

ST MICHAEL'S NEWSLETTER



Vol. 60 No. 2
5th/6th December 2020

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Website: www.stmichaelashted.org.uk
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.

Second Sunday of Advent

6pm	Joanne Smith Carter RIP	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.30am	People of the Parish	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10.30am	John Fulton RIP	<input type="checkbox"/>

Mon 7th	Kieran Fry RIP	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Tues 8th	Fr Tony Whale RIP	<input type="checkbox"/>
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3pm	Eucharistic Service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wed 9 th	NO MASS	

Thurs 10th	Fr John Healey RIP	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Fri 11th	Tony & Mary Sreeves RIP	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Sat 12th	10am Vincent Smyth RIP	<input type="checkbox"/>
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12th /13th December 2020

6pm	Frank Bough RIP	<input type="checkbox"/>
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8.30am	May Fernandez Robinson RIP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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10.30am	People of the Parish	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Fr Tony writes...

My Dear Friends,

December 1st is always a special day for me and for all of us who studied at the English College in Rome. The Venerable English College dates back to the year 1362. It began life as a hospice for English pilgrims in Rome. After the Reformation, In 1579 Dr William Allen, Cardinal Allen, persuaded Pope Gregory XIII to establish it as a seminary to train priests for the English mission. 44 students of the College gave their lives for the faith, being put to death during the years of persecution.

Each year on December 1st we remember the first of these, St Ralph Sherwin and his companions. It was in 1581 on December 1st that Ralph Sherwin, Alexander Bryant and Edmund Campion were hanged drawn and quartered at Tyburn.

All three were Oxford men. Ralph Sherwin won a scholarship to Exeter College. He graduated in 1574 with a reputation as a philosopher, and an outstanding record in Greek and Hebrew. Alexander Bryant went to Hertford college at an early age. He became a convert under the influence of Fr Robert Parsons. He was reputed to be the most handsome man in Oxford in his time. Edmund Campion was widely regarded as among the most brilliant men of his generation. It is said that Queen Elizabeth I was willing to offer Campion the Archbishopric of Canterbury if only he would renounce his faith.

The long years of persecution saw a great number of men and women, priests, religious and laity, put to death for the Faith. In the English College, naturally, we focus our thoughts on this day each year on the priests from the College who have gone before us to work on the English Mission, and who gave their lives to keep the Catholic Faith alive in England and Wales. I think we can learn a lot as we reflect on their lives.

Those men could not have achieved what they did without the help of brave and determined lay people. If the Church survived at all, it was due, under God, to the close relationship between the hunted priests and the ordinary men and women who were prepared to risk everything to keep the Faith alive.

Think of women like Margaret Clitherow and Anne Line who paid the ultimate penalty for harbouring priests. Think of the families who provided hiding places in their homes; Lay brother, Nicholas Owen who built hiding holes all over England. Think of the men who took the huge risk of printing and distributing Edmund Campion's famous book "Ten Reasons ". Again we should remember now unknown men and women, even children, who acted as "go-betweens" and messengers.

The point I want to make is that the English Mission depended on priests and people united in a common enterprise. They shared a common love for the Mass and the Sacraments. But those men from the English College and the other seminaries overseas, could not have carried out their ministry without the essential cooperation of lay men and women.

In the very different circumstances of the Church in England and Wales today, it is no less true that an effective collaboration between priests and laity is essential if the Church is to survive and flourish in the years ahead. May the example of the martyrs give us encouragement and inspiration as we face an uncertain future. May priests and laity recognise our need for each other in our common obedience to Christ's command: "Go and teach all nations."

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



PLEASE PRAY FOR

Guy Bailey, Vivianne Cassar, Shaun Wallace, Simon Warren, Mavis Bazeley, Philip MacDonald, Sylvia Crampin, Clare Derry, Margaret McArdle, Mike Morley, Peggy Brogan, George Stuart Baxter, Bart Gruzalski, 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 Machese **and all who need our prayers.**

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

Marie Menjou, Joanne Smith Carter, Barbara Fullerton, Nora McCaughtrie, Feliks Lewandowski, Anthony Turner, Kieran Fry, John Bird, Michael Brown, Regina Hickey, Michael Lynch.
May they Rest in Peace

Coronavirus Update

<https://www.stmichaelashtead.org.uk/Corona.php>

Please note that the new rules ask us not to socialise after public events.

Ann McEntire would like to say 'A belated thank you to the Parish for my beautiful flowers given to me for my big Birthday. God bless you all.'

From today's Isaiah reading:

In the desert prepare the way of the Lord!
Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low.

Reflection:

Advent invites us to clean up our act and straighten things up. It is not a time to bargain or convince God to act on our behalf. God is already well disposed towards us and will help us "Prepare the way of the Lord."

So we ask ourselves:

What valleys and empty places in my life need filling in?
What mountains and obstacles to God need levelling
What rough edges need smoothing?

Thursday Evening Prayer 7pm on-line – Do join us.

See page 3 or email k.lynych4@btinternet.com

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 stmichaelweb@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

5 th /6 th December	W1	A Caprano Wint	W1	Amanda Tybura	W1	Alick Friend
	W2	Lillian Baldwin	W2	Angelika Tybura	W2	Helen Adams
	R1	Alan Waters	R1	Martin O'Donovan	R1	Gill Gruzalski
12 th /13 th December	W1	R. Simonetti	W1	Penny Weaver	W1	Kathryn Casson
	W2	Ellie Watson	W2		W2	James Close
	R1	Philippa Dupenois	R1	David Gwyther	R1	Faye Jenkins

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Sunday Alex de Schulthess 12, Oliver De Souza Bridge, 4, Alexa Lang 3.

Monday Nylah Luisis-Lynd, 8.

Wednesday Benjamin Newman 10, Dylan Watkins 10.

Thursday Helena Mansefield, 6.

Friday Freya Mancey, 11.

Saturday Brendan Owen 11, Ava Atkins 5.

Christmas Mass bookings

From 24th December - 27th December we will have to operate a booking system for Mass.

Please let the office know which of the following Masses you wish to attend from Christmas Eve until Sunday 27th. During this period there are 7 Masses from which to choose.

Email stmichaeloffice@gmail.com with the number of people in your 'bubble'. Please also let us know if you change your mind, so that space is freed up for another family.

You can ring as well, but it will have to be in office hours.

Mon/Wed/Fri 9.45am -12noon on 01372 272267

Thursday 24th: Christmas Eve – 3pm Children's Mass
9pm 'Midnight Mass'

Friday 25th: Christmas Day – 9.30am Family Mass

Saturday 26th: Feast of St Stephen 10am Mass

6pm Mass

Sunday 27th: Feast of the Holy Family – 8.30am Mass

10.30am Mass

Compass is a project of CVP (Catholic Vocations Project). CVP is supported by a group of religious women and men in the UK who are interested in promoting a culture of vocation. **See page 4.**

CAFOD Are you looking for that special Christmas present? Check out CAFOD World Gifts **on page 6** and see also their lists of Advent resources and Online Events.

Men's Breakfast – Our final 'Online' breakfast of the year will be on Saturday 12th December at 9.30 am.

With coffee and bacon sandwiches – but only if you provide them yourself!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81462023857>

Meeting ID: 814 6202 3857

This Week's Readings

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11; Psalm 85;

2 Peter 3: 8-14; Mark 1: 1-8

You can see these readings at:

<https://www.universalis.com/20201206/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_ytZLYq/

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.

Life turned upside down in these Covid-19 times?

Mary Joseph

Shepherds & Kings

Elizabeth Zechariah

Join us to reflect on some of the characters in the Christmas story whose lives were also radically changed.

How is God speaking to us through these stories today?

email us for the link:
CompassInAdvent@gmail.com

Compass in Advent

CATHOLIC VOCATIONS PROJECT

Young Adults (18-35)
27th Nov, 4th, 11th, 18th Dec 2020
7pm

Explore your Spiritual Future

Vocation is a call, an adventure and a journey - explore yours

Compass is a project of CVP (Catholic Vocations Project). CVP is supported by a group of religious women and men in the UK who are interested in promoting a culture of vocation in our Church.

Compass in Advent ...preparing for Christmas Link to Facebook event here:

<https://bit.ly/CompassInAdvent>

Compass in #Advent. Our lives are being turned upside down at the moment due to #COVID19 - Join us to reflect on some of the characters in the #Christmas story whose lives were also radically changed. Email us:

CompassInAdvent@gmail.com More info: <https://bit.ly/CompassInAdvent>

Join us to reflect on some of the characters in the Christmas story whose lives were also radically changed.

How is God speaking to us through these stories today?

Each Friday we will focus on one set of characters. The meeting will also include a sharing of a contemporary story of vocation/call. There will be time for sharing, questions and discussion.

Who? – Young adults 18-35

When? Fridays - 27th Nov, 4th , 11th , 18th Dec

Time? 7pm for one hour

Zoom link: email us on CompassInAdvent@gmail.com for the link and for any other information

St Michael's Catholic Church

The Marld, Ashtead, Surrey KT21 1RS

PHOTOGRAPHS and LIVE STREAMING CONSENT FORM

I am aware that some Masses and other celebrations in St Michael's Church, Ashtead will be live streamed and may be recorded and I consent to my image or my child's image appearing.

I also consent to a photograph/still image in which I appear being published on (a) The Parish Website, (b) The Parish Magazine, (c) The A & B News (the Diocesan Newspaper) (d) local press or (e) Parish Social Media

Full Name.....

Signature.....

Parental Consent

Full Name

Relationship with child

Signature.....

Date.....

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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