

ST MICHAEL'S NEWSLETTER



Vol. 60 No. 42
11th/12th September 2021

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To book the Parish Hall please email the office.
Hall wi-fi: [Netgear41](#) (password) [grandcomet148](#)
Please ring Fr Tony on his number above in an emergency
or to request Sacrament of Reconciliation.

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time 11th/12th September

6.0pm Intentions of Michael & Thomas O'Hare
8.30am People of the Parish
10.30am Hanlon & Williams Families intentions

Mon 13th St John Chrysostom
9.30am Maureen Andrews RIP

Tues 14th Exaltation of the Holy Cross
9.30am Bob & Maria Adams Intentions

Wed 15th **NO MASS**

Thurs 16th **NO MASS**

Fri 17th Weekday
9.30am Remo Dipre RIP

Sat 18th Weekday
10am Margaret McArdle's Intentions

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time 18th/19th September

6.0pm People of the Parish
8.30am Vacant intention
10.30am Jean Wheeler RIP

All Masses are 'live-streamed' on YouTube  (*suspended*)
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoCE16LH34tJGIR3_vtZLYq

The Parish and Fr Tony's Internet/phone lines/live streaming – are still out of action...

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Alan Kelly, Bob Adams, Doreen Peters,
Francesco Pisa, Shaun Wallace, Simon Warren,
Mavis Bazeley, Philip MacDonald, Margaret McArdle,
Peggy Brogan, Sheila Hanks, Pauline Hooper,
Bill Danson, Jean Rawlinson,
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.

Michael McNally, Denis Harrington, Thomas Geoghegan,
Margery Mason, Mavis Lewandowska,
Alice Dobbe, Celia Spridgeon, Mark Gamache
David Wall, Maureen Andrews John Manning and
**Janet McCormack who died on Monday
May they Rest in Peace**



St Michael's RC Church Ashted Parish Census

(this letter is a repeat of last week's, as we know the first few weeks of September are a very busy period for parishioners and we don't want you to miss this important parish initiative)

My Dear Friends,

As we enter September and the start of a new school year, it is a good time for us to start thinking about the future of the parish. These past eighteen months have been a difficult time for all of us, but we need now to look to the future. I believe that there will be many opportunities for growth and new life.

One of the problems highlighted by the pandemic and the various "Lockdowns" was the lack of up-to-date information about our resources.

This has become increasingly important as we have become more reliant on technology to communicate with the parish. The last year or so, has seen the introduction of the Facebook group, emailing of Newsletters and, of course, Zoom.

In addition, the Parish is growing and people move home much more frequently than in the past and our register of names can easily become out of date.

Keeping contact is not such a problem for people who are comfortable "online", but there are many who don't have access to computers etc, and they can easily feel left out.

The situation was made worse where we discovered that both addresses and phone numbers had changed.

With this in mind we are going to carry out a parish census. It is clear to me that any future initiative in the parish will depend heavily on accurate up to date information. We are going to contact everyone on our existing records and everyone coming to Mass during the next four weeks.

We will only be asking for the information you would expect for a parish census, but you will appreciate how helpful that will be for any future planning.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation,

Fr. Tony

Baptism Course The next Baptism Course will be this Tuesday 14th September at 7.00pm in the Church. If you are interested, please register in advance with the parish office – smichaeloffice@gmail.com and we will send out the forms and information that you need to read before you come on the course.

St Michael's Social Event & AGM: Saturday 25th September in the Hall after 6pm Mass

This year we would like to make the celebration of St Michael's Feast Day an evening of WELCOME to new parishioners who have joined us here in Ashted in the past 2 years. It's been difficult to welcome you properly to our parish and hopefully this evening will be a great opportunity to meet you in person and let you know all that we do. This evening is not just for newcomers, of course, but for everyone, young, old and everything in between, to socialise again after a long absence.

Drinks and refreshments provided for all.

From today's Isaiah reading:

The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced. I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

Reflection:

Doing the right thing doesn't guarantee we'll succeed. It's not about success, but about being faithful. But how can we be faithful when suffering is the price, we sometimes must pay for doing what is right? What will keep us from yielding and turning in another direction? Isaiah has a piece of wisdom and assurance for us today, "The Lord God is my help; therefore, I am not disgraced."

So, I ask myself:

Have I ever suffered or been penalized for doing what was right?

What gave me the determination and strength to stay the course?

The St Michael's Soup Lunch is back (Hurrah!)

On Friday, 1 October, homemade soups, breads, desserts and tea/coffee will be served between 12 noon and 1.30 pm, all for £5. Proceeds will be shared between CAFOD, The Princess Alice Hospice and Besom. All are welcome to experience St Michael's award-winning hospitality.

The next **Men's Breakfast Online** will be on Saturday 18th September, at the slightly earlier time of 9.15 am. Our guest speaker will be Cameron Brown from the organisation 'Dignity in Dying'. This is the second part of our discussion on end-of-life matters.

Rebecca Cato has very kindly offered to take-over the 'running' of the Welcomers/Readers rota.

rcato304@hotmail.com mobile 07827 461979 are her contact details. Those of you who are welcomers and readers and know your availability over the next couple of months, please get in touch with Rebecca so that she can begin to fill in the 'grid'. If you used to be a welcomer or reader and would like to return to those roles that would also be much appreciated. Equally, if you would like to become a reader or welcomer do get in touch with Rebecca or the office

BESOM A bridge between those who are able to give and those who are in need, Besom accepts whatever good quality items you are able give: Furniture, Soft Furnishings, White Goods, Kitchen and Tableware. We have a van and can collect larger donations. Besom also welcomes financial donations to purchase particular items and to help with running costs. Or perhaps you can give little of your time, and join our team? Please call 07904 679380 or email besominashtead@gmail.com to find out more, or to donate. Or speak to James Close

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Caitlyn Geroche 12 on Monday
Eileen Delaney 8 and Cormal Kelly 5 on Tuesday
Ashton Ferguson 9 on Wednesday
Thomas Pearson 13 and Sophie Milewska-Hilliard 6 on Thursday

Hopefully many activities will be back in the Autumn.

Do keep checking the Newsletter. Hopefully we can put together **The Trumpet** (our Parish Magazine, for those of you not familiar with this publication). So do send in your articles, poems, thoughts, photos, family news, advertising etc etc to smichaeloffice@gmail.com or just post your pieces in the Post Box. The publication of **The Trumpet** coincides with our Parish AGM/Social (more social than AGM!) This year it will fall on 25th September after 6pm Mass in the Hall, all welcome, all invited, food & drink!!

100 Club renewal forms

The 100 Club renewal forms are in the 'post pockets' at the back of the Church.

If you would like to join the 100 Club please let the office know and we can start your membership from 1st October for the year 2021/2022. It's a very easy way to boost the parish funds by about £1,200 per year. Many thanks to all those who take part and continue to take part.

smichaeloffice@gmail.com

Luxury Breakfast Feast in support of Neuroblastoma UK.

'Breakfast at Stephanie's' in memory of Grace Sheridan Sunday 12th September 2021, 83 Hillside Road, Ashtead. £20 per person (includes 5 raffle tickets)

To book, email raceforgence5@gmail.com

Your support raises vital cash which is used for research into kinder treatments and a cure

uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Grace2021

This Week's Readings

Isaiah 50:5-9; Psalm 114;

James 2:14-18; Mark 8:27-35

You can see these readings at:

<https://www.universalis.com/20210905/mass.htm>

Parish Communications**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_vtZLY

You can e-mail contributions to the Newsletter to

newsletter@stmichaelashtead.org.uk

to arrive by 9.30am on Friday morning

Weekend	Welcomers/Readers - Weekend Masses					
	Saturday 6:00 pm		Sunday 8:30 am		Sunday 10:30 am	
11 th /12 th September	W1	A Grimmer	W1	P Weaver	W1	A Stokes
	W2	Denise Devaney	W2	M McGarr	W2	
	R1	David Gwyther	R1	B Lapham	R1	G Gruzalski
18 th /19 th September	W1	Roberto Simonetti	W1	Kaori Tybura	W1	T Gogy
	W2	A Caprano-Wint	W2	Kaori Tybura	W2	P Durrett
	R1	Philippa Dupenois	R1		R1	Mary Merett

Restore Open start-up

Take action to stop the climate crisis!

**reclaim
our common
home**

This year, the eyes of the world will be on Britain as we host world leaders for the UN 'COP26' climate talks.

Call on the Prime Minister to use this historic opportunity to protect our common home.

"...Climate change is a global problem with serious implications... It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day." POPE FRANCIS

Sign our petition now

Scan the QR code or go to cafod.org.uk/reclaim



CAFOD
Catholic Agency for Overseas Development
Charity no 1503394 and a company limited by guarantee no 09387396. CAF6026



Contactless payments –

If you wish to contribute to our weekly offertory collection but don't have any cash, no problem, you can use our new and shiny contactless machines in the porch. It's automatically gift aided under our GASDS (Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme). Just use your card, chose an amount, tap and go...many thanks.

Day for Catechists Saturday 25th September, Worth Abbey. A gathering of Catechists from around the Diocese, to share our experiences and offer support and resources. The day ends with mass with Bishop Richard. To book contact ruth.gerun@abdiocese.org.uk

Beginning Experience Weekend:

October 8th – 10th, Sion Community, Brentwood, Essex. For those who find themselves single again following divorce, separation or bereavement.

Beginning Experience is a weekend programme to help you move from the darkness of your grief into the light of a new beginning. More details at besouthofengland@gmail.com



Beginning Experience
listen.accompany.heal

A weekend away for a lifetime of change

Are you single again
following separation, divorce or the death of your partner?

Beginning Experience
is a weekend programme
to help you to move
from the darkness of your grief
into the light of a new beginning
and to help you to face the future
with renewed hope.

The next South of England weekend
is from 8th to 10th October 2021
at the Sion Community, Brentwood, Essex.

If you are interested
or would like more information
please contact

Freda 01322-838415 or Maura 07795-498445
email besouthofengland@gmail.com

Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation Programme 2021

Next Baptism Course

Tuesday 14th September 2021 in St Michael's Church at 7pm. Please email smichaeloffice@gmail.com to make a booking. We will endeavour to Baptize as many children as we can to make up for the backlog but please be patient. From 17th May if you have already completed the Baptism course, you can begin to book your Baptisms from that date. If you would like to have your child's Baptism on a weekday, Deacon David is happy to accommodate you during the week as well.

First Holy Communion

We have had a number of enquiries, understandably, about the **First Holy Communion and Confirmation** programmes. As you will appreciate, we cannot have large groups at present, so we are planning a different approach at least for this year. We hope to start during the summer term with the first group of ten children. We obviously cannot envisage a large group of 30 or 40 children. We will have to limit ourselves to children who regularly worship here at St. Michael's. We will begin with a maximum of ten children and ten parents.

The plan is to have a second similar group in the Autumn and a further one in the New Year. When you apply you will go on to a waiting list. I will ask each family to get in touch with me so that I can explain the programme and the commitment it involves. There is no point in taking part in the programme unless you intend to bring your child to Mass on a regular basis. We are hoping to help the children to know Jesus Our Lord, and to want to receive Him regularly in Holy Communion. This obviously depends on your willingness to make it possible.

The programme we have been using over the last four years has been very popular with parents and has also helped to rekindle their own faith. We hope that it will be the same for you.

Once the first group has completed the programme it will be for each family to arrange with the Parish Office a convenient day for the child to make their First Holy Communion. We found last year that the families really appreciated the more intimate celebrations for two or three families to celebrate this special moment at an ordinary Parish Mass. Other parishioners also welcomed the chance to share in these moments.

CONFIRMATION

My Dear Parents and Guardians,

In normal times we would expect young people in Year 10 to prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation sometime between Easter and Pentecost. This year it was not possible to do that.

Bishop Richard will be coming to Epsom to confirm young people from this area on Saturday November 15th. At the present time it is still not possible to bring candidates together for preparation classes, although we hope that it will become possible by late June. This means that we could not realistically hope to start the programme until the Autumn, which is not adequate time for serious preparation.

There is a further serious complication in that the present Year 10 will be entering Year 11 in September, which is the GCSE year. The problems of the past year have caused a lot of stress for young people, and we think that it would be unfair to ask them to undertake preparation for Confirmation during Year 11, which will have quite enough stress without any additional burdens.

With this in mind we are proposing to delay everything until the Autumn of next year (2022). This may well mean that we have a larger group than usual, but that can easily be managed, and will allow adequate time for preparation, including the very important weekend retreat.

Meanwhile if there are any young people who seriously wish to receive the Sacrament this coming November and do not want to delay, please let me know. If so, I would need to meet any such individual personally to discuss how best to proceed.

We look forward to receiving your applications.
With my blessing, Father Tony.

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.

CCRS

The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies

Join our CCRS course starting in September! The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) is beginning again in our Diocese this September. The course is designed for teachers in Catholic schools, for Catechists and for anyone who would like to grow in understanding as they live their Catholic faith.

The CCRS offers a very flexible and accessible way of learning, it includes some online content and is made up of eight modules: six core and two specialist modules. Each module involves ten hours of course time and an assignment. To read an overview of the course structure [click here](#). You can access a range of helpful FAQs on the [CCRS website here](#). For more information or to register your place please [contact our Formation Adviser](#).

The Diocese and St John's Seminary, Womersley are delighted to offer a retreat in October exploring spiritual direction and spiritual traditions.

As the experience of Weeks of Guided Prayer spreads across the Diocese, there is a growing need for people to discern if they are being called to train as Spiritual Directors, or Accompaniers. This retreat, led by Canon Luke Smith, Spiritual Director at the Seminary, studies the nature of this vocation, explores the Benedictine, Cistercian, Franciscan, Ignatian and Carmelite traditions and offers the opportunity to be on retreat in the beautiful setting of St John's Seminary before its closure.

Residential and non-residential options are possible. The retreat will run Monday evening 11 Oct, to lunchtime on Thu 14 October. The cost will be shared in due course. For more information or to register your interest, [please contact our Formation Team Spirituality Adviser](#).

Here at St Michael's, like many indoor settings we will continue to:

- Wear face masks to be respectful of one another, but it is not compulsory
- Ventilate buildings
- Keep social distancing - one metre apart where possible
- Have hand sanitiser available
- Have cleaning sprays and tissues to disinfect our used space
- Use 'track and trace' to identify anyone who needs to self-isolate
- Implement the one-way system for receiving Holy Communion