

ST MICHAEL'S NEWSLETTER



Vol. 60 No.4&5
20th and 27th December 2020

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To book the Parish Hall please email the office.
Hall wi-fi: [Netgear41](#) (password) [grandcomet148](#)
The Parish Office is open again! smichaeloffice@gmail.com
Please ring Fr Tony on his number above in an emergency
or to request Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Fourth Sunday of Advent - 19th/20th December 2020

6pm Nelly Marie & Mark Cecil Nicholson RIP
8.30am People of the Parish
10.30am DRF John & Agnes Murphy
Mon 21st Fr Michael Walsh RIP
Tues 22nd Tsvetanka Stoykova RIP
Wed 23rd 2.45pm Funeral Mass for Clare Derry
(Family and invited friends only)

Christmas Eve

Thurs 24th 3.0pm **First Mass of Christmas**
Vincent Smyth RIP
8.45pm Carols
9.0pm **Vigil of the Nativity ('Midnight Mass')**
Fr Tony's Intentions

Christmas Day

Fri 25th **Christmas Day Mass**
9.30am People of the Parish
All three Masses are fully booked

Boxing Day

Sat 26th St Stephen
10.0am People of the Parish

Sun 27th The Holy Family

8.30am Emily Scarborough RIP
10.30am Theresa Grogan RIP

Mon 28th The Holy Innocents

9.30am Fr Albert Van Der Most RIP

Tues 29th St Thomas Beckett
9.30am Fr Tim Garrett RIP

Wed 30th NO MASS
Thurs 31st Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas
9.30am Clare Derry RIP

Fri 1st January 2021 Mary, Mother of God
9.30am People of the Parish

Sat 2nd Jan Ss Basil the Great and St Gregory Nazianzen
10am Intentions of the Rouse & De Maria Families

Second Sunday of Christmas 2nd/3rd January

6.0pm People of the Parish
8.30am Private Intention
10.30am John Fulton RIP

My Dear Friends,

At the beginning of Advent I wrote to you about the need for us to look to the future. This year, perhaps more than ever, there is a great need to look beyond the immediate problems of 2020 and focus on the life of the parish in the next few years. For many of us this Christmas will be more quiet than usual, and this might give us time to look back on the past year and think about the roller coaster of a year it has been. The experience of 2020 has been different for each of us, but experience has little value unless we reflect on it and learn from it. For myself I am hoping to do that in the days after Christmas. I would encourage you to do the same.

I am convinced that there are lessons we need to learn from this most difficult year.

I am sure that there are also lessons to be learnt for the Church at every level, and certainly here in the Parish and in the Diocese. I have already asked you to offer your own thoughts on the way forward for the Parish in 2021. I think we need both "blue cloud" thinking as we imagine what we would like to see, but also some very practical suggestions for the next few months.

I will end by wishing you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas. (If it can also be "merry", so much the better.)

I hope that 2021 will be a year of grace and renewal for all of us.

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Sureeporn Crosby,

Shaun Wallace, Simon Warren, Mavis Bazeley,
Philip MacDonald, Sylvia Crampin, Margaret McArdle,
Mike Morley, Peggy Brogan, George Stuart Baxter,
Sheila Hanks, Sarah Bishop,
Michael Roche, 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 Machesse
and all who need our prayers.

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

Fr Bernard McGrath, Thomas Dowd, Frank McCaffry,
Judi Stevens, Karl Hickey, Karen Suwalski, William Torpey,
Agnes Woods, Bernard Bright, Edna Warnock, Mary Cahill,
Patricia Dante, Tadeus Sherlonjak, Louise De Almeida,
Christopher Mildner, Don Hicks, Elizabeth Liddy
Constance Chart, Philip Lacey, Margaret Aiken,
James Fitzgerald, Maureen Smith, Margaret Denis,
James Peevey, Jean McCarthy, Eamonn Duff,
Clare De Maria, Patrick Donelan, Nora Clinnick
Anna Pontone
May they Rest in Peace

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

**WE WISH ALL PARISHIONERS AND THEIR FAMILIES A
HAPPY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS**

Our offering at Christmas is a gift to Fr Tony personally. Nevertheless it needs to go through the Parish accounts so please Gift Aid it if you can.

Christmas Trumpet – Fr Tony will be handing the Parish Magazine out after Mass so that no one else will have touched it. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to make it possible. *Alison*

From today's Gospel reading:

The angel said to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you....for nothing will be impossible for God."

Reflection:

Through our Baptism and Confirmation, we too have been overshadowed by the Spirit and now we look for ways to let the Spirit be active through our lives as we serve the Lord. When we come up against obstacles and discouragement in our mission, we will hear an echo of today's gospel, "For nothing is impossible for God."

So, we ask ourselves:

What do I need to do to say "Yes" to God in my life?
Do I trust that God will help me do what feels impossible on my own?

The Passage – a charitable organisation supporting the homeless is holding an online concert of classical music this Christmas and are selling tickets. They are also selling a Christmas Cookbook with recipes from the stars! **See page 4 for details.**

Calling all Young Adults of the Diocese (20-30 somethings)

Before the current restrictions, our Youth and Young Adults' Advisor had plenty of big plans for helping you get to know other Catholics of a similar age, to form communities where you are free to be yourself, to explore your faith, to grow in friendship, and to be a safe place for you to realize your Catholic identity.

However, this has all had to go on hold. We cannot have a Prosecco and Praise night and remain Covid secure! What we would like to do is invite anyone who is interested to join a focus group. This group will meet virtually to discuss the needs and desires of young adults in the Church, and, if you would like, be involved in coming up with some creative ways to meet those needs.

If this sounds like a project you would like to be a part of, please contact the Youth Service Secretary Rosie at rosie.read@abdiocese.org.uk or 01293 651161

Online Giving – Coronavirus

When our Church was closed, the Coronavirus affected us materially as well as spiritually. Bills keep coming, but income is significantly down.

A good many parishioners give via standing order. If you can do this, it simplifies the admin and is great for self-distancing!

For more details email 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.**

Welcomers and readers

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----------------|--------|---------------|---------|------------------|
| | 6pm | | 8.30am | | 10.30am | |
| 19th /20th December | W1 | Lillian Baldwin | W1 | David Warnock | W1 | Cristina Bellini |
| | W2 | M Anderson | W2 | | W2 | James Close |
| | R1 | Fina Tisi | R1 | Garry Hayter | R1 | Daisy McBride |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

20 Sunday - Ava Atkins 5
22 Tuesday Imogen Langley 12
23 Wednesday Alexandra Shiels Sarawan 7
28 Monday Alice Ekong 7, Matilda Kearney 9,
Edward Shiels Sarawan 9
30 Wednesday Margot & Nicholas Leonard 5
31 Thursday Danielle Robinson 11, Fabio Merlini 5

Christmas Mass bookings

Thank you to all of you who emailed or telephoned the office to book a place at Mass for the Christmas weekend.

The 3pm Christmas Eve, 9pm Christmas Eve and 9.30am Christmas Day **are now fully booked. You do not now need to book for Sunday 27th.**

This weighs heavy on our hearts at this time of year, as we do not wish in any way want to limit the number of people coming to the Church, however, everyone knows the restrictions and we have to abide by them.

We have been emailing or ringing people with a row number so that you will have an allocated seat in the Church in order to maximize our space. Please do not turn up without a confirmed booking. If you have any queries please ring on Monday 21st. Thank you for your patience and understanding. *Alison and Jan*

Emails – a Christmas office plea...if your email address bears no relation to your name or your family/childrens names can you make that clear in your email. That would help so much. Thank you

Parish Bereavement Team-

2020 has been a difficult year in so many ways, and one example of this is through experiencing bereavement which can take many forms-loss of a loved, family separation or indeed loss of a job. If therefore you need someone to talk to please contact the parish office by emailing - smichaeloffice@gmail.com . You will then be contacted by a member of the Parish bereavement team who will be available to offer support.

CAFOD Are you looking for that special Christmas present? Check out CAFOD World Gifts **on page 5** and see also their lists of Advent resources and Online Events.

Breaking Bread – is a local charity providing meals and hampers to local families who are struggling. If you are in need, would like to help or just find out more, they have a beautiful website <https://breakingbread.org.uk/>

This Week's Readings

2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a,16; Ps 89;
Romans 16: 25-27; Luke 1: 26-38

You can see these readings at:

<https://www.universalis.com/20201220/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_vtZLYq/

You can e-mail contributions to the Newsletter to newsletter@stmichaelashtead.org.uk to arrive by 9.30am on Friday morning

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

St Michael's Thursday on-line Worship and Prayer

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus*

1Thessalonians 5:16-18).



On-line prayer on a Thursday evening has become a part of our church life at St Michael's. When we were in the first lockdown, we also worshipped online at Easter, to celebrate the Assumption and for the Children's Liturgy. These occasions were a wonderful opportunity to quite literally see one another and keep a sense of our church community through shared worship. Bill O'Neill and Jeff Pearce worked especially hard to work out the technicalities of this style of worship and patiently supported those new to the technology. *God has created me to do Him some special service* wrote John Henry Newman!

Thursday evening prayer meetings have been a source of comfort and spiritual growth (please God) through the pandemic. We almost always pray for the current situation and for the sick and the bereaved. We have prayed every week for an early vaccine and treatments, and for all those suffering as a result of Covid 19. But in general we meet to share our worship and prayers. We have also grown together by having a variety of parishioners lead our sessions, sharing their thoughts and concerns about issues close to their hearts. We have learnt about and prayed for Prisoners, Food Poverty, the work of CAFOD, the crisis in Yemen, Aid to the Church in Need, Wealth and Faith, and a host of other challenging and inspiring topics. Sometimes we meet to pray the rosary together, or as last week, share a meditation on the gospel. Last night Ted Le Riche led us in a beautiful Service of Remembrance.

During December the Thursday group is to turn into one big Advent Group. Why not think about joining us if you haven't before? If you'd like to receive the electronic link to join in, please email Alison (smichaeloffice@gmail.com) and she'll add you to the Parish circulation list. Or contact me directly on k.lynych4@btinternet.com if you'd rather talk about how these meetings work before joining. I'd be delighted to then talk to you.



Please would you support the work of The Passage with homeless people by advertising our annual concert in your newsletter. The concert this year is online.

We are also selling The Passage Cookbook.

The Passage presents *A Night under The Stars* filmed at the London Coliseum from classical pianist, Stephen Hough, CBE; British baritone Huw Montague Rendall; violinist Shlomy Dobrinsky; The Orion Orchestra; Conductor, Toby Purser and song pianist, Gary Matthewman.

Your host is Rory Bremner with festive readings from Ann Murray and Michael Morpurgo.

The London Philharmonic Choir and London Youth Choir will present a special virtual performance of Bogoroditse Devo from Rachmaninoff's Vespers.

Tickets at <https://tinyurl.com/PassageConcert>

Please also support our work by purchasing A Taste of Home: 120 Delicious Recipes from Leading Chefs and Celebrities from

<https://tinyurl.com/PassageCookbook>

CAFOD Parish newsletter inserts for World Gifts/Advent



CAFOD World Gifts

World Gifts, CAFOD's range of virtual gifts, make a real difference to families living in poverty across the world. While we have the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown here, we can still be good neighbours to our sisters and brothers overseas by giving World Gifts as Christmas presents to family and friends. The Keep Clean Kit gift for £6 and the Vegetable Garden gift for £10 are just two gifts that will help vulnerable families affected by the pandemic to protect and feed themselves. Let's spread joy and hope around the world this Christmas.

Visit cafod.org.uk/worldgifts.

Celebrate Advent with CAFOD

After a year of uncertainty, we all need the hope, peace and true comfort and joy that the Advent season can offer. CAFOD has a range of resources and virtual events to help us come together online to pray, reflect and celebrate as we prepare for the coming of our Lord. Visit cafod.org.uk/parishes to learn more. This Advent you can help share comfort and joy with families around the world, like Saba's. Saba and her three children fled their home in Myanmar to escape horrific violence and persecution. They were targeted because of their ethnicity. Thanks to your support last year, Saba was given essential materials to build a shelter – so finally her children have a safe place to call home.

We can stretch out our hands to people living in poverty and refugees by donating to CAFOD's Advent Appeal at cafod.org.uk/advent.



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON

JUSTICE AND PEACE ASSEMBLY WEBINAR

How should we respond to the
current food poverty crisis?

The number of people experiencing food insecurity has **increased dramatically during the Covid-19 crisis**, with families across our Diocese under increasing pressure. Trussell Trust food banks distributed more than **1.2 million** emergency food parcels to people in the UK between April 1st and September 30th this year, with **2,003 food parcels given to children**.

Join our free Justice and Peace Webinar and find out what our parishes can do to help.

January 16th 2021

10.00am - 12.30pm

To book your free place and receive the zoom link contact:

Rosie Read

rosie.read@abdiocese.org.uk.

To find out more visit our website:

<https://abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/news>

www.abdiocese.org.uk

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