

ST MICHAEL'S NEWSLETTER



Vol. 61 No. 01
27th/28th November 2021

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Hall wi-fi: Netgear41 (password) grandcomet148
Please ring Fr Tony on his number above in an emergency

First Sunday of Advent — 27th/28th November

6.00pm	People of the Parish
8.30am	Mary O'Dowd RIP
10.30am	Intentions of Thomas O'Hare
Mon 29	NO MASS
Tues 30	NO MASS
Wed 1	NO MASS
Thurs 2 9.30am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Fri 3	NO MASS
Sat 4	NO MASS

Second Sunday of Advent — 4th/5th November

6.00pm	Joanne Smith RIP
8.30am	People of the Parish
10.30am	Intentions of Bernadette Griffin

All Masses are 'live-streamed' on YouTube 
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoCE16LH34tJGIR3_ytZLYg

This weekend we welcome Fr Pak back to say Mass

Please see attachment entitled 'Honouring Sunday'

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Vivienne Kelleher, Terry Grogan,
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,
Stephen Sullivan, Rachel Fulton and Michael Machese

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

Frank Stephens, Michael Taylor, Beryl France,
Peter Hobday, Rita McTavish, Trevor Dadswell,
John Leonard, Dillwyn Powell-Davies, José Laguarda,
Imogene McGrath, Tony Sydenham, Jason Montague,
Kathleen Flaherty and Fred Quintin,
May they Rest in Peace

My Dear Friends,
I am writing this at Palazzola by Lake Albano opposite the Papal summer home Castel Gandolfo. Palazzola is the villa of the Venerable English College in Rome.



I am here with 29 priests from all over England and Wales celebrating special jubilees of ordination this year, 40, 50 or 60 years.

It is always great to meet up with brother priests and share stories and experiences.

This year after all the restrictions of Covid it is especially enjoyable. Canon Bill Davern from Epsom and Fr John Inglis from Banstead are here along with other Womersley contemporaries celebrating 40 years of ordination, including Archbishop Bernard Longley of Birmingham.

Looking to the future we went for lunch on Tuesday to the Beda college where we given a very warm welcome and a splendid lunch. I have a friend studying there for Shrewsbury Diocese, Sean Henry, who hopes to be ordained deacon in June. Again it was good to catch up after nearly two years of Covid restrictions. He was pleased to meet Archbishop Bernard after lunch. (Pictured).

On Wednesday we went to the general audience with Pope Francis. The diamond Jubilarians met the Pope briefly after the audience, which meant a great deal to them.

On Thursday we are due to celebrate Mass at the English College to be followed by another splendid meal (we hope).

I hope that you might be interested in our activities. Meanwhile I am remembering you all in my prayers.

God bless you.
Father Tony

Advent 2021

Fr Pak will bless your Advent Candles at the beginning of each Mass this weekend.

Please pick up a 'My Day by Day' booklet for Advent; adult, junior and infant versions available and a children's advent calendar

Parish Christmas Party

On the 2nd Sunday of Advent, 5th December, after 10.30 Mass, there is going to be a Christmas Party in the Hall. If you remember the Parish family Group party from 2 years ago, we had tables with Christmas crafts for the children and other seasonal activities, which we will replicate again this year. So there will be teas/coffees and drinks followed by a 'bring and share lunch'. We thought the theme for the shared lunch would be 'your favourite Christmas dish'. If you would like to help in any way please contact Sally Bahri (salbahri@yahoo.com) or the Parish Office smichaeloffice@gmail.com. We met a lot of new families at the AGM/St Michael's Feast social in September and it would be good to give new parishioners another chance to meet up again. But everyone is invited, whether you arrived last week or have lived here forever! Best wishes, the Parish Office.

The Christmas Edition of *The Trumpet*, the Parish magazine is eagerly awaiting your contributions - articles, poems, photos, family events, happy/sad etc etc **deadline Thursday 2nd December.**

From today's Gospel reading:

"Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man."



Reflection:

In moments of tribulation, we can forget that Christ is present. It is the present and ever-renewing waters of baptism that enable us to respond when Jesus tells us, "Be vigilant...."

So, we ask ourselves:

In a time of "tribulation" what gave you strength?
What daily practice do you to help you keep "vigilant?"

Action in Africa—there will be a retiring collection for Action in Africa next weekend; it's been 2 years since the last one!

The **Soup Lunch** returned to its pre-Covid numbers, just two months after restarting ; showing how much the Ashtead community appreciates the hospitality that St Michaels offers. The majority of the Soup Lunch team have been in harness for the past 10 years, and not getting any younger! If this successful Parish event is to continue for another 10 years, we need new Team Members; soup/pudding cooks and staff on the first Friday of the month, between 11.00 and 14.30, to shift the furniture, help in the kitchen and wait on tables. If you are interested in volunteering contact Caroline Fitzherbert on 01372 273186.

The next Soup Lunch, a Christmas Special, will be held on Friday 3 Dec in the Church Hall. A selection of homemade soups, breads, desserts and tea/coffee, all for £5, will be served between 12 noon and 1.30 pm, together with a stall of homemade products. All money taken will be shared between The Princess Alice Hospice, CAFOD and Besom. Invite your family, friends and neighbours to enjoy St Michael's award winning hospitality.

ROTAS—I am about to prepare new rotas for **Church Cleaning and Sunday Coffees**.. Please, please can we have some more volunteers coming forward as some of us have been on these rotas for a very long time!!!! **Church cleaning** involves offering about one hour of your time once every six weeks and Sunday coffees even less!!! Please contact me as soon as possible on 01372 379244 or email mary.merrett@gmail.com if you would like to add your name, if you would like a little more information or if you are wanting to come off a rota. Many thanks.

Christmas hampers. For full details please contact Janet on plevinsohn@hotmail.com page 5 of this n/l online.

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Yunika Sky Berana 5 on Sunday
Helena Chandler 11 and Benas Navickai 7 on Tuesday
Alexandra Lapham 11 on Friday

Epsom & Ewell Foodbank, which helps local people in crisis need donations more than ever. Here at St Michael's we are turning our concern into action with monthly collections. The items they currently require are:-
Custard, UHT Milk - Full Fat And Semi Skimmed, Longlife Fruit Juice, Spaghetti In Sauce, Nappies & Pull Ups 4+ and 6+, Bags For Life, Selection Boxes, Christmas Puddings (Non Alcoholic), Savoury Snacks -Crisps, Twiglets, Cheeselets etc, Tinned Ham, Seasonal Biscuits, Chocolates, Sweets And Treats, Mince Pies, Packet Stuffing, Christmas Napkins, Christmas Tea Towels, Gift Cards Of £10 For Argos, Boots, Superdrug, Wilkos You can find more details at <https://www.givefood.org.uk/needs/at/epsom-and-ewell/>

Starting next weekend the 4th & 5th December—Please put your donation(s) in the box in the porch when you come to the weekend Masses. On the last weekend of each month, there will be a reminder in the Parish Newsletter with the list of required items for the following weekends' collection.

Covid and climate change are leading many to ask questions about life and faith. **The Alpha course** on Monday evenings from January 17th is an open and friendly space to ask those questions, explore the meaning of life and connect with others. Alpha is for everyone, whether you go to church never, rarely, sometimes or always, you are very welcome. Come along and bring a friend! Email alpha@olchurch.org.uk to find out more.

This Week's Readings

Jeremiah 33:14-16 ; Psalm 24;
1 Thessalonians 3:12—4:2 ; Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

You can see these readings at:

<https://www.universalis.com/20211120/mass.htm>

Parish Communications

Visit **St. Michael's Parish website** 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

Welcomers/Readers Rota

27th/28th November	W1	Antoinetta Caprano-Wint	W1	Simon Williams	W1	Tessa Davies
	W2	Gianluca Lelpi	W2	Rocio	W2	Kathryn Casson
	R1	David Gwyther	R1	Martin O'Donovan	R1	Mary Merrett
5th/6th December	W1	Antoinetta Caprano-	W1	Penny Weaver	W1	Tala Gogy
	W2	A Grimmer	W2	M McGarr	W2	
	R1	Felix Grimmer	R1	G Hayter	R1	James Close

Honouring Sunday

As the Synodal Pathway of listening and discerning unfolds, we the bishops of England and Wales, are paying particular attention to the hopes and fears, the joys and anxieties of all who are sharing their thoughts and feelings with us.

Longing for our Lord

Rectangular Snip

We are attentive to the experience of the last year or so, when we have lived our faith through the limitations of the pandemic. We have heard of the longing which some express as a “homesickness.” We want to be in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. We yearn to celebrate the sacraments together, especially the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We desire to be nourished by our Lord in Holy Communion. The live streaming of the Mass and the remarkable response of our Catholic communities to those in need, have provided comfort, sustenance and resilience.

The Eucharist, source and summit

The Eucharist is the source and summit of our spiritual and pastoral life. Many people have said to us that they have appreciated the noble simplicity of the Mass at this time, which has allowed the mystery and majesty of our Lord’s sacrificial love to shine through.

The central appeal of the Mass, its beauty and its transcendence, raises our minds and hearts to God in an unambiguous and compelling manner. Our Lord Jesus invites us to receive anew the gift of Sunday as the preeminent day, the day of the Resurrection, when the Church gathers to celebrate the Eucharist. Here we stand together before our heavenly Father, offering our thanksgiving and prayer, through our Saviour in the Holy Spirit. Here we receive Christ in his Word. Here we are nourished by Christ in his precious Body and Blood. This is our primary joy, for which there is no substitute, and from which we draw our strength.

The Gift of the Sunday Eucharist

The Sunday Eucharist is a gift; as God’s holy people we are called to praise and thank God in the most sublime way possible. When the Church speaks of the Sunday obligation, it reminds us that attending Mass is a personal response to the selfless offering of Christ’s love.

At this time, we recognise that for some people there may be certain factors which hinder attendance at Sunday Mass. The pandemic is clearly not over. The risk of infection is still

present. For some, there is legitimate fear in gathering together. As your bishops, we recognise that these prevailing circumstances suggest that not everyone is yet in the position to fulfil the absolute duty to attend freely Sunday Mass.

Responding to the Gift

We now encourage all Catholics to look again at the patterns which they have formed in recent months with regard to going to Mass on Sundays. This would include consideration and reflection about what we might do on Sundays, such as sports or shopping, or other leisure and social activities. This review, and the decisions which arise from it, fall to every Catholic and we trust this will be done with honesty, motivated by a real love for the Lord whom we encounter in the Mass.

The Sunday Mass is the very heartbeat of the Church and of our personal life of faith. We gather on the “first day of the week,” and devote ourselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers (Acts 2:42). The Eucharist sustains us and spurs us on, renewing our gratitude and our hope. When we say “Amen” to Christ in receiving his Body and Blood, we express the love of God which is deep within us, and at the end of Mass, when we are sent forth, we express our love for our neighbour, especially those in need. These two dimensions reveal the full meaning of our faith. We are gathered together and sent out, we pray and are fed, we worship and we adore; these are intrinsic to our lives as those baptised into Christ.

Approved at the Plenary Assembly of Bishops in Leeds
Thursday 18th November 2021



Christmas Hampers

Bringing God's message of love and provision to those in need.

Would you like to provide a hamper for people in need in the local area? Your gifts bring so much joy to those that receive them.

Ideas for your hamper

Use a cardboard box decorated with Christmas paper, a plastic crate or a wicker basket.

★ Food

It is lovely if the items are 'special' rather than 'value' everyday items. Please do not include alcohol, perishables, nuts or home-made items.

Cakes / Biscuits / Chocolates / sweets
Honey / jam / marmalade
Tea / coffee / hot chocolate / Fruit Juice
Cereals
Cranberry Sauce
Pasta / sauce
Soup

★ Cash donations

Will be used to buy gifts or
Supermarket Gift cards.

★ General gifts

Body wash / shampoo / Body lotions
Razors & shaving foam
Socks / slipper socks
Hat / scarf /gloves
Colouring pens / soft toy
Hot water bottle
Christmas tree / decorations
Crackers /Napkins /Tablecloth

★ Gifts for a specific family

Besom can give you the Christian names and ages of a family so you can tailor your gifts just for them.

Hamper drop off point

For the Besom team to deliver the hampers in time for Christmas please could you drop your hamper at The Dell Centre, St Giles Church Drive. Ashtead. KT21 1EJ

Monday 29th Nov Between 9am – 12 noon.

Tuesday 30th Nov Between 1pm and 4pm

Contact

Lynne Slater lynne.slater@btconnect.com

The Lord has anointed me
To proclaim good news to the poor.
Isaiah 61:1

For more details about the work of
Besom please visit our website
www.besominashtead.com

Coffee morning Questionnaire

1.The Coffee morning would be open **Wednesday 10am to 12 in the church hall**. Would you be interested in attending ?

.....

2.Would you be interested in volunteering to help out occasionally? Please circle your response –
Yes No

3.What would you like to see the coffee morning offering in terms of drinks and food?

.....
.....

4.Would you like a choice of activities to be provided during the coffee morning eg. Cards/board games / children's toys? Please specify

.....
.....

5.Are community events and therefore a sense of parish community important to you?

.....
.....

6.Would you support the establishment of a parish social club and if so what activities would you like to see being organised over the course of the year ?

.....
.....

If your answer to question 2 is yes please give your contact details below-

Name-

Mobile number-

Landline number-

Email-

Many thanks for completing the questionnaire and please return to the box in the church porch marked St. Michaels coffee morning returned questionnaires by Sunday November 7th at the latest. Alternatively please send your responses to the following email address-

andymcgregor59@gmail.com

Newsletter extras

Young Adults' (18-30's) Advent Retreat: 3rd-5th December

It is a Christian tradition to use the four weeks leading up to Christmas to prepare oneself for the celebration of Jesus' birth. This weekend retreat will provide an opportunity to start your preparations for the Advent season, including talks, small group discussions, opportunities for reflection and prayer. All this revolving around the rhythm of prayer of the Benedictine community of Worth Abbey. This retreat is offered by The Open Cloister, Worth Abbey in collaboration with The Wellspring Community, Brighton.

For more information visit www.worth.co.uk/retreats or contact our youth adviser lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk

Weekly collection. If you would like to make your weekly collection by Bank transfer, or for any other payment ie Mass intentions, see details below. **St Michael's Bank Account details.**

HSBC Bank—RCD A&B St Michael Ashted

Account no. 21076248 Sort code 40-05-20

Sort Code: 40-05-20

The Meeting Room Christmas Lunch – at Fetcham Village Hall on Christmas Day.

Founded by the much-missed Graham Peddie, the Meeting Room Christmas Lunch hosts clients and friends of the charity who for many reasons would otherwise be on their own or without means to enjoy a proper Christmas lunch and happy afternoon. They rely on the generosity of our local Churches to make this happen. If you are able to help in any way email the meetingroom123@gmail.com or call 07413 978422 they will explain more about what they need and how to get it to them.