

ST MICHAEL'S NEWSLETTER



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23rd/24th January 2021

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Hall wi-fi: [Netgear41](#) (password) [grandcomet148](#)
The Parish Office is closed smichaeloffice@gmail.com
Please ring Fr Tony on his number above in an emergency
or to request Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Third Sunday of the Year – 24th January

9.30am People of the Parish

Mon 25th The Conversion of St Paul
9.30am Debbie Martin RIP

Tues 26th SS Timothy and Titus
9.30am Mary O'Dowd RIP

Wed 27th **NO MASS**

Thurs 28th **NO MASS**

Fri 29th Weekday
10.15am Funeral Mass for Michael Roche

Sat 30th Weekday
10am Austin Churchill RIP

Fourth Sunday of the Year – 30th/31st January 2021

9.30am People of the Parish

*****Please note changed mass times on Sunday morning*****

All Masses are 'live-streamed' on YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoCE16LH34tJGIR3_ytZLYq

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Sureeporn Crosby, Shaun Wallace, Simon Warren,
Mavis Bazeley, Philip MacDonald, Sylvia Crampin,
Margaret McArdle, Peggy Brogan,
George Stuart Baxter, Sheila Hanks, Sarah Bishop,
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,

In these difficult dark days of Covid January it's hard perhaps to look ahead to where we shall be as we slowly emerge from this crisis. Nonetheless I think it is very important that we should be thinking about the future. I wrote last year about the need for volunteers to take on different tasks in the life of the parish. I am very grateful for your response to that appeal.

I thought it would be helpful to publish a list of the various areas of parish life that are open to new people. You will find that list in the newsletter and on the parish website as well as on our parish Facebook page. It may be that you will think of other areas that we should develop as we face a rather different future. If so, please let us know.

As a parish we have every reason to be grateful to the people who look after the various activities, but we need to recognise that many of them, (many of us!) are over the age of 70 and more than you might think are in their 80's. Long may they flourish, but it is obvious that this situation cannot long continue without some fresh blood.

I am not looking for a huge commitment of time and energy: I know how busy people's lives are, but I am asking you to think about where you feel that you could contribute something, and in this context I don't mean money, but time and enthusiasm.

I know that we cannot do very much just now, but now is the time to think and prepare for the future. I really look forward to hearing from you. (smichaeloffice@gmail.com)

(see page 3 of this newsletter to see all the areas of pastoral work that you might want to think about).

With my love and prayers for each of you.

Fr Tony

PLEASE NOTE

This weekend and until the covid situation improves, I will celebrate just one Mass on Sunday mornings at 9.30 (No music). That Mass and the weekday Masses will be live-streamed. This is in accordance with instructions from the Bishop.

The Bishop is keen to assure people that it is perfectly correct to decide to stay away from Church at a time like this. I have said earlier this year that the Sunday obligation has never meant that we have a duty to attend Mass "come what may." In any case, as you know, the Bishops have removed the obligation at this time. We all have a duty to take care of our own health in these circumstances.

Fr Tony

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

Peter Risbey,
Betty Larkin, Evelyn Griffiths, Norah Connors,
Florence Smith, Mary Fitzgerald,
Sallie Goldie, Bernard Fitzpatrick,
Peggy Ross, Michael Brander,
Leslie Collins, Elsie Smith

And **Mike Morley** who died recently.

May they Rest in Peace

From today's Gospel reading:

As Jesus passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother casting their nets into the sea...Jesus said to them, "Come after me and I will make you fishers of people." Then they abandoned their nets and followed him.

Reflection:

We hear Jesus' invitation, "Come follow me," each day, as life presents us with choices. Shall we forgive when asked? Shall we help someone in need? Shall we buy less for ourselves and give more to the poor? Shall we see the injustice, or turn a blind eye? In these, and so many other occasions, we hear the same invitation Jesus made to those fishermen and like them, we put other considerations aside to follow him.

So, we ask ourselves:

What recent choices have I made that show my desire to follow Christ?

What changes do I have to make in my life to follow him more fully?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Mollie Bruce 11 today!
Frederick McLoughlin 11 on Tuesday
Luke Coleman 2, Hazel Sullivan 11 on Wednesday
Juliana Gadd 13, Herbie Hill 11, on Friday
Lucas De Vincentiis 11 on Saturday



See page 4 of this newsletter for more details of this local charity helping feed those in need at the moment.
<https://breakingbread.org.uk/>

POPE FRANCIS MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT BIDEN

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States of America
The White House
Washington, DC

On the occasion of your inauguration as the forty-sixth President of the United States of America, I extend cordial good wishes and the assurance of my prayers that Almighty God will grant you wisdom and strength in the exercise of your high office. Under your leadership, may the American people continue to draw strength from the lofty political, ethical and religious values that have inspired the nation since its founding. At a time when the grave crises facing our human family call for farsighted and united responses, I pray that your decisions will be guided by a concern for building a society marked by authentic justice and freedom, together with unfailing respect for the rights and dignity of every person, especially the poor, the vulnerable and those who have no voice. I likewise ask God, the source of all wisdom and truth, to guide your efforts to foster understanding, reconciliation and peace within the United States and among the nations of the world in order to advance the universal common good. With these sentiments, I willingly invoke upon you and your family and the beloved American people an abundance of blessings.

FRANCISCUS PP.

Why we have kept the crib in place this year at St Michael's:
The Bishop reflects: Last weekend saw the **Feast of the Lord's Baptism** and the end of **Christmastide**.

However, I do encourage you to keep your cribs in place until 2nd February. This sign of the Lord's birth is a particularly powerful reminder to us this year of God-with-us – the incarnate Word of God, Jesus the Lord, who shares our human condition and, through his death and resurrection brings us salvation.

Welcomers and Readers Rotas. We are very thin on the ground for volunteers at the moment. and completely understand why you may feel unable to come to Church at the moment but if you are there and can help please do put yourself forward.

Sunday 9.30 am Mass – this is the only Mass at the weekend

This Sunday – **Welcomers:** W Buckland, M Channing Pearce
24th Jan **Reader:** B Lapham
Next Week - **Welcomers:**
31st Jan **Reader:**

This Week's Readings

Jonah 3: 1-5, 10; Psalm 25;
1 Cor 7: 29-31; Mark 1: 14-20

You can see these readings at:
<https://www.universalis.com/20210124/mass.htm>

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

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.**

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

AREAS OF PASTORAL WORK

(all these groups and sub-groups exist, but new faces and fresh ideas are always welcome
Email: smichaeloffice@gmail.com)

EVANGELISATION

- Study groups,
- Talks on matters of interest
- Outreach to people interested to know more about the Faith.

LITURGY

- Sacristy: Preparing everything for Mass
- Altar serving
- Involving children in the Liturgy
- Welcoming and greeting at the porch door
- Reading at Mass: Training readers
- Choir/music group
- Flowers and other decorations in church
- Church cleaning

PASTORAL CARE

- Care group
- Bereavement group
- Visiting the sick and housebound
- Offering practical help to elderly and housebound

ECUMENISM

- Joint prayer and join study groups

COMMUNICATION

- Newsletter production and distribution.
- How the Parish might make more effective use of modern technology and modern media of communication.
- Contact with media in order to engage with the world outside the parish.

ADMINISTRATION

- Maintenance of property etc
- Office administration at the service of the mission of the parish.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES

Helping adults, young people and children and their parents to prepare for the Sacraments.

- Baptism
- First Holy Communion
- Confirmation

SOCIAL CONCERNS

- Local charities
- International Charities
- CAFOD
- Aid to the Church in Need.

This is by no means a complete list. You may well have other areas that could be developed that haven't been thought of before.



Who we are?

We are a group of Ashted residents sharing our gifts with other people in our community who need a bit of support. This all started a little bit by chance after a walk on the common and chat. We talked about how we felt the need to reach out to other people in the community and be able to build relationships and support people who are going through a tough time. We talked about the frustration of wanting to make a difference and actually not doing much. One of our husbands is a chef and has many skills he could use to bless the community.

What can I do to help?

EITHER:

- Cook one meal a week for a family, this can be done on an *ad hoc* basis or regular basis (you will be given a recipe to cook – with the list of ingredients needed). You can choose to cook for either, a meal for 1 right up to a family of 7, whatever you are comfortable with.
- Bake some cupcakes or cakes to deliver to the families,
- By donating ingredients,
- By delivering meals,
- By donating foil trays and cake boxes.

If you are willing to help in any other way contact us and let us know <https://breakingbread.org.uk/>

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.

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.



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.