

St Michael's News

The quarterly magazine for the people of St Michael's Parish, Ashford

Issue 97

Easter 2018

Parishioner receives Diocesan Award



© Michael Nolan

During the weekend of Bishop John Wilson's pastoral visitation in February, he took the opportunity at Sunday's 9.15am Mass to present Heather Nolan with the Westminster Diocesan Medal awarded by Cardinal Vincent Nichols. *Full article on page 3*

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NOW IN COLOUR – ONLINE – at: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/ashford/st-michaels-news/>

IN BRIEF *with Mgr Jim Overton*

Baptism Celebration Service. On Sunday afternoon 11th February 2018 we had a lovely Baptism Celebration Service in thanksgiving for the gift of baptism for families who had their children baptised in the past year, followed by a reception in the hall. It was very encouraging that so many families came to take part. I would like to thank Lee Gibson and Pauline Glynn for their generous work in preparing families for the baptism of their children.

Crib. Many of you have told me how delighted you are with the new, more open setting for the crib last Christmas. I am grateful to Joe Mascarenhas and Dominic D'Souza for setting it up.

Episcopal Visitation. It was a joy to welcome Bishop John Wilson on his Pastoral Visitation to our parish on the weekend of 3rd and 4th February 2018. He met with representatives of the various parish groups and he was much encouraged by their faith, commitment and their generous service to the parish.

I wish you all a very Blessed and Joyful Easter!



Traditionally during Passiontide statues and crucifixes are veiled to help us focus more intensely on the coming celebration of the Lord's Death and Resurrection.

Thanks to Stella Walter, Joan Berkeley and Maggie Laurence for veiling our statues.

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21st April 2018

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QUIZ

Parish Quiz Night
with a Fish n' Chips supper

on **Friday 13th April 2018**

Starting at 7:30pm in the Parish Hall

Admittance strictly by ticket only

Cost £7.50

(Includes meal and entrance fee)

'Bring your own refreshments'

NIGHT

Confirmation 2018

23 candidates have written to Mgr. Jim asking for this sacrament, which will be conferred by Bishop John Wilson on Saturday 7th July at 12:00pm. Please keep them in your prayers as they embark on this sacramental journey which will complete their initiation into the Catholic Church.

The course that we run here at St. Michael's helps the candidates focus on the sacrament they are about to receive, as well as what it means to be a catholic and how questioning their faith helps develop a deeper understanding of it.

Helping me deliver this course this year are Sarah Davies, Clare DeSilva, Philomena Meddleton, Madeleine Menezes and Jordan Pullicino. Our sessions are in the parish hall every Monday (excluding bank and school holidays) from 7:00p to 8:30pm. If this is something that interests you and you would like to get involved, you would be most welcome to come to any one of our sessions to see what we do.

Clive De Souza
Confirmation Catechist

clive.desouza@btinternet.com

St Michael's choir rock the O2

by Grace Jones

On 30 January 45 members of the school choir went to sing at the O2. We joined other children from different schools and became The Young Voices Choir 2018.

We went on the coach from school before lunch which meant we missed afternoon lessons - some of my friends were jealous as they wanted to miss lessons too. Miss Brandon, Mrs Pavia, Mrs Davies and Miss Brown came with us on the coach.

As soon as we arrived at the O2 we had lunch and then we entered the arena to practice. The arena was massive and I knew we would have to sing our loudest to be heard.

After rehearsals we had dinner and then the parents were allowed to enter the arena and take their seats.

The concert started at 7pm and the choir sang with lots of different people who were on the stage. We sang our hearts out.

The children were given a white Young Voices t-shirt, wristband and a tiny torch that we could wave about during the evening.

The concert finished at 9pm and we could not leave the arena until the parents had left. Our parents met us at outside Tesco's and took us home.



I was tired but very happy. I can't wait to do it again next year – if I'm lucky enough to go.

Thank you to Miss Brandon and Mrs Pavia for arranging the choir and for all the rehearsals.

28.02.2018

Snowing ... Going ... Gone (almost)



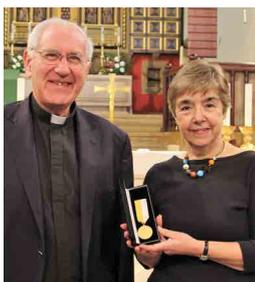
Making way for Masses: A St Michael's church volunteer clearing the recent snowfall, which was to return again a week later.



Parishioner receives Diocesan Award (Continued from front page)

The award, made in the presence her family, was in recognition of over twenty years of active, loyal and dedicated service to St Michael's Parish. Especially recognised was her commitment to the young people of the parish both as a catechist and in the training and caring for the altar servers.

Inviting Bishop John to make the presentation Monsignor Jim Overton said:



With Mgr Jim Overton

I am delighted that Cardinal Vincent Nichols has awarded Heather Nolan the Westminster Diocesan Medal, in recognition of Heather's long and devoted service to St Michael's Church and the Diocese of Westminster.

Over 25 years ago Heather, as a Catechist, together with her husband Michael, started Sunday Friends. Then later Heather and Michael started Followers. It is so good that both Sunday Friends and Followers continue as a vital part of our 9.15am Sunday Mass today.

Since 2003 Heather has trained countless boys and girls to serve as altar servers and she has cared for them with devotion and great generosity. I know that all of us are deeply grateful to Heather for her very faithful ministry, for her faith and for all she has done for St Michael's.

Originally from Wiltshire, Heather's family has lived in Ashford since 1986 and has been involved in many aspects in the life of the parish. Much of Heather's contribution to parish life happens in the background but she is often seen on Sundays organising and looking after the altar servers – on occasion stepping to serve in where required. On receiving the award, she said:

"I feel very honoured to have received this recognition. Recruiting and training the altar servers, making sure they are available at Mass, washing, ironing and repairing albs and supporting the servers are all part of the job – but it is a joy to do it."



Diocesan medal and certificate

My first 100 days as a School Crossing Patrol Officer



by **Andrew McLaren** ('Lollipop Man')

It was a Sunday morning in early summer of 2017 when Fr Jim Overton approached me before Mass and told me about a position that had become available at St Michael's Catholic Primary School in Ashford that might be of interest to me. The position was that of School Crossing Patrol Officer (Lollipop Man).

I had been retired for about five years and thought a new challenge was needed in my life and so I applied for the job. A few days later at the interview in the school I met the headmaster, Mr John Lane and the interview panel. Later, I received a phone call from my new boss, Mrs Nicola Twose to confirm my appointment and a start date and time, subject to various police checks and references being satisfactory.

On the first day of the new term (my first day), I met up with my trainer and boss from Surrey County Council, Rebecca, and was issued with my bright yellow uniform and my all important symbol of office - my 'lollipop'. The first morning was a 'bit of a blur', meeting the kids and parents, being trained and all aspects of being a 'lollipop man'.

After I had completed the first morning shift of my employment, I was invited to the school's morning assembly where the headmaster introduced me to the school and so began what I can only describe as a very happy and rewarding period of my working life. There is not a working day that goes by when, at the end of my shift, I do not have a huge smile on my face. The kids are the stars of the show! When you see them laughing and skipping on their way to school, wishing you a 'good morning', you realise what a special time in your life that primary school was!

After a few weeks on crossing duty you realised that a lot of the driver are regulars - going to work, on the school run, etc. The parents, pupils and staff arrive at the same time most mornings, some you can almost set your watch by.

Initially, I had problems with a small proportion of the drivers. There were the 'speeders', especially those coming off the bend at Fontmell Park; the hand-held mobile phone users; and the coffee cup drinkers. I shudder to think if any driver were to try to do all three at once!

But, to every problem there must be a solution and mine was 'KFC' - Kindness For Courtesy not the fast-food company. During quieter periods of my shift, I try to acknowledge the drivers who visibly slow down or do something that shows me that he or she has recognised the school crossing hazard warning lights. I do this in various ways – by giving a 'thumbs up', touching my cap, mouthing a 'good morning' or giving my silly smile. I believe that this has helped to solve my problem (but I would say that).

Some parents think that my job is to help the children to cross the road safely, but my job is to ensure that all users of the school crossing, adults as well as children, are crossed in safety. I also think it is very important that all children use the school crossing and get into this habit. I know sometimes when the bell has rung and the gate is closed there is a tendency to run across the road, but "Be safe and use the Lollipop Man". Remember, I have the power to stop the traffic by law with my lollipop.

On a personal note, there have been four particular occasions when I have been really overwhelmed by the school. The first was the Remembrance Assembly on the Friday morning before Remembrance Sunday to which the headmaster invited me. I was amazed at the Poppy Tableau in the reception and, having been in the Armed Forces, I had a lump in my throat during Year 6's presentation of the Flanders Field Poppy Tribute by Rudyard Kipling's *Lest We Forget*.

The second was the St Andrew's Day Assembly. For anybody who does not know me, I am a very proud Scot who wears his highland dress regularly. I was amused by the story of St Andrew fishing in Loch Ness, Scotland for the monster 'Nessie' and the very brave attempts of the highland dancers reminding me of my own school days in their interpretation of the reel. Thanks also to the headmaster who, with very little warning, asked me to explain to the school the highland dress which I just happened to be wearing that day.

The next occasion was the Christmas Fair where I appeared heavily disguised, but one or two parents, as well as a few children, recognised me. Apparently it is difficult for me to disguise my Scottish accent.

The final occasion was the week leading up to the Christmas holidays. I was completely and totally stunned by the gifts and cards that I received from children, parents and staff at St Michael's School. It was at this point that I realised that I had not just got a job as a Lollipop Man, but I had joined a wonderful school family.

To finish, my 'look forward' to 2018 is to carry on as I finished 2017 and to join the team in the school garden and have a hanging basket to display for the Spelthorne in Bloom 2018 competition.

Midnight Meander

*We walked together, hand in hand,
our feet left imprints in the sand.
Carefree and happy we ambled on,
knowing that we both belonged.
Not a sound but for the sea,
always wild, relentless, free,
breaking onto this lonely shore.
How could we not now be in awe.
The silver moonlight showed the way,
creating sparkles in the spray.
Waves burst forth with foam of white,
decaying quickly, out of sight.
We turned and faced each other there,
a beam of light lit up your hair,
your face, your smile. Without a care,
we gently breathed the midnight air
Those few moments ever cast.
Some memories will always last.
Held in our hearts for all of time,
those wanton seconds, so sublime.*

Roger Houlding

September 2017: £491 raised for Mouth Cancer Foundation

by **James Ritchie**

You may recall that I took part in a 10km walk for the Mouth Cancer Foundation. I completed



this successfully and raised £491. I took part as the rear walker, which quite legitimately allowed me to come in last! My daughter, Hope-Frances also took part and raised additional funds for the charity. Many thanks to everyone who donated and for all the encouragement and support I have been offered by members of the parish.

We plan to take part in the 2018 walk on 30 September. Details to follow.



Diocese of Westminster



8th Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

21st - 29th November 2018



The Pilgrimage will be led
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Galilee – Jerusalem – Bethlehem

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For booking forms and further information, please contact:

Elizabeth Uwalaka at Pilgrimage Office 0207 798 9173
or **Gill Didino at Tangney Tours Tel: 01732 886666**

Diocesan Pilgrimage Office

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Vaughan House, London SW1P 1QN
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Email: elizabethuwalaka@rcdow.org.uk
www.rcdow.org.uk/holylandblog

Tangney Tours

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Once again I would like to thank the parish for helping me to go to Lourdes for the fourth time. I am delighted and honoured to be part of the Westminster Pilgrimage and I am looking forward to my role as a helper in the St Frai hospital and meeting all my old friends and hopefully meeting new friends too.

The role is very challenging but hugely rewarding and I am very proud to be representing St Michael's parish.

Emily John

Piano lessons that come highly recommended

Daisy Gale says

Matthew is a brilliant piano teacher and always calm. He studied piano at the London College of Music and graduated with a first-class honours degree in 2015, He is also an associate member of the European Piano Teachers Association.

Right from the start he made the lessons enjoyable by running them to my pace. He is considerate and takes an interest in me and my family.

I've been having lessons with Matthew for two years and passed my Grade 1 with merit a year ago. Lessons take place at Matthew's home in Ashford and he has an enhanced DBS certificate.

Emily Bartley says

Matthew has been teaching me piano since September 2016. I have made lots of progress since then and I hope to be practising for my Grade 1 very soon. He has a fun way of teaching which brings out the best in my ability - he points to a note in the book, I say what note it is and play it on the piano and I find that lots of fun. Matthew is local to Ashford and also teaches the Alto Saxophone. He can teach from beginners all the way up to Intermediate level. Matthew is looking for more students and the first lesson is free! I enjoy the way he teaches and am happy to say he is my piano teacher.

Contact Matthew Curtis on **01784 254288** | or **07599174908**, or email at **matthewmcurtis@hotmail.co.uk**

To a Robin

by James Ritchie



*Robin, oh robin why do you stay?
Your mate has left, she's flown away,
Through wind and rain, frost and snow,
You guard your territory and do not go
To Spain or Portugal your mate has fled
In warmer climes to make her bed
While you are left to do your best
In hope of building next year's nest*

*I first saw you searching the ground
But of course Hattie spaniel also found
With a leap she sent you into the trees
Hiding yourself in the branches you freeze*

*In summer the swallows from Africa fly
Performing dances in the bright blue sky
But as winter approaches they flee away
Oh Robin, oh robin why do you stay?*

*Here you remain, eating a berry
On Christmas cards you're painted as merry
But life for a robin seems lonely and hard
Reality now, not what's shown on a card*

*The fruit becomes scarcer and harder to eat
The hunters are searching, be quick on your feet
Flash of red in the branches as shelter you seek
The life of a robin is not for the meek*

*In my mind it is you that live it the best
Returning each night to sleep in our nests
But my heart's with the swallow off seeking some heat
When the chill in my bones ache my hands and my feet*

*Robin, dear robin, oh why do we stay
When sunnier climes are not so far away?
But the call of our home seems sweeter and softer
Stay home instead in the warmth of our laughter*

*So often folk leave their kith and their kin
Search for riches or adventure within
New lives and new challenges so far from home
Is the grass really greener the further we roam?*

*So rest my dear Robin as, I will rest too
Some fruit I will bring you to help you get through
The worst of the winter time still lies ahead
But springtime will promise us summer instead*

From the Registers

January - March 2018

Baptisms: Joshua James Harvey Belizky, Laila Rose Blackson, Niamh Anne McNally Turner, Samuel Alves Scarrott, James Tin Lok Man, Charlie Joseph Neil Cassar, Lovie James Norfor, Connor John Bullen, Samuel Ian Rook, Sophia May Rook, Ella Boska, Amelia Wright, Luke Skehill

Deaths: Françoise Bouquet, Maria Owen, Anthony Connell, Mary Ripley, John Sullivan, Patricia Manners, Jean Walker, Petra Towns, Tina Edwards.

Marriages: Lincoln Lawford and Laura Mead

17.12.2017: Christmas tableaux ...



On Sunday 17th December the Christmas tableaux was held at church. The children who took their First Holy Communion in May 2017 were all invited to take part.

All the readers were ex St Michael's pupils who now attend various secondary schools.

It was a lovely service and enjoyed by everyone.



... and our crib



Schools near Ashford Parish

St Michael's Primary School (Age 5-11)

Feltham Hill Road, Ashford, Middlesex
TW15 2DG Telephone: **01784 253333**
www.st-michaels.surrey.sch.uk

Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary School

Parish: Staines-upon-Thames
Distance: 1.1 miles
www.ourlady.surrey.sch.uk

St Ignatius Catholic Primary School,

Sunbury Parish: Sunbury-on-Thames
Distance: 1.4 miles
www.st-ignatius.surrey.sch.uk

St Paul's Catholic College

Parish: Sunbury-on-Thames
Distance: 1.5 miles
www.st-pauls.surrey.sch.uk

St Lawrence's Catholic Primary School

Parish: Feltham
Distance: 1.5 miles
www.st-lawrencesprimary.co.uk

St Michael & St Martin's Catholic Primary School

Parish: Hounslow
Distance: 2.7 miles
www.stmichaelandstmartin.co.uk

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Talks on the Catholic Faith. If you are interested in becoming a Catholic or in deepening your knowledge of the Catholic Faith, you are most welcome to attend the series of talks on the Catholic Faith on Tuesday evenings at 7.00pm in the presbytery meeting room. Please just come along.

PARISH CONTACTS

Altar Servers	Heather Nolan	01784 256549	heathernolan61@gmail.com
Ashford Hospital Chaplain	Frances Castledine	01784 455915	-
Baptism	Lee Gibson	07713 760281	lee.gibson2na@btinternet.com
Charismatic Prayer Group	Frances Castledine	01784 455915	-
Choir	Peter Turner	07710 405634	turnerpp@hotmail.com
Church Cleaning	Anna Floyd	01784 248099	annafloyd@sky.com
Church Flowers	Louise Lloyd	07896 698954	louise.lloyd@gmx.com
Church Gardens	Gavin Boyle	01784 254345	-
Churches Together	Demetri Pavia	01784 251841	demetri.pavia@btinternet.com
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	Margaret Dean	01784 252230	ashford@rcdow.org.uk
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First Holy Communion	Sarah Davies	01784 251763	ashfordcomm@rcdow.org.uk
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Folk Group	Rachel Glynn	07798 918064	rachglynn@googlemail.com
	Sarah Glynn	07808 236041	glynn.sarah@gmail.com
General Intercessions Writers	Tess De Souza	01784 246580	tess.desouza@btinternet.com
Extrordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Tess De Souza	01784 246580	tess.desouza@btinternet.com
Housebound and Sick Parishioners	Gavin Boyle	01784 254345	-
Ladies Circle	Maysie Boone	01784 557165	maysie.boone@gmail.com
Missio	Maureen Meek	01784 251590	maureen.meek@talktalk.net
Newsletter	Shenda Holmes	01784 252230	ashford@rcdow.org.uk
Organist	Peter Turner	07719 405634	turnerpp@hotmail.com
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Repository com	Patricia Gillespie	01784 252230	patriciagillespie486@btinternet.
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	Jennifer Parsons	01784 248314	-
Sunday Friends	Rob Andrews	07905 249266	robandrews27@gmail.com
St Michael's News	Julian Game	01784 252230	juliangame@aol.com
St Michael's School	Stacy Rielly	01784 253333	info@st-michaels.surrey.sch.uk
Transport	Gavin Boyle	01784 254345	-

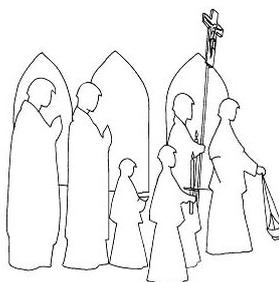
St Michael's News is always looking for interesting and diverse articles, so if you would like to contribute a piece to the next edition in as many or few words as you wish, please do so. You can remain anonymous if requested and you can be any age. The copy deadline for the next edition is **15th June 2018**.

Wanted Altar Servers for the 9:15am Mass

Girls and boys who have received their First Holy Communion are welcome.

Interested?

To find out more, please contact Heather Nolan on **01784 256549** or email: **heathernolan61@gmail.com**



Teas and coffees after 9:15 am Mass

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and 6:00pm

Weekday Masses

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
Friday, Saturday 9:15am
No Mass on Thursdays

Holy Days of Obligation Masses

9:15am and 7:00pm

Eucharistic Adoration

Saturday 9:45 – 10:15am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 10:15 – 10:45am

Sacrament of Baptism

Second Saturday of the month.
Contact Lee Gibson on 01784
252194 / 07713 760281 or lee.
gibson.2na@btinternet.com

Regular weekly meetings/events

Sundays:

Charismatic Prayer Group,
St Joseph's Chapel, 7:00pm
Wednesdays:
Choir practice, Organ Loft,
7.30pm;

Folk Group practice,
St Joseph's Chapel, 7:30pm
(alternate Wednesdays)

Thursdays:

Ladies Circle, 8:00pm, Parish Hall
(alternate Thursdays)

Saturdays:

Antique Fair
(3rd Saturday of month)

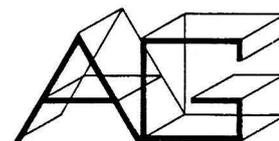
Parish Priest Mgr James Overton

St Michael's Catholic Church,
112 Clarendon Road, Ashford,
Middlesex TW15 2QD.
Telephone: **01784 252230**
Email: **ashford@rcdow.org.uk**
Web: **https://parish.rcdow.
org.uk/ashford/**

Parish Secretary, parish
registration, baptism enquiries
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Shenda Holmes
on **01784 252230**

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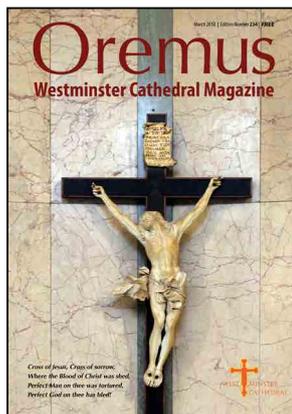
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contact Frances Castledine for Ashford Hospital on
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01932 872000. Hospital Chaplains will only know if one of your
family is in hospital if you inform them.

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