

ST MICHAEL'S NEWSLETTER



Vol. 60 No.7
9th/10th January 2021

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

The Baptism of the Lord - 9th/10th January 2021

6.0pm Joanne Smith RIP
8.30am People of the Parish
10.30am Fr Tim Garrett RIP

Mon 11th Weekday
9.30am Intentions of Michael O'Hare

Tues 12th Weekday
9.30am Mary Taylor RIP

Wed 13th **NO MASS**

Thurs 14th Weekday
9.30am Intentions of Margaret & Harold Bishop

Fri 15th Weekday
9.30am James White RIP

Sat 16th Weekday
10am Vacant Intention

Second Sunday of the Year – 16th/17th January 2021

6.0pm Vacant Intention
8.30am Vacant Intention
10.30am People of the Parish

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

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,
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.

My Dear Friends,

There has long been a superstition that to leave the Christmas decorations in place after Twelfth Night is to invite bad luck.



This year, it seems that a lot of people want to leave the decorations in place in an attempt to hold on to something of the Christmas spirit.

As a matter of fact, this is not a new idea at all. Traditionally Christmas continued well into the New Year until Candlemas on February 2nd, when we celebrate the Presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple.

In Italy Christmas decorations in church frequently remain until that date.

I remember just a few years ago being invited to celebrate High Mass in an ancient Roman basilica on Candlemas, when, after Mass, we went in procession to the crib. The crib was honoured with incense as at Christmas, and I was asked to bless the congregation with the statue of the child Jesus. This was the final Christmas Liturgy.

I don't intend to do that here, but I do want to encourage you to think about how to keep the spirit of Christmas alive as we face yet another depressing lockdown. I hope that you will find time to pray at home, and if possible, to pray as a family. Whether you are here with us in church for Mass or sharing the Mass online I would ask you to make a point of praying for all of us in the Parish and especially for those who are suffering in any way at this stressful time.

As we face the uncertainties of this New Year it is more necessary than ever for us to draw closer to Our Lord in prayer.

With my love and prayers for each of you.

Fr Tony

Lockdown 3 –

The Church remains open and Mass continues...

This is just to remind everyone that we cannot relax but must redouble our efforts to continue wearing a mask, use the hand sanitizer and clean the areas where we have been sitting. Please remember to sign in or use the QR venue code and not to 'hang' round the porch area (we all like to chat) but to move quickly to the outside. It is no doubt that the vaccine is great news, so that at some point in 2021 these restrictions will be a thing of the past.

Happy New Year from the newsletter team.

In line with Government guidelines the Parish Office will only be 'manned' when necessary. Please email with enquiries smichaeloffice@gmail.com

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

Eileen Torpey, Breda Clarke,
Grace Goldie, Matthew Kiernan,
Mary McDonald, Moira Swarbrick,
Harry Bishop

May they Rest in Peace

From today's Gospel reading:

On coming out of the water Jesus saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Reflection:

John the Baptist promised that Jesus would baptize us with the Spirit. Baptism inaugurated Jesus' mission and Mark reminds us that, through our baptism, we too are sent on mission. We are not baptized into a stay-at-home community to enjoy our gatherings, sing our hymns and say our prayers. Through our baptism each of us has been called to serve others in Christ's name.

So, we ask ourselves:

Am I aware that baptism means more than membership in a church?

What mission has the Holy Spirit given me as a baptized Christian?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Connie Draper 12 on Saturday
Keara Townsend 13, Connor McLean 12 on Monday
Dilara Coskuner 12 on Wednesday
Finley Ware 11, Aidan Matthias Crouzet-Smith 11,
Zoe Reynolds 8, Shay McNamara 9 on Friday

Weekend	Weekend Masses					
	Saturday 6:00 pm		Sunday 8:30 am		Sunday 10:30 am	
9 th /10 th Jan	W1	W Buckland	W1	P Weaver	W1	C McBride
	W2		W2	K Saeki	W2	
	W3		W3		W3	
	R1	T LeRiche	R1	P Dupénois	R1	D McBride
16 th /17 th Jan	W1	L Baldwin	W1	Rocio	W1	
	W2		W2	Santiago	W2	
	W3		W3		W3	
	R1	M Anderson	R1	D Gwyther	R1	

As you can see from the Welcomers Rota above, we are very thin on the ground for volunteers at the moment. We completely understand why you may feel unable to come to Church at the moment but if you are there and can help please do put yourself forward.

Emails – a new year 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.

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.**

This Week's Readings

Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7; Psalm 29;
Acts 10:34-38; Mark 1: 7-11
You can see these readings at:

<https://www.universalis.com/20210110/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_ytZLYg/

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.

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.



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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