

ST MICHAEL'S NEWSLETTER



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28th/29th Nov 2020

St Michael's Parish Office, The Marld, Ashted KT21 1RS

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To book the Parish Hall please email the office.

Hall wi-fi: **Netgear41** (password) **grandcomet148**

The Parish Office is CLOSED until 3rd December but

you can still email smichaeloffice@gmail.com

Please ring Fr Tony on his number above in an emergency.

First Sunday of Advent Sunday 29th November

Sun 29 th	10.30am People of the Parish	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mon 30 th	12.00am Funeral Mass-Emily Scarborough	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tue 1 st	Vincent Smyth RIP	<input type="checkbox"/>
	3.00pm EUCHARISTIC SERVICE	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wed 2 nd	Pauline Hooper's Intention	<input type="checkbox"/>
	National Lockdown ends; Public Masses resume.	
Thu 3 rd	Father John Healey	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fri 4 th	DRF of the Waters Family	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sat 5 th	10.00 am Intentions of Philip MacDonald	<input type="checkbox"/>
	29th November – Second Sunday of Advent	
6pm	Joanne Smith Carter RIP	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.30am	People of the Parish	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10.30am	John Fulton RIP	<input type="checkbox"/>

The camera icon indicates that the mass will be 'live-streamed' on St. Michael's YouTube Channel.
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoCE16LH34tJGIR3_ytZLYq

1st Sunday of Advent - Looking to the Future Fr Tony writes...

My Dear Friends,

The season of Advent beginning on Sunday marks the start of a new year in the life of the Church. As we look to the future there is much uncertainty and anxiety. People are understandably placing their hopes on new vaccines to enable us to break out of the current COVID 19 crisis. I am not sure that we have all yet begun to think seriously enough about the impact it has had in so many areas of life. Neither do I think that the true effects of the various lockdowns and other restrictions have been grasped. The year 2020 has been a very difficult one from my point of view. So much in the parish has been "put on hold", and so many important activities have had to stop. At the same time there have been some very positive things. I think we can see a new appreciation of the various care services and hopefully a renewed sense of community and working together.

What impact will all this have on the Church? The truth surely is that it is too soon to tell. It seems to me very clear that we will not simply "get back to normal". I don't believe that our society will simply return to "things as they were before." I am no prophet, but without knowing now what will happen, it is a safe bet that much will change in one way or another.

The Church too must adapt to a society that has suffered huge blows, economically and socially.

Here in our own diocese of Arundel and Brighton we were looking at the "Diocesan Plan" which emerged after two years of consultation. The plan looked to the need for various changes in structures by the year 2030.

It seems to many of us that COVID 19 has brought that date forward by ten years!

In my view it is not enough to focus on structures, important though they are. Obviously there are decisions to be made about the provision of clergy and about how to provide day to day pastoral care and so on, but they are not the central concern.

There is a great danger that all we are doing in the Diocese is to spread the butter ever more thinly on dry bread. Underlying the diocesan plan are fundamental questions that we may be reluctant to consider.

Our present structures are linked to the provision of priests, which really means how we can provide the Mass and the Sacraments for the people with a dwindling number of ageing clergy. This might best be described as "managing decline".

We need to ask ourselves some searching questions about the future. The challenge is not about maintaining the "status quo", which may well be impossible, but rather about helping to create groups of men and women who want to be effective disciples of Christ in a world that has changed greatly, and is often either indifferent or even hostile to Christianity.

I know that here in Ashted, as elsewhere, we have many people who are already doing a great deal in their own quiet understated way. Sustained by their prayers and above all by the Holy Eucharist, they are bringing the healing love of Christ into the lives of others by their generosity and kindness. The need is to encourage and enable others to put their faith into action. The big question is how are we going to do that?

In the coming months we will need to face these and other questions. This can't be left to those who always help us in the parish. We absolutely need them and their wisdom and experience.

Right now we would be lost without them, but looking to the future we need to involve younger people who can look with fresh eyes at what needs to be done.

I was very encouraged earlier this year with the response to my appeal then for new people to come forward. When I was looking for volunteers to help with stewarding the church at the weekend Masses you made it easy for us to open up and still keep the rules.

We are not out of the woods just yet, but perhaps we can see light at the end of the tunnel. With that hope in mind, I would like to ask you all to think about what you think you might be able to do in the future for the Parish. Perhaps you have some ideas about how the parish could develop in the future. Please let me know your thoughts and how you think you might be able to help.

Meanwhile we try to get through these difficult Lockdown days in the hope of Christmas, but please give some thought to the journey ahead.

Whatever else it might be, it won't be "business as usual".

With my love and prayers

Fr. Tony

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Guy Bailey, Vivianne Cassar, Shaun Wallace, Simon Warren, Mavis Bazeley, Philip MacDonald, Sylvia Crampin, Clare Derry, Margaret McArdle, Mike Morley, Peggy Brogan, 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.

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

Peter Hobday, Rita McTavish, Trevor Dadswell, John Leonard, Dillwyn Powell-Davies, José Laguarda, Imogene McGrath, Tony Sydenham, Jason Montague, Kathleen Flaherty, Fred Quintin and Joan Clarke

May they Rest in Peace

Coronavirus Update

National lockdown ends on Wednesday and public Masses resume on Thursday am, subject to social distancing rules (go to the parish website and follow the link).

<https://www.stmichaelashtead.org.uk/Corona.php>

Please note that the new rules ask us not to socialise after public events.

From today's Gospel reading:

Jesus said to his disciples, "What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch.'"

Reflection:

Advent has begun and we need this season's reminder to be alert to Jesus' entry into our lives. For who among us has not dozed in our service of the Lord? Jesus' words of warning awake us to full disciple-readiness. This day Christ will again come into our lives. Are we doing what he told us? "Watch."

So, we ask ourselves:

The Lord is coming. What daily practice can help me stay alert, so that I can detect Jesus' presence when he enters my life?

What will help me become more aware of Christ already with me in all aspects of my life?

Thursday Evening Prayer 7pm on-line – Do join us.

During lockdown, Thursday evening prayer has become an important part of worship at St. Michael's.

So, we have asked Karen and Emma to talk about it for the newsletter. If you would like to learn more, see the attachment **on page 3** or contact Karen directly on k.lynych4@btinternet.com

Online Giving – Coronavirus

When our Church was closed, the Coronavirus affected 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.

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/parishoffertory>

The money will come into 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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

George Latham 12 and Lucy Devaney 8 on Sunday
Amanda Tyburn 11, Alice Greene 8 and Lucia Dowd-Patel on Monday
Harvey Dutton 11, Hugh Wilton 9 and Mia Gleeson 9 on Tuesday

Compass is a project of CVP (Catholic Vocations Project). CVP is supported by a group of religious women and men in the UK who are interested in promoting a culture of vocation in our Church.
See page 4.

Telephone support for the bereaved.

If you have been recently bereaved and you'd like to talk to someone but aren't able to do so or don't want to leave the house, we have members of our bereavement team who are able to offer you telephone support. If you would like to talk to someone then please contact the Parish office by email smichaeloffice@gmail.com let us know your telephone number and a good time to ring and one of the bereavement team will get back to you as soon as possible.

Action in Africa

AiA has just published its Christmas Newsletter. A copy is being distributed with this week's Newsletter.

CAFOD Are you looking for that special Christmas present? Check out CAFOD World Gifts on page 6 and see also their lists of Advent resources and Online Events.

Men's Breakfast – Our final 'Online' breakfast of the year will be on Saturday 12th December at 9.30 am. With coffee and bacon sandwiches – but only if you provide them yourself!
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81462023857>
Meeting ID: 814 6202 3857

This Week's Readings

Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:3-8, Psalm 79:2-3,15-16,18-19;
1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37

You can see these readings at:

www.universalis.com/20201129/mass.htm

Besom Thank you for helping us to advertise the Christmas hampers this year at St Michaels and the Baptist Church through ACT. We have had an amazing response this year with offers of over 70 hampers, cash donations and loose gifts. We are no longer able to accept any more hampers but we are still accepting cash donations if offered. Please contact – lynne.slater@btconnect.com

The Christmas Trumpet – It would be really good if we were able to put together a Christmas Trumpet. We haven't been able to do or report on our usual events this year but nonetheless I know there have been other activities, stories, poems, anecdotes etc that you would still like to share. If you do have something, send it to me by email smichaeloffice@gmail.com or post it in the Parish Office post box by the first week in December. *Many thanks, Alison*

Parish Communications Do keep an eye on our Social Media **Visit St. Michael's Parish website**

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

Face Book Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/289562958175720>

YouTube Channel (live streaming of Masses)

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoCE16LH34tJGIR3_ytZLYg/

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

St Michael's Thursday on-line Worship and Prayer

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus*

1Thessalonians 5:16-18).



On-line prayer on a Thursday evening has become a part of our church life at St Michael's. When we were in the first lockdown, we also worshipped online at Easter, to celebrate the Assumption and for the Children's Liturgy. These occasions were a wonderful opportunity to quite literally see one another and keep a sense of our church community through shared worship. Bill O'Neill and Jeff Pearce worked especially hard to work out the technicalities of this style of worship and patiently supported those new to the technology. *God has created me to do Him some special service* wrote John Henry Newman!

Thursday evening prayer meetings have been a source of comfort and spiritual growth (please God) through the pandemic. We almost always pray for the current situation and for the sick and the bereaved. We have prayed every week for an early vaccine and treatments, and for all those suffering as a result of Covid 19. But in general we meet to share our worship and prayers. We have also grown together by having a variety of parishioners lead our sessions, sharing their thoughts and concerns about issues close to their hearts. We have learnt about and prayed for Prisoners, Food Poverty, the work of CAFOD, the crisis in Yemen, Aid to the Church in Need, Wealth and Faith, and a host of other challenging and inspiring topics. Sometimes we meet to pray the rosary together, or as last week, share a meditation on the gospel. Last night Ted Le Riche led us in a beautiful Service of Remembrance.

During December the Thursday group is to turn into one big Advent Group. Why not think about joining us if you haven't before? If you'd like to receive the electronic link to join in, please email Alison (smichaeloffice@gmail.com) and she'll add you to the Parish circulation list. Or contact me directly on k.lynych4@btinternet.com if you'd rather talk about how these meetings work before joining. I'd be delighted to then talk to you.

Life turned upside down in these Covid-19 times?

Mary Joseph

CATHOLIC VOCATIONS PROJECT

Compass in Advent

Young Adults (18-35)
27th Nov, 4th, 11th, 18th Dec 2020
7pm

Explore your Spiritual Future

Shepherds & Kings

Elizabeth Zechariah

Join us to reflect on some of the characters in the Christmas story whose lives were also radically changed.

How is God speaking to us through these stories today?

email us for the link:
CompassInAdvent@gmail.com

Vocation is a call, an adventure and a journey - explore yours

Compass is a project of CVP (Catholic Vocations Project). CVP is supported by a group of religious women and men in the UK who are interested in promoting a culture of vocation in our Church.

Compass in Advent ...preparing for Christmas Link to Facebook event here:

<https://bit.ly/CompassInAdvent>

Compass in #Advent. Our lives are being turned upside down at the moment due to #COVID19 - Join us to reflect on some of the characters in the #Christmas story whose lives were also radically changed. Email us:

CompassInAdvent@gmail.com More info: <https://bit.ly/CompassInAdvent>

Join us to reflect on some of the characters in the Christmas story whose lives were also radically changed.

How is God speaking to us through these stories today?

Each Friday we will focus on one set of characters. The meeting will also include a sharing of a contemporary story of vocation/call. There will be time for sharing, questions and discussion.

Who? – Young adults 18-35

When? Fridays - 27th Nov, 4th , 11th , 18th Dec

Time? 7pm for one hour

Zoom link: email us on CompassInAdvent@gmail.com for the link and for any other information

St Michael's Catholic Church

The Marld, Ashtead, Surrey KT21 1RS

PHOTOGRAPHS and LIVE STREAMING CONSENT FORM

I am aware that some Masses and other celebrations in St Michael's Church, Ashtead will be live streamed and may be recorded and I consent to my image or my child's image appearing.

I also consent to a photograph/still image in which I appear being published on (a) The Parish Website, (b) The Parish Magazine, (c) The A & B News (the Diocesan Newspaper) (d) local press or (e) Parish Social Media

Full Name.....

Signature.....

Parental Consent

Full Name

Relationship with child

Signature.....

Date.....

CAFOD Parish newsletter inserts for World Gifts/Advent



CAFOD World Gifts

World Gifts, CAFOD's range of virtual gifts, make a real difference to families living in poverty across the world. While we have the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown here, we can still be good neighbours to our sisters and brothers overseas by giving World Gifts as Christmas presents to family and friends. The Keep Clean Kit gift for £6 and the Vegetable Garden gift for £10 are just two gifts that will help vulnerable families affected by the pandemic to protect and feed themselves. Let's spread joy and hope around the world this Christmas.

Visit cafod.org.uk/worldgifts.

Celebrate Advent with CAFOD

After a year of uncertainty, we all need the hope, peace and true comfort and joy that the Advent season can offer. CAFOD has a range of resources and virtual events to help us come together online to pray, reflect and celebrate as we prepare for the coming of our Lord. Visit cafod.org.uk/parishes to learn more. This Advent you can help share comfort and joy with families around the world, like Saba's. Saba and her three children fled their home in Myanmar to escape horrific violence and persecution. They were targeted because of their ethnicity. Thanks to your support last year, Saba was given essential materials to build a shelter – so finally her children have a safe place to call home.

We can stretch out our hands to people living in poverty and refugees by donating to CAFOD's Advent Appeal at cafod.org.uk/advent.