

ST MICHAEL'S NEWSLETTER



Vol. 61 No. 07

8th / 9th January 2022

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Hall wi-fi: Netgear41 (password) grandcomet148
Please ring Fr Tony on his number above in an emergency
or to request Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The Baptism of the Lord —8th/9th January

6.00pm	Intentions of Bernadette Griffin
8.30am	Mary O'Dowd RIP
10.30am	People of the Parish
Mon 10	Weekday
9.30am	Joanne Smith RIP
Tues 11	Weekday
9.30am	Mary Taylor RIP
Wed 12	NO MASS
Thurs 13	Weekday
9.30am	DRF Murphy & Cosgrove families
Fri 14	Weekday
9.30am	Well-being of Alan Kelly
Sat 15	Weekday
10am	Holy Souls <i>Followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation and at 5.15-5.45pm</i>

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time —15th/16th January

6.00pm	Tricia Cullen RIP
8.30am	People of the Parish
10.30am	Sr Teresa Redding RIP

All Masses are 'live-streamed' on YouTube 

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoCE16LH34tJGIR3_ytZLYg

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.

Ellie Wenman, Norah Adamson, Julia Perkin,
Jean Corr, Eileen Torpey, Breda Clarke,
Grace Goldie, Matthew Kiernan and, Mary McDonald
And Sr Teresa Redding, aged 92; Sister Teresa Redding RSA who taught at St Peter's School for many years. She prepared both Father Tony and Bishop Richard for First Holy Communion.
May they Rest in Peace

My Dear Friends,

A few weeks before Christmas I wrote to you about the Synod initiated by Pope Francis and the big questions we, as a parish, have been asked to help answer. The Pope recognises how much the world has changed over recent decades and the inevitability of further change to come. The Church must always be faithful to Christ and His unchanging Gospel, but that very faithfulness requires us to look at the life of the Church and ask ourselves how far our human structures are effective and may need to change if we are to be what Christ asks us to be. As is so often the case with Roman documents the language in translation is unhelpful and somewhat confusing. Indeed, I was concerned that the material would put people off taking part...and that would be not only a shame, but a huge missed opportunity to help shape the future of our Church. A small group of people have got together to try to make the process more digestible. The material has been distilled down to the key topics. The aim is to make the questions more directly relevant to our experience of faith in our Parish of St Michael's.

You might be forgiven for wondering how sincere this all is.

We have all seen "consultations" in the past which produced nothing.

Reading what Pope Francis has been saying, I am convinced that he is utterly sincere in wanting to create an atmosphere where ALL our opinions are taken seriously.

This is a worldwide exercise. It has never been attempted before.

It may or may not be a success, but I think it marks a serious attempt to give a new direction to the Church.

This weekend we will be publishing details about how to take part in this project. I hope that many of you will respond to this invitation from the Pope to contribute to the discussion.

With my love and prayers for each of you,

Fr Tony

Confirmation

The Covid pandemic has affected so much of our lives these past two years, including our Sacramental Preparation. It was not possible to hold classes for young people preparing for Confirmation in 2021. Those young people are now in Year 11 at school, which is a big exam year.

With that in mind we thought it better not to add to their stress by asking them to prepare for Confirmation at the same time.

We hope to get back to normal this coming autumn with a programme of preparation leading to celebrating the Sacrament in 2023. Meanwhile I am conscious that there are some young parishioners who would like to be confirmed this year, and not wait until the autumn.

I would like to invite any young person who would like to prepare for Confirmation this year, 2022, to make an appointment to see me so that arrangements can be made. The programme will be somewhat reduced in length, but will require a definite commitment on the part of each one to take it seriously. I recognise that some will prefer to wait until the autumn, but I think we should offer the possibility of Confirmation this year to those who wish.

Please get in touch with me during January if you wish to take part in this year's programme.

Fr Tony

From today's Gospel reading:

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove.

Reflection:

Through our baptism we are assured of God's presence working through us in the ordinary events of our lives. Urged by the Spirit, as Jesus was, we are sent to tell others, especially the least in society, that they too are God's "beloved." This "telling" will not only be in words, but through concrete action.

So, we ask ourselves:

Has our prayer revealed to us that, with Jesus, we are God's beloved child?

Do we treat others as God's beloved as well?

Our next Food Bank collection will be this weekend the 8 & 9th January 2022

- Toilet Rolls
- UHT Milk - Full Fat And Semi Skimmed
- Longlife Fruit Juice
- Instant Mash
- Tinned Meat Pies
- Custard
- Long Life Sponge Puddings
- Breakfast Cereal (Not Porridge, we have lots)
- Brown Sauce
- Sanitary Pads
- Household Cleaning Products
- Adult Toothpaste
- Shampoo And Conditioner
- Nappies Size 3
- Dog And Cat Food
- Bags For Life

You can find more details at <https://www.givefood.org.uk/needs/at/epsom-and-ewell/>

100 club winners for December 2021

are Catherine Costello and Anna Atkinson

The Alpha Course has had to be postponed due to the high Covid numbers. There will be another chance to join the Course in a few weeks' time when people can meet face to face to explore issues of faith and meaning in a safe and secure space. Email alpha@olchurch.org.uk to find out more.

Bingo: Our next monthly bingo session is slightly later this month. It is on Wednesday, 19th January in the Church Hall at 1.45pm for 2pm (**so we can start promptly**). There is no cost of living increase! The cost remains as little as £1 for 10 games. All sales money goes out as prizes. We have a 50p per ticket raffle, the proceeds of which go to My Time, a local children's charity. Free refreshments at half time.

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

No Birthdays this week !!

Men's Breakfast – our first breakfast of 2022 is at 8 am on Saturday 15th Jan, in St. Michael's Hall. Our speaker is Tony Watson, a Prison Chaplain and member of The Prison Fellowship.

The rest you know – Cereals. bacon butties, tea, coffee and excellent company. All men welcome. Bill.

Rev Richard Jones, Rev Andrew Scott and Fr Tony have called for a **Service of Christian Unity to be held at St George's at 08.00pm on Thursday 20th January 2022.** God Willing, this will proceed as planned and we will all be able to attend in person for our import annual gathering of combined Worship and Fellowship. Worldwide, Christian Unity Week runs from Tuesday 18th January to Tuesday 25th January 2022.



This Week's Readings

Isa 40:1-5, 9-11 , Psalm 103,
Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

You can see these readings at:

<https://www.universalis.com/20220109/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_vtZLYg/

You can e-mail contributions to the Newsletter to newsletter@stmichaelashtead.org.uk

Welcomers/Readers Rota

	Saturday 6pm			Sunday 8.30am			Sunday 10.30am		
8th/9th January	W1	L Taylor	W1	P Weaver	W1	Angelika Tybura			
	W2	G Ilepi	W2	M McGarr	W2	Amanda Tybura			
	R1	A McGregor	R1	S Williams	R1	C Balko			
15th/16th January	W1	D Devaney	W1	Rocio	W1	Armi Stokes			
	W2	D Reynolds	W2	Santiago	W2	Radka Dodge			
	R1	A Waters	R1	M O'Donovan	R1	James Close			

Newsletter extras

Parish Accounts—every week we used to publish what had been given in the collection the previous weekend. Including totals for retiring collections. Since covid restrictions and various lockdowns the collections have either not happened or been very low. Now we think is the right time to publish the collections again, but on a monthly basis. So the totals will include money received from Standing Orders, loose money in the baskets, planned giving envelopes and Contactless.

November 2021—standing orders— average £3614.00

Loose cash and envelopes—£1851.47

Contactless—£996, making a grand total of £6461.47

There are brand new GiftAid forms available in the Porch

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

ST MICHAEL'S COFFEE MORNING

Join us for **coffee and chats** with the
community.

All are **welcome** - young and not so young,
and you can bring a friend along!



Every Wednesday morning in the Church Hall

10am - 12.30pm
Starting 12th January

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