are under control and remain with you at all times.
- Unaccompanied children and not allowed into the church at this time.