



ST MICHAEL'S PARISH

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24 March 2019, Third Sunday of Lent, Year C

PLEASE PRAY for the repose of the soul of Fr Charles Jefferies who died on March 2nd. Many of us will remember his visits to this parish at Christmas and Easter. His funeral will take place in Surrey on Tuesday. Please pray too for all whose anniversary occurs at this time including Peter Humphries, Patrick Cronin and Edward Hatcher. May they rest in peace.

YEAR OF PRAYER

To be 'tender of heart', to be humble is one of the more attractive personality traits we see in people. Humility can best be described as a "generosity of spirit" – a willingness to see our own interests in others – to evaluate our attitudes and see the face of God in each and every one of our neighbours, friends and family members. We know that this is not always easy. When we feel insecure, anxious or envious, it is easier for us to see the negative and to engage in putting others down, to make quick and unkind judgements. But Jesus warns against this way of being. Instead he invites us to embrace an abundance of spirit, a generosity towards other people, that shows the fruit of being a true follower. By living like this we will flourish, we will bear fruit. We will not wither and die but live! In the little parable of the fig tree there is good news. There is time to learn and to grow in humility. The gardener says to the owner – be patient – I will keep tending the tree, feeding it and nurturing it, until it bears fruit. If it doesn't bear fruit in the next season, then you can cut it down. It seems we have a little time to learn to be tender-hearted.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

There will be Stations of the Cross after the 9.15am Mass on each Friday during Lent with the exception of this Friday, 29th March.

PATHWAY

The Easter cards have just arrived! The Pathway Shop is open this week, Sunday 24th, and as requested we will be selling Easter Cards from the Carmelite Monastery at Walsingham. All proceeds go to St Michael's.

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER LENT LUNCHES

Our second Lent Lunch will be on April 3rd, 12.30 to 1.30pm in the parish room. Come and enjoy homemade soup, fresh rolls and good company. Please note that this will take the place of the usual Coffee & Conversation meeting for April. Suggested donation is £3.50 to include tea or coffee. Everyone welcome.

MISSIO – calling red box holders

This Month of March is time to call in all those red Mission boxes for emptying again. If you hold a red box, please try to bring it to Mass by next Sunday. All that small cash really does add up. Also now is a good time to remind everyone to please check the pigeon holes on a regular basis. There are new Mission magazines to be collected, but some, sadly, have not been taken from the previous issue.

100 CLUB

The Draw for March will take place after Mass today in the parish room. You can join any time - £12/year – please see Julia to learn more. Good luck everyone.



CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK 24 – 31 March 2019

Sun	Third Sunday of Lent (<i>John Swift RIP</i>)	Mass at 9.00am
Mon	The Annunciation of the Lord	No Service
Tue	Weekday of Lent	Mass at 9.15am
Wed	Weekday of Lent	No Service
Thur	Weekday of Lent	No Service
Fri	Weekday of Lent	Mass at 9.15am, Requiem Mass for John Joseph Love at 12 noon
Sat	Weekday of Lent	No Service
Sun	Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare) (<i>Peter Humphries RIP</i>)	Mass at 9.00am

FROM THE ROTAS

TODAY 24 March

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion Frances Floyd, Francis Moreland, Charles Rossiter
Readers Caroline Hutton, Rhona Carr
Coffee Liz and Martin Green

THIS WEEK AND NEXT SUNDAY 25 - 31 March

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion Christine Davies, Craig and Clare Sharp
Readers Edward Moreland, Andrew Barnes
Welcome Jacky Tucker
Coffee Jane and Gerald Andrews
Cleaning Teresa Harrison and Margaret van Eyken
Flowers Lent, no flowers

OFFERTORY COLLECTION last Sunday = £190.45 (incl. £32.00 gift aided). Thank you.

PARISH DIARY

Mon 25 Mar 5.15pm First Holy Communion preparation class in the parish room.
Wed 27 Mar 4 – 5.30pm Legion of Mary meeting in the parish room
Wed 3 Apr 12.30pm Lent Lunch in the parish room
Wed 3 Apr 7.30pm Christians Together meeting in the parish room.

CONCERT AT ST MICHAEL'S

A date for your diary - Saturday 4th May, a SPRING CONCERT: Tony Bevan and musicians. Tickets £7.50 to include a glass of wine or beer and a plate of hot food. All proceeds to St Michael's.

BEST LENT EVER

What can you do with 40 days? "Become the best version of yourself" is the message in a daily reflection on line. Thought provoking, brief talks are delivered daily to your inbox. Go to <http://dynamiccatholic.com> to learn more.

BRASSED OFF

Kathy, who has cared for the church brassware over many years, finds herself no longer able to continue. We need someone to take over on a regular basis. Offers please to Jacky or Fr Bede.

KNITTING GROUP

Interested in knitting? A group meet at the Salvation Army on Thursdays 2:30 - 4:00 pm. Coffee and biscuits served, 50p donation. Join this welcoming and helpful group in a warm and relaxing atmosphere.

PILGRIMAGE TO GREECE IN THE STEPS OF ST PAUL

Sr Elizabeth is leading a pilgrimage in the steps of St Paul, 23-29 April. We will be based beside the sea, near ancient Corinth. Cost: £950. For further information, contact Sr Elizabeth, tel.01458 851561, email: elizabethrees_ocv@hotmail.com

CAR PARK

Important: Please remember not to park in the numbered spaces in our car park, except, of course, on Sundays, and not even for weekday Mass. There have been problems with paid up people being unable to park in their space with expensive and embarrassing consequences. Thank you.

Gift Aid it

If you wish to join the Gift Aid scheme or understand it better, please contact Julia Yardley, Parish Treasurer, tel: 01749 831435