ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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2nd AUGUST 2026
Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A

Parish Office:	Rocío Opazo-Aniotz Mon, Wed, Fri: 9:30am—12:30pm
Priest:	Fr Chris Bergin 07356 085590 chris.bergin@abdiocese.org.uk
Deacon:	Rev David Pattinson 07788 916910
Safeguarding:	01372 378916 sg1.ashtead@abdiocese.org.uk
Website:	www.stmichaelashtead.org.uk
Facebook Group:	St Michaels Ashtead

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

2nd AUGUST 2026

SAT 1st Aug	**ST ALPHONSUS LIGOURI, BISHOP, DOCTOR**
10am	Marina Dipre RIP
6pm	People of the Parish
SUN 2	**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
8:30am	Ignatius Abraham RIP
10:30am	Robert Chaning Pearce RIP
MON 3	**FERIA IN ORDINARY TIME**
10am	In thanksgiving for our new Bishop
TUE 4	**ST JOHN MARIA VIANNEY, PRIEST**
10am	Danuta and Alek Bil RIP
WED 5	**FERIA IN ORDINARY TIME**
10am	Monica Volpin
THU 6	**THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD**
	No Mass
FRI 7	**FERIA IN ORDINARY TIME**
5pm	Holy Hour
6pm	Priest's Intentions
SAT 8	**ST DOMINIC**
10am	Vincent Leslie de Lima RIP
SUN 9	**NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
8:30am	People of the Parish
10:30am	Irene Sullivan RIP

Adoration: Friday, 5pm-6pm

Reconciliation: Friday, 5pm-6pm; Saturday, after 10am Mass or by appointment

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

(Mass Book p. 111)

Psalm 145 *You open your hand and fulfil us, O Lord*

Accompanying people with dignity People across our family of faith have welcomed comments made by the Labour Prime Minister Andy Burnham, on the Terminally Ill Adults End of Life Bill. The Bill - which was re-introduced to Parliament by Lauren Edwards MP in June - is due to be voted on in the House of Commons on Friday 11 September despite strong opposition from Christian, Muslim and Jewish groups, and significant ethical and medical concerns raised by organisations including the British Geriatrics Society, The Association of Palliative Medicine, Disability Rights UK and The Royal College of Psychiatrists.

The Prime Minister affirmed his view that the funding of palliative and social care should be "fixed" before a change in the law to allow Assisted Dying (also referred to as Assisted Suicide) is considered, highlighting his belief that: "it is very challenging to introduce [the] wider debate in a context of people not receiving that care and having peace of mind about that care."

Responding to the news on behalf of the Catholic Bishops of England & Wales, Archbishop John Sherrington called it a "fundamentally flawed" Bill and warned that "people who are dying are vulnerable and need compassionate care and spiritual accompaniment until their last breath. We have consistently called for meaningful investment in palliative and end of life care as an appropriate focus to uphold the dignity of all at the end of life and opposed a Bill seeking to legalise assisted suicide.

It is thought that the Government will hold a neutral position on the Bill, with people of all faiths and none who oppose the legislation urged to contact their MP before September's parliamentary vote.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Frances Meade RIP who died recently and of all those whose anniversaries occur at about this time

Caitlin McCormack, Elio De Carlo, Esther Hobday, Henry Kearney, Hilary Ward, Jean Wheeler, Molly Andrews, Pauline Hooper, Alan Herring

May they rest in peace

Please pray for the wellbeing of

Steve Rouse, Lorraine Lynch, Bill O'Neill, Sarah Gerth, Shaun Wallace, Peggy Brogan, Bill Danson, Nina Grant, Rachel Fulton, Gabriela Castaños, Lynn Lenoci (nee Ficken), Maria Welsby, Garrick Thordsen, Ann McEntire, Sally Dick, Remy Perumal, Niamh Kilcullen, Grainne Freeman, Barbara Quinlan, Francis D'Silva and John O'Driscoll

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

St. Michael's Help Team
(Queries to: caromking8@gmail.com**)**

Drivers who can help with getting **a lift to a hospital appointment**, or **help with shopping** are below.

W/C 04.08	**Laura Jackson 07919287675**
	Caroline King 07905 360466
W/C 11.07	**Lisa Dowd-Patel 07966 619357**
	David Hiley 07522 435062
W/C 18/08	**Keith Merrett 07931 377337**
	David Hiley 07522 435062
Back-Up	**Caroline King 07905 360466**

Are you new? Welcome to St Michael's!
A very warm welcome and our prayers for you and all your loved ones. It would be great if you could register with the parish - there's a link on our website www.stmichaelashtead.org.uk and if you'd like to find out about opportunities for taking part in parish life, speak to Fr Chris, Deacon David or one of our Welcomers. We look forward to saying hello!

Growing in faith and friendship. One of the striking features of our Emmaus programme has been how developing friendships has enabled and encouraged growing in faith. Trusted relationships mean a safe space in which to explore questions about faith and its application to daily life. So we'd like to establish a regular opportunity for anyone and everyone to come together and deepen both friendships and faith.
The suggestion is to meet on the **First Tuesday** of the month (beginning Sept 1st), **7pm, St Michael's Hall**. We'll begin with a social time, move into faith refection and end with prayer. Come along, bring a friend, make some new friends!

"Even just one of these children" is the theme that Pope Leo XIV has chosen as the title for his message for the **112th World Day of Migrants and Refugees**, which will be marked on the 27th September.

This makes a clear reference to the Gospel according to Matthew: "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me" (*Mt* 18:5). With this choice, the Holy Father intends to express the Church's concern for minors directly involved in migration, recalling the duty to welcome each one of them as the Gospel teaches us.

This is not the first time that the Popes have spoken authoritatively on this issue, but the current migration situation presents new challenges that seriously threaten the rights and dignity of the youngest among us and require urgent and effective responses. Therefore, this is not a matter of discussing numbers or percentages, because "even just one" has the highest value.

Raspberry Tea in support of Christian Aid, Friday 7th August, 3—5 pm at The Dell Centre.

Summer is here, and what better way to celebrate the season than with a cup of tea, delicious cakes, scones, and a generous helping of community spirit. Either book your tickets online, or pay on the day, adults £10, children £5. **Don't forget to bring cash for the raffle tickets**!

St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Leatherhead
Prospective Parents Open Morning will be on Tuesday 10th November and Tuesday 17th November at 9.30 am. Please email the school office to book your place. School Office email: office@stpeters-leatherhead.surrey.sch.uk

Celebrating Baptism—It's a joy for us to accompany families who are preparing for the baptism of their children as it's a significant moment for the whole family growing in faith. We're doing this in partnership with St Joseph's, Epsom; for more details, and forms, please speak to Fr Chris or Deacon David.

We pray for **Maxwell and Finn Sweetman** who will be baptised at St Michael's on Sunday 9th August at 12:30pm.

Coffee, tea, squash and biscuits are available **every Sunday after 10.30am Mass** in the Hall. Please do join in and meet fellow parishioners.

Wednesday Café, between 10.30am and 12.30pm in the church hall. Everyone is welcome. A selection of teas/ coffees and cakes. Come along to the social event of the week! We support Action in Africa and CAFOD.

We pray for the soul of Robert Chaning Pearce RIP, whose ashes will be interred in St Michael's Garden of Remembrance on Saturday 8th August after the 10am Mass. We also pray for his wife Marina and all those who mourn him.

Fr Stephen Wang will be installed as the Sixth Bishop of the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton on Monday 19 October at 12 noon. The Mass of Episcopal Ordination, which takes place on the Feast of St Philip Howard, will include invited representatives from across our family of faith (ticket only and be livestreamed from Arundel Cathedral.

Bishop Stephen will celebrate a special **Mass of Welcome** for people across our Diocese at Worth Abbey near Crawley, on **Saturday 24 October at 11.30am;** further details will be announced soon.

MARRIAGE HELP. Summer holidays can be a stressful time for some couples. Whether things feel distant or you're facing serious challenges, Retrouvaille offers a safe, confidential way to rebuild trust, reconnect, and move forward—together. Next dates: 2nd - 4th Oct. www.retrouvaille.org.uk/info Tel: 0788 7296983

Magnifica Humanitas. Pope Leo's encyclical on **Safeguarding the Human Person in the Time of Artificial Intelligence is available in the Parish shop (price £7).** Pope Leo invites us to reflect on the message of the Gospel as expressed in Catholic Social Teaching and how to apply it with confidence to our times.

Ways for you to contribute to the Finances:

Please set up your standing order directly with your bank using the details below, or use the contactless machine in the narthex or cash, all is greatly appreciated. Don't forget your Gift Aid form (available in the narthex) if you are a taxpayer.

RCD A&B St Michael Ashtead

A/C No. 21076248

Sort Code: 40-05-20

Bank Reference: Your Name

Thank you to everyone who contributes so generously

Sunday 26th July Offertory: £1281.82

Second collection for St Columban Missionaries: £699.21