

## ST MICHAEL'S NEWSLETTER



Vol. 60 No. 16  
13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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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.

### 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

Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Weekday of Lent  
9.30am Austin Churchill RIP

Tues 16<sup>th</sup> Weekday of Lent  
9.30am Theresa Grogan RIP

Wed 17<sup>th</sup> St. Patrick, Patron of Ireland  
11.30 am Funeral Mass for Liz Williams

Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> Weekday of Lent  
**NO MASS**

Fri 19<sup>th</sup> St. Joseph  
**NO MASS**

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Weekday of Lent  
**10.0am** Tom Morrison RIP

### Fifth Sunday of Lent – 20<sup>th</sup> / 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021

6.00pm John Coffey 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,

FROM THE HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS IN IRAQ



On his first day in Iraq, Francis spoke at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Salvation (Deliverance) to the country's bishops, clergy, religious and catechists.

"Pastors and faithful, priests, religious and catechists share, albeit in distinct ways, in responsibility for advancing the Church's mission."

At times, misunderstandings can arise and we can experience certain tensions; these are the knots that hinder the weaving of fraternity. They are knots we carry within ourselves; after all, we are all sinners. Yet these knots can be untied by grace, by a greater love; they can be loosened by the medicine of forgiveness and by fraternal dialogue, by patiently bearing one another's burdens (cf. *Gal 6:2*) and strengthening each other in moments of trial and difficulty."

The next day, at the interreligious meeting in Ur, home of our father Abraham, Francis repudiated violence committed in the name of religion:

Francis reflected on the biblical account in which God invites Abraham to look upon the stars, and places ourselves in that account:

"God asked Abraham to raise his eyes to heaven and to count its stars (cf. *Gen 15:5*). In those stars, he saw the promise of his descendants; he saw us." Thousands of years later, as we look up to the same sky, those same stars appear. They illumine the darkest nights because they shine *together*. Heaven thus imparts a message of unity: the Almighty above invites us never to separate ourselves from our neighbours. The *otherness* of God points us towards *others*, towards our brothers and sisters. Yet if we want to preserve fraternity, we must not lose sight of heaven.

May we — the descendants of Abraham and the representatives of different religions — sense that, above all, we have this role: to help our brothers and sisters to raise their eyes and prayers to heaven. We all need this because we are not self-sufficient. Man is not omnipotent; we cannot make it on our own. If we exclude God, we end up worshiping the things of this earth. Worldly goods, which lead so many people to be unconcerned with God and others, are not the reason why we journey on earth.

We raise our eyes to heaven in order to raise ourselves from the depths of our vanity; we serve God in order to be set free from enslavement to our egos, because God urges us to love. This is true religiosity: to worship God and to love our neighbour. In today's world, which often forgets or presents distorted images of the Most High, believers are called to bear witness to his goodness, to show his paternity through our fraternity."

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.

Geoffrey Marshall, Michael Thorton,  
Bishop David Cashman, Doris & Jim Hicksman  
Veronica McCreedy, Jacqueline Legge, Victor Kulisz,  
Cora Cox, Seán MacAmhlaoibh, John Lane,  
Fr David Mead-Briggs, Matthew Cassar, Kenneth Higgins  
and Jaqueline Cowley  
**May they Rest in Peace**

### From today's Gospel reading:

For God so loved the world that God gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.

### Reflection:

In John's Gospel, to "believe" in Jesus is to "act in truth," or "do the truth." It is not just about applauding Jesus from the sidelines. It's doing what we claim to believe. We believe in Christ because we have received the gift of grace from our out-reaching God. Lent calls us to reflect on this gift and then act out of the new life it gives us.

### So, we ask ourselves:

Have I been more of a sideline Christian than a full time participant?

What change can I make this Lent to be more committed to doing faith?

### Booking for Easter Services

At St Michael's we are still keeping 2 metres apart and although great progress is being made with vaccine and suppressing the virus through lockdown, as the Government rightly reminds us, Covid is still about. Therefore, we cannot overfill the Church during Easter.

If you are intending to come to Mass on:

Maundy Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 8pm

Good Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 3pm

Easter Vigil 3<sup>rd</sup> April 8pm

Easter Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April 8.30am or 10.30am

Please can you email the Parish office

[smichaeloffice@gmail.com](mailto:smichaeloffice@gmail.com) and we will book you a place.

Please let us know if you are able to be a welcomer.

Many thanks

**GIFT AID ENVELOPES** The gift aid envelopes for the new tax year have arrived. This year, in view of the restrictions, I will deliver them all by hand over the next month. 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.

### ALTON RENEWAL

We are continuing our 2021 Programme: "**ALIVE IN THE SPIRIT**" which is in response to the invitation from Pope Francis "*I ask all of you that you organise seminars to share Baptism in the Spirit.*" Our programme this year explores how the Holy Spirit inspires and empowers us to be missionary disciples. More details on the ADoRE website [www.altonrenewal.com](http://www.altonrenewal.com) People from all over the country are joining our sessions and thoroughly enjoying them, One participant said recently: "*It was so encouraging sharing with others so positive about their faith in Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit - in praise and worship, hearing prophecy, testimony, sharing in breakout group.*"

The next session is on **March 27th**, 10.00-13.00: "**New Life**" Jesus came so that you could be given the source of new life, the Holy Spirit. Speaker: **Jenny Baker**, co-ordinator of Celebrate conferences and a well-known presenter on CaFé formation videos. Please register in advance at [bit.ly/ADOREMAR2021](http://bit.ly/ADOREMAR2021)

**Online Giving – Coronavirus has** affected us materially as well as spiritually. Bills keep coming, but income is significantly down. Many parishioners give via standing order. 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:

**Flynn Luisis-Lynd 7 and James Ryan 11 on Sunday  
Isla Bispring 10, Sophia Nendick 10 and Oliver Barnes 13 on Monday**

**Gian Luca Ielpi 13 and Babella Bruce 13 on Tuesday**

**Sofia Lawrence 12 on Wednesday**

**Benjamin Hinton 11 on Friday**

### CARE GROUP

Care group are meeting in the hall next Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 10.15.

**ONLINE RETREATS:** see [page 5 of this newsletter](#)

**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.

13<sup>th</sup> Mar 6pm Reader: M Anderson

Welcomers: D Warnock, B Todd-Counsell

14<sup>th</sup> Mar 9.30 Reader: G Gruzalski

Welcomers: M & R Channing Pearce

### 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:

27<sup>th</sup>/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

### Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group

The charity provides emotional and practical support to asylum seekers and other migrants held in immigration detention at Gatwick. In normal times we support about 1,000 people each year through our staff and volunteer visitors.

We are looking for a new Treasurer, a qualified Accountant, to replace George Fitzsimons who is retiring from the post. We would be delighted to hear from anyone who is interested.

For more information and without any obligation, please contact George Fitzsimons: [gfitz62246@aol.com](mailto:gfitz62246@aol.com)

### This Week's Readings

2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23; Psalm 136 r. 6;

Ephesians 2:4-10; John 3:14-21

You can see these readings at:

<https://www.universalis.com/20210314/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**

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

# 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.

# 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/>