

## ST MICHAEL'S NEWSLETTER



Vol. 60 No. 15  
6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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Website: [www.stmichaelashted.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelashted.org.uk)  
To book the Parish Hall please email the office.  
Hall wi-fi: [Netgear41](#) (password) [grandcomet148](#)  
**The Parish Office is closed** [smichaeloffice@gmail.com](mailto:smichaeloffice@gmail.com)  
Please ring Fr Tony on his number above in an emergency  
or to request Sacrament of Reconciliation.

### Third Sunday of Lent **NB 2 Masses this weekend**

6.00pm Sean Henry's Intention

9.30am People of the Parish  
*Including Sacrament of Confirmation*

Mon 8th Weekday of Lent  
9.30am Joe Fitzpatrick RIP

Tues 9<sup>th</sup> Weekday of Lent  
9.30am Intentions of Helen & Mark McGaugh

Wed 10<sup>th</sup> **NO MASS**

Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> Weekday of Lent  
9.30am Roger Chan Lok RIP

Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Weekday of Lent  
9.30am Robert Gosden RIP

Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Weekday of Lent  
**10.0am** Nellie Mulvihill RIP

### Fourth Sunday of Lent – 13<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021

6.00pm Maureen Fitzpatrick RIP  
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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoCE16LH34tJGIR3_ytZLYq)

*see page 3 on different ways to 'fast' this Lent*

### PLEASE PRAY FOR

Kieron Byrne, Ray Quinlan, 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 have written several times recently about the need for us to plan for the future as we emerge eventually from Lockdown. I have made the rather obvious point that we cannot expect to go back to exactly where we were before the pandemic struck last year. I have been asking all of you to think about what changes might be needed here in the parish as we look ahead.

It might be helpful if I suggest one or two areas where we could concentrate. I have always found St Michael's to be a very friendly and welcoming community. That impression has been confirmed by a number of newcomers and visitors who have commented on the warm welcome they have received. I think this is an area of parish life that we could develop. Do you have ideas about how we could approach this?

Could we do more to make the Church known? Could we think about new ways to reach out and invite people to "come and see"?

What about those people who, for one reason or another, might be nervous about coming? How do we reach out to those who feel excluded or unwelcome?

In the coming years so much will depend on all of you. The Vatican Council called us to make Christ present in the world.

The Sunday Mass is central to everything we do in the parish. All our activities lead up to the Mass: We unite our work with Our Lord's sacrifice on the Cross.

Sharing in the Mass and receiving Christ in Holy Communion gives us the strength we need to live out the Gospel in our daily lives.

If we are to invite others to join us it is essential that we are really a welcoming community. I am inviting you to think about how we could develop this "ministry of welcome". Please let us have your thoughts on this.

With my love and prayers for each of you,  
Father Tony

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

Marjorie Yates, Mary Murphy  
Martin Walsh, Florence Stephens,  
Ciaran Flynn, Fr Albert Hadshar,  
James Slamin, Antonina Cavaglieri, Rudy Therien.  
**May they Rest in Peace**

**CAFOD** Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

### CAFOD Lent appeal/collection to help end water poverty particularly in Ethiopia.

Last weekend St Michael's collected at least a fantastic £820 in cash and cheques; this does not take into account many parishioners who now donate online and a single donation of £10,000. Thanks to our Church family, this kind of support will go towards solar-powered water pumps in Ethiopia so that flowing water will help to cultivate their land. Remember it's not too late to give to the Lent appeal [cafod.org.uk/lent](http://cafod.org.uk/lent)

**From today's Gospel reading:**

Jesus answered and said to them,  
 "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."

**Reflection:**

During Lent we are invited to fasting, prayer and almsgiving. We don't perform these works to earn God's pleasure, or admittance into God's presence. We already have that through what Jesus has done for us. Rather, our Lenten practices help us see and respond to those too hungry to fast; too scattered to pray and too poor to give alms.

**So, we ask ourselves:**

Do my Lenten observances make me more sensitive to those in need?  
 Who are they and how shall I respond to them?

**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](http://www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited) to find out more. You, are Invited.

**GIFT AID ENVELOPES**

The gift aid envelopes for the new tax year beginning 6 April have arrived. This year, in view of the restrictions, I will deliver them all by hand over the next month. I will try to give them to you personally but if you are not in, I will leave the box on the step. Please look out for them. I am afraid the printers have made the boxes in a size which does not fit through most letter boxes! " Charles Vosser. Gift aid coordinator.

**How Live-Simply** helps Catholic communities to protect our Common Home while living more fully:

Tuesday, 9 March 11am-12pm

**CAFOD** has reached 85 Live-simply awarded communities in our diocese and there are a similar number of Live-simply communities actively working on the Award in spite of the pandemic.

With Maria Elena Arana, Live-simply Award Coordinator at **CAFOD**, Fr Rob Esdaile, parish priest at Live-simply parish Our Lady of Lourdes Thames Ditton and Ellen Teague, Live-simply Award assessor, learn more about how your parish or school could join us.

<https://www.bigmarker.com/cafod/Live-Simply>

**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](mailto: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.**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:**

**Jack Stern 10, Aiden Brady 12 on Monday**

**Paige Frost 9 on Tuesday**

**Arianna Atkinson 10 on Wednesday**

**Adriana Hajarha 4, Harvey Lang 7,**

**William Zhou 6 on Friday**

**Oscar Gatt 8 on Saturday**

**ONLINE RETREATS:** The Open Cloister at Worth Abbey led by Michael Woodward (member of the Lay Community of St Benedict)

12th-14th March: Romero and the Salvadorian Martyrs: Along with St Romero, we will look at his friend Rutilio Grande, the four US Churchwomen, the UCA Jesuits & the hundreds of lesser known Salvadorans who died from 1977-1992.

26th-28th March (Palm Sunday weekend) The Holy Shroud: Gospel beyond Words - What the Shroud Tells Us

Book your place on line at <https://worth.co.uk/retreats/online-retreats>

Further information available from E: [toc@worth.co.uk](mailto:toc@worth.co.uk)

*And page 5 & 6 of this newsletter*

**NOTICE FOR READERS**

If you are a regular Reader and you are planning to attend the Holy Week and Easter services would you please contact Mary Merrett as soon as possible at [mary.merrett@gmail.com](mailto:mary.merrett@gmail.com) or phone 01372 379244.

Services will be quite different this year and exact times are to be confirmed but the dates are as follows:

27th/28<sup>th</sup> March – Palm Sunday – 2 Readers for each Mass

1<sup>st</sup> April – Maundy Thursday – 1 or 2 Readers

2<sup>nd</sup> April – Good Friday – 2 Readers

3<sup>rd</sup> April – Easter Vigil – 4 Readers

4<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Sunday – 1 or 2 Readers for each Mass

**Welcomers and Readers Rotas.** We are very thin on the ground for volunteers, 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 come forward.

**NB 2 MASSES THIS WEEKEND**

6<sup>th</sup> Mar 6pm Reader: D Gwyther

Welcomers: B Todd-Counsell

7<sup>th</sup> Mar 9.30 Reader: C Heden

Welcomers: P Durrett

**This Week's Readings**

Exodus 20: 1-17;

Psalm 19;

I Cor. 1: 22-25;

John 2: 13-25

You can see these readings at:

<https://www.universalis.com/20210307/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/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoCE16LH34tJGIR3_ytZLYg/)

**You can e-mail contributions to the Newsletter to**

[newsletter@stmichaelashtead.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@stmichaelashtead.org.uk)

**to arrive by 9.30am on Friday morning**

# DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.

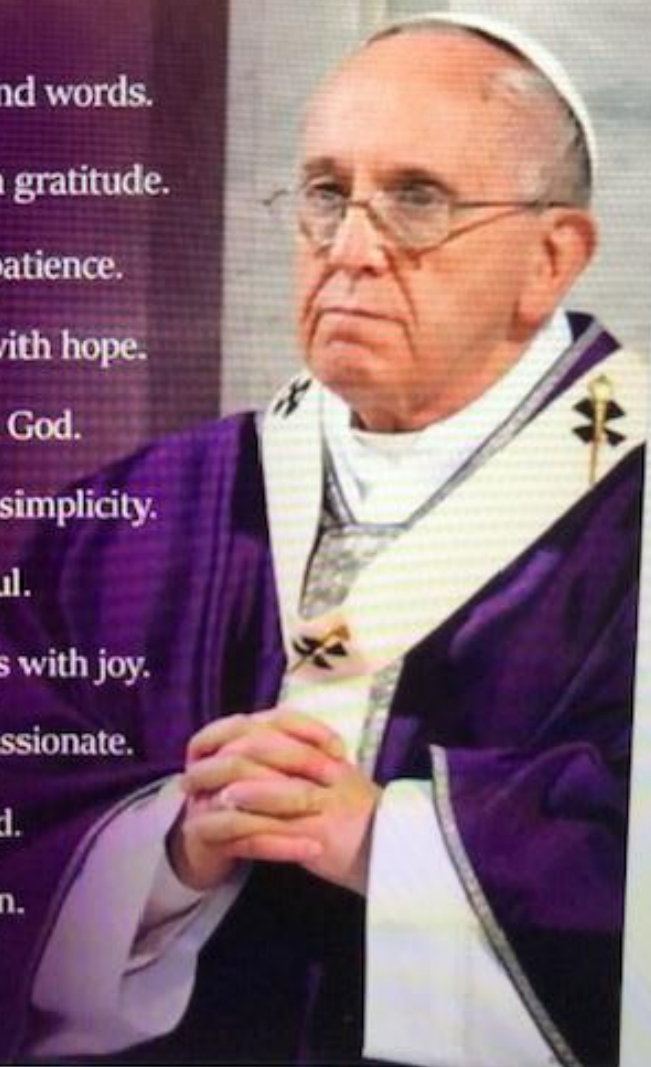
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words; be silent and listen.



## 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.

# ST ROMERO & THE SALVADORAN MARTYRS

12-14TH  
MARCH 2021

ALONG WITH ST ROMERO,  
WE WILL LOOK AT HIS  
FRIEND RUTILIO GRANDE,  
THE 4 US CHURCHWOMEN,  
THE UCA JESUITS & THE  
100S OF LESSER KNOWN  
SALVADORANS WHO DIED  
FROM 1977-1992



an ONLINE WEEKEND <sup>WITH THE</sup>  
OPEN CLOISTER@WORTH ABBEY

Presented by

MICHAEL WOODWARD

Includes a chance to see:

'RIGHTING THE WRONG: ARCHBISHOP  
ROMERO, HIS PEOPLE & POPE FRANCIS'

(Acclaimed & rarely seen Italian/Swiss Film;  
courtesy of The Romero Trust)

The Authentic  
Romero Trust

**Bookings & Info via**  
**TOC@worth.org.uk**

***You will just need  
a smart phone,  
tablet or computer,  
with access  
to a Zoom account!***

# Gospel Beyond Words

A Story  
Laid Out  
For Us In  
Blood,  
Water,  
Dust  
& Light...

*"More than  
an image  
it is a presence.  
It is a...how to  
say...a hidden  
testimony  
that reveals  
evidence."*

*Paul Claudel 1935*

## What the Shroud Tells Us

An Online Weekend with the *Open Cloister@WorthAbbey*

**March 26-28 (w/e of Palm Sunday)**

Led by  
Michael  
Woodward

Bookings  
& Info via  
[TOC@worth.org.uk](mailto:TOC@worth.org.uk)



## 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/>