

ST MICHAEL'S NEWSLETTER



Vol. 60 No. 10
30th/31st 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.

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

9.30am People of the Parish

Mon 1st Weekday
9.30am Intentions of Pauline Clark

Tues 2nd The Presentation of the Lord
9.30am Intentions of Fr Tony

Wed 3rd **NO MASS**

Thurs 4th Weekday
9.30am James and Mary Fitzgerald RIP

Fri 5th St. Agatha
9.30am Michael Roche RIP

Sat 6th St Paul Miki and Companions,
10am Private Intention

Fifth Sunday of the Year – 6th/7th February 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,

I wrote last week about the future of our parish, and the need for new people to step up to the mark and volunteer their services in the life of the parish. I invited you to think about how you might help us to move on as a community as we slowly come out of the current crisis.

You might think that this is not the right moment for future planning, but I am convinced that we need to look to the future even as we are struggling to cope with the present. At this time we urgently need reasons to hope, and reasons to be positive.

At the moment it is a struggle to keep parish life going. Rightly we concentrate on the celebration of the Mass and Sacraments and the preaching of the Gospel. It is there that we draw strength to live out our Christian lives in these difficult days.

I am very conscious that many people are doing their best to reach out in all sorts of practical ways to help others. People are trying to live out the Gospel in quiet unobtrusive service, helped and sustained by God's grace.

At the same time I believe that we can afford to dream about how to build up our parish as a community of Faith, witnessing to the Gospel and making Christ's love present effectively in the wider community.

This will inevitably require new people with new energy to build on the good work of previous generations. That means you.

Please start to think seriously about where and how you can be involved in this work of rebuilding and renewal.

This is not just a nice idea: it is absolutely essential if St Michael's Parish is to survive.

(see page 3)

With my love and prayers for each of you

Fr Tony

Last Thursday was **Holocaust Memorial Day** and this was taken as the theme of our Thursday Evening Prayer service, led by Father Tony. We have an extended article on this theme attached below (see page 5).

Invited. Lent 2021 – The Mission Begins.

The Diocesan Formation Team is hosting a mission for you this Lent. It will be the first of five seasons of mission, helping you to explore God's *Invitation* to live your life with him.

What is a mission? An opportunity for everyone in the parish to sit back and reflect on the content provided. Season one is a series of programmes that help us to understand exactly how much we are loved by God, and features guest speakers such as David Wells, Eleanor Oliver and David Beresford. You will then be able to join a virtual conversation to meet like-minded people and discuss what you have learnt.

Visit www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited to find out more.

You, are Invited.

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

Jean Cunningham, Emilia Gorecka,
Michael Coleman, Joe Hilley, Nan Wood
Edward Ormston, Kathleen Field,
Monica Parsons, David Haydock, Roy Hamilton,
Mary Crosby, Christina Cach, Theresa Edmonston
Peter Cunningham, Joyce Margetts and Patrick Gordon.

May they Rest in Peace

From today's Gospel reading:

"The people were astonished at Jesus' teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes."

Reflection:

We have confidence in Jesus' words. We trust he will continue to be faithful to us as he sends us modern prophets to teach us his ways by their words and example. Regular reflection on Jesus' teachings can shape us; help us resist evil and turn towards the good. As the crowds acknowledged that day Jesus taught in the synagogue – his teaching has authority.

So, we ask ourselves:

- Whose words and actions have the power to sway us and call us to righteous living?
- Who gives us perspective and a lens through which to look out at our world to help us find the good and reject the evil?
- For Christians, Jesus' words have such authority for us.

Are you a Confirmation Catechist? Would you like to talk to other Catechists and the Diocesan Youth Ministry Adviser about all things Confirmation? If so, please sign up to join your Deanery Confirmation Network. These networks were launched towards the end of last year and the conversations were really helpful, particularly in this time of change and adaptation. If you have not already joined your network please contact - lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk who will make sure that you are involved with the next round of conversations that she is holding at the end of January.

**Opportunities for Young Adults and Others.
4 Weeks of Guided Prayer - Online Event
Sundays at 5:30pm beginning 17th January**

- An opportunity to deepen your relationship with God through prayer.
- Learn new ways of praying, enjoy some input on prayer, discernment and spirituality.
- Speak with a prayer guide each week for the four weeks.

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/parishoffortory>

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.**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Michael Knopp 13 on Sunday
Woychiech Szafran 8 and Charlie Spreckley 4 on Monday
Isabelle Cowper 13, Katie Dutton 7 and Kacey Stokes 11 on Tuesday
Harry Adams 13, Cian Tilley 12 and Ellen Russell 13 on Wednesday
Liam Hutchinson 10 and William Gregory 9 on Thursday
Kian James Toledo 8 on Friday



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/>

**Vocations Weekend - Online Event
26th - 28th February**

For women exploring the vocation to religious life. There will be times of prayer, reflection, input and discussion as well as a Q&A session with FCJ Sisters (Faithful Companions of Jesus). More information: FCJCentreStHughs@gmail.com or follow us on Facebook

Zoom Tutorial organised by our friends at St Georges for anyone who is interested in learning how to use it or is struggling with it. See the link below to sign up, if you feel or know of those who would gain from joining in?
<https://sgsgashtead.org.uk/events>

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:** P Weaver
31st Jan **Reader:** B Lapham
Next Week - **Welcomers:** W Buckland
7th Feb **Reader:** C Heden

This Week's Readings

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 94.
1 Corinthians 7:32-35; Mark 1:21-28

You can see these readings at:

<https://www.universalis.com/20210131/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

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/>

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2021- Being the light in the darkness today



This year at St Michael's, we held our Holocaust Memorial Day service online during our Thursday evening prayers. This was the day after the international day, which is the 27th January. The usual public ceremonies of remembrance were scaled back due to the pandemic, so on that day, parishioners joined people of all faiths across the world in lighting a Candle in the Darkness in their windows to remember the victims of the Nazi holocaust and all genocides. Some of our small service of remembrance and prayer is reproduced here.

What is Holocaust Memorial Day?

On Holocaust Memorial Day, we remember the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust, and the millions of other people killed under Nazi Persecution, and the millions of other people killed under Nazi Persecution, and the millions of other people killed under Nazi Persecution. The Holocaust was a terrible and undoubtedly changed the course of world history. The community adopted a legal definition of the crime of 'genocide' to make sure that never again happen.



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However, in the years following the Holocaust, genocide has continued to be carried out. On Holocaust Memorial Day we remember all those who were murdered or affected by the genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

Subsequent genocides represent a failure of humanity to learn from the Holocaust and are a reminder for all of us that we must be prepared to guard against genocide happening again in the future.

The theme of Holocaust Memorial Day 2021 is - *Being the light in the darkness today*

We do this by

- Shining light through testimony
- Confronting denial, distortion and misinformation
- Taking our responsibility to be the light in the world



This year's theme asks all of us to recognise that the responsibility for genocide education and prevention does not lie only with survivors sharing their testimony. Their experiences hold lessons for all of us, and it is vital that we listen to their experiences and become witnesses for them. As distortions and denial increase, facing the extent and nature of the crimes committed to reveal the truth of genocide and genocidal regimes is more important than ever.

Our lights are more powerful when we work together with others. This theme may inspire you to support charities, campaigns and community groups working to tackle identity-based violence and denial.



Holocaust Memorial Day enables us to remember – for a purpose. It gives us a responsibility to work for a safer, better, future for everyone. Each of us can use our voice and talents to tackle prejudice, discrimination and intolerance wherever we encounter it.

We are asked this year, on this day, to think especially about the plight of Uighur Muslims in China; and to consider the small thing we can do to draw attention to the plight of the Uighurs –

by refusing to purchase from companies who have Uighur slave labour factories in their supply chain.

What can we do? What are the lessons of history that apply to the Uighurs and all victims of discrimination?

We meditated on our own responsibilities and the fact that all genocides in history have begun with ordinary people going along with casual prejudice like name calling, spreading false information and laughing at racist “jokes”. With avoiding those who are in some way different from us or failing to rescue the refugees.

Martin Neimoller’s famous poem, which appears on a number of holocaust memorial sites, is often subtitled “the guilt of the bystander”.

*First they came for the Communists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Communist*

*Then they came for the Jews
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Jew*

*Then they came for the trade unionists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a trade unionist*

*Then they came for the Catholics
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Catholic*

*Then they came for me
And there was no one left
To speak out for me*

We concluded our service with a very challenging and moving short film, produced specially by Jeff Pearce, charting the images of the Holocaust from prejudice and exclusion to physical attacks and finally the extermination camps. The film concluded with The Eternal Flame in Jerusalem.

Father Tony used this inter-faith prayer, prepared by the leaders of the Jewish, Christian and Muslim faith

Loving God, we come to you with heavy hearts, remembering the six million Jewish souls murdered during the Holocaust.

In the horrors of that history, when so many groups were targeted because of their identity, and in genocides which followed, we recognise destructive prejudices that drive people apart.

Forgive us when we give space to fear, negativity and hatred of others, simply because they are different from us.

In the light of God, we see everyone as equally precious manifestations of the Divine and can know the courage to face the darkness.

Through our prayers and actions, help us to stand together with those who are suffering, so that light may banish all darkness, love will prevail over hate and good will triumph over evil.

Amen

