

ST MICHAEL'S NEWSLETTER



Vol. 60 No. 43
18th/19th 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.

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

6.0pm Andrew Harman RIP
8.30am People of the Parish
10.30am Jean Wheeler RIP

Mon 20th Ss Andrew Kim Taegön, Paul Chöng Ha-sang, and
Companions, Martyrs

9.30am Joe Moynihan RIP

Tues 21st St Matthew
9.30am Corinne Bond RIP

Wed 22nd **NO MASS**


Thurs 23rd **NO MASS**

Fri 24th Our Lady of Walsingham
9.30am Peter Bliss RIP

Sat 25th Weekday
10am Intentions of Adams & Bennett Families

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time 25th/26th September

6.0pm People of the Parish
8.30am Vacant intention
10.30am Fr Tony Whale RIP

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

**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.**

Simon McCarthy, Patrick Warnock,
Elizabeth Langton, Henri Menjou,
Edward Parry, Joan Miller,
Kathleen Duck and Peter Bliss

May they Rest in Peace

Sunday Obligation



My Dear Friends,

At the beginning of the Covid crisis I wrote about the "Sunday Obligation", making the point that the obligation is a "reasonable" one in that no one is expected to do what is impossible or entirely impractical. If you are sick or find yourself miles from a church, clearly you are not expected to risk your health or to take unreasonable measures to get to Mass. There is nothing new in any of that.

Obviously, the enforced closure of our churches last year meant that it was impossible to fulfil the obligation, but the Bishops thought it best to remove any sense of obligation at that time. That remains the case at present.

Many people are still "shielding" because of Covid, and many of them can follow the Mass online, and are doing so. They will return to Sunday Mass when they feel comfortable in doing so. Concern for one's health and the safety of others is an expression of Christian charity. There is, after all, an obligation of charity.

I want to suggest for the rest of us that our understanding of the Mass and our love for Christ in the Blessed Sacrament should enable us to move beyond the idea of "obligation".

In the Mass we don't come together simply to pray, but to share with Our Lord in the great Sacrifice He offered on the Cross. Through our Baptism Christ allows us to offer ourselves with him, and to offer Him to His Heavenly Father. The Mass is above all the Sacrifice of Christ made present on the altar under the appearances of bread and wine. In Holy Communion we share in the fruits of the sacrifice in receiving Christ Himself as the food for our journey through life.

There are times in our lives when a sense of obligation can help us to do what we ought to do, but as Pope Benedict taught, we should come to Mass not so much out of obedience to a law, but from an inner sense of wanting and needing to be there. He quoted the words of some early Christian martyrs, "We cannot live without the Eucharist".

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

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 Gospel reading:

Jesus said to his disciples:

"If anyone wishes to be first, they shall be the last of all and the servant of all."

Reflection:

If someone comes up to you on the street and asks, "Have you accepted Jesus into your life?" – according to today's gospel, that means we have accepted Jesus' way of life, being "the servant of all."

So, we ask ourselves:

What Christian "servant role" am I currently involved in?

What helps me persevere in that role, even under trying conditions?

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:

Miles Davies 13 on Saturday
Emilia Thomas 3 on Thursday
Edward Clark 13 and Poppy Hirsh 12 on Friday

Janet McCormack's Funeral Service will be at Randall's Park Crematorium on Friday 24th September at 1.15pm, conducted by Fr. Tony.

It will be followed by a wake at 2.30pm at St Michael's Church Hall. Everyone is welcome. Please let Janet's family know if you will be attending.

Harvest Family Fast Day Friday October 1st, 2021.

This Family Fast Day **CAFOD** are acutely aware that our world is in crisis. The pandemic has pushed more people into poverty and increased inequality. The communities that **CAFOD** work with are already facing unprecedented hardship because of the impact of climate change — as harvests fail, forests burn and lands flood. Millions of the most vulnerable of our sisters and brothers are struggling to survive.

On Family Fast Day please support **CAFOD's** appeal with your prayers and donations.

- £40 could help a forest farming family rebuild and replant after a forest fire.
- £100 could provide five forest defenders with training to keep themselves and the forest safe.

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

This Week's Readings

Wisdom 2:12, 17-20; Psalm 53;
James 3:16—4:3; Mark 9:30-37

You can see these readings at:

<https://www.universalis.com/20210919/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					
	6pm		8.30am		10.30am	
18th/19th September	W1	Roberto Simonetti	W1	Kaori Tybura	W1	T Gogy
	W2	A Caprano-Wint	W2	Kaori Tybura	W2	P Durrett
	R1	Philippa Dupenois	R1	Polly Ribet	R1	Mary Merrett
25th/26th September	W1	L Baldwin	W1	Rocio	W1	Cristiana Benini
	W2	Lisa Laguarda	W2	Santiago	W2	Armi Stokes
	R1	Alan Waters	R1	G Hayter	R1	Nick Pisa

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 03077396. 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

(Date to be decided) 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