

St Michael's News



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

Issue 98

Feast of Ss Peter & Paul 2018

First Holy Communion 2018

by Sarah Davies

(First Holy Communion Catechist)

On Saturday 12th May, 47 children made their First Holy Communion at St Michael's. They began their preparations back in January and made their First Reconciliation in February. Despite some nerves on the day, all of the children took part in the Masses and it was a very special occasion. We congratulate them all on making their First Holy Communion.



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IN BRIEF *with Mgr Jim Overton*

Mgr Jim writes

Building works. The leak in the tower has finally been repaired so now we should not have any more rainwater coming down into the Lady Chapel! We have a leak in the sacristy which needs to be investigated and repaired. The presbytery boiler had to be replaced as the old one had reached the end of its life.



Congratulations. Congratulations and best wishes to Jordan Pullicino on her appointment as Pastoral Assistant at St Lawrence's Parish, Feltham from September 2018. Jordan has served our parish as a member of the choir and also as a Confirmation catechist. Many of you will remember her beautiful singing of the *Exultet* at the Easter Vigil.

First Holy Communions. Our two First Holy Communion Masses on Saturday 12th May 2018 were truly lovely occasions and it was a great joy to see our 47 children receiving our Lord for the first time. My thanks to Sarah Davies, Ruth Jones and the catechists for so generously preparing our children to receive the sacraments.



GENERAL STATEMENT FOR WEBSITE AND IN THE PARISH NEWSLETTER (first published 10 June 2018) AND ST MICHAEL'S NEWS (first published in June 2018 edition) GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION May 2018

In compliance with the GDPR regulations enacted by the EU on 25th May 2018, St Michael's parish stores securely in its database and/or on file all basic information of those who have previously registered with the parish. This information is only used for essential parish purposes. You are welcome to contact the parish office and request an extract containing your personal information.

Parish Office: **01784 252230**,
or **ashford@rcdow.org.uk**

You can read the full diocesan privacy policy on **rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy**

RCIA Course. We had an excellent RCIA Course this year. At the Easter Vigil four people were baptised, confirmed and made their First Holy Communion, two were received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church, confirmed and made their First Holy Communion, and one was confirmed. On page six you will find the reflections of some of those who took part in it. I am most grateful to Louise Walton from the parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, Staines, and also to Joe Miller for their help and support.

We will be starting a new RCIA Course in September. If you are not a Catholic and would be interested in learning more about the Catholic faith, or if you are a Catholic who wishes to deepen your knowledge of the faith, please do join us. Meetings will be on Monday evenings at 7.15pm in the presbytery, and more details will be available later.

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. The Church in England and Wales now again keeps the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord on a Thursday, its proper liturgical day, instead of on the following Sunday. It was good to see so many parishioners at the Ascension Day Masses on Thursday 10th May.

I hope that all of you will be able to have a good break this summer and enjoy spending time with your family.

All are welcome

The ethos at Sunday Friends has always been, 'All are welcome,' and that ethos remains as true today as it was when Sunday Friends was first launched!

We have been inviting children, aged from four up to their First Holy Communion, into Sunday Friends with a warm and friendly welcome for around 26 years now! We rely totally on the good will from members of the parish who have kindly volunteered to help out, because without their help there really would be no Sunday Friends!

So how does it all work? Well shortly after the start of the 9.15am Mass Monsignor Jim invites the children to go through to Sunday friends to celebrate the Liturgy of the Word at a level they can more easily understand.

The Gospel story is, and has always been at the heart of all we do together. Every Sunday, we encourage and welcome the children's active participation. We engage the children with singing and saying simple prayers that are appropriate to their age, whilst ensuring it's related to the Gospel theme for that week.

The children enjoy being actively involved at all stages of their Liturgy. We start the Liturgy by welcoming the children, we introduce ourselves, and together we make the Sign of the Cross and say our opening Sunday Friends prayer, followed by a further prayer or sorry prayer. To focus minds and to set the scene, the lead catechist then gives a short talk to the children relating to the Gospel theme and message before we sing our Alleluia and the Gospel is read.

The homily follows immediately after the Gospel has been read, this is where we break open the living words of scripture and bring it alive for the children, and help them to understand the message behind the Gospel story and how they can apply it to their lives. To achieve this we might chat to the children, prompt them, or ask them pre-set questions, but we always encourage and allow them the time to make a free response, in short we focus on exploring the theme of each Sunday by inter-acting with the children while remaining true to the Gospel story and the message behind the story.

Towards the end of the Children's Liturgy we often give the children a prepared activity to get them thinking, as it's a good way to reinforce the Gospel message again in a fun way, and this we find really brings Jesus' words alive to the children!

If you'd like to know more about Sunday Friends, or would like to 'join in' and offer your help in some small way you would be most welcome, simply ring or text Rob on **07905 249266**

From the Registers

April - June 2018

Baptisms: Amelia Angela Wright, Ella Anna Boska, Carollyn Denise Courtney, Abigail Gina Nola, Benjamin Hayden James Pearman, Henry Holford, Senon Adrian MacIczak, Gabriela Sofia Scarlet, Maximus Januseuskij, Aoife Mae Cambray, Arthur Philip Doyle, Miguel Peixe Pereira, Luna Rae Corso, Kai-Cruz Dhokia, Wynter Rose Chiappa, Connor Fernandes

Adult Baptisms: Carollynn Courtney, Lauren Green, Vernon Green, Lorraine Shaw.

Adult Receptions: Nick Blackford, Jessica Ludlow

Adult Confirmation: Daniel Ludlow

Marriages: Joseph Saulle and Mila Luzhino

Deaths: Christina Hunt, Lena Chapman, Felicity Devine, Robert Stonehill, Robert Alexander, Ita Flood, Michael Bentley, Annie John, Jackie Boyce Murphy, Desmond Foley.

First Holy Communion: Connor Stanley Abbey, Jude Bartlett, Minnie Bruce, Georgia Cuanan-Smith, Dominika Ffrench, Amelia Golkowska, Lauren Holly Gregory, Daniel James Hollinshead, Molly Heather Jones, Ebony Joyce- Barnes, Phoebe Katherine Kolb, Nhyira Kumie, Jason Chidi Nshii, Charlene Nyamutora, Aaron O'Keeffe, Darren Osondu, Cédric-Danilo Arce Rigoroso, Callum James Smith, Owen Tong, Thomas Michael Werens, Bianka Zubcakova, Charles Russell Ballard, Balbina Biesiekierska, Laura Lindsey Blackford, Serenity Renae Sarao Bullock, Robbie David Michael Byrne, Leah Katy Cochrane, Owen William David Darby, Áine Dowd, Mikael Ezeigbo, Nathan Ezeigbo, Lillian Finn, Alexandra Frej, Justin Jasaitis, Kai Lyons, Harrison McGrandles, Nathaniel Neish, Maksymilian Pasioka, Diana Salamon, Reese Mikayla Santos, Amelia Staniczek, Julia Talalaj, Ella Susan Bernadine Tilley, Joseph George Tippell, Daniel James Wells, Lewis Patrick White, Jamie Thomas Williams.

St Paul's Catholic College raises funds for CAFOD



St Paul's Catholic College in Sunbury is delighted to announce that it has raised the sum of £12,500 for its nominated charity CAFOD, which supports malnourished children in Africa and helps families who have become refugees across the world.

As with tradition at St Paul's, we do our main fundraising during Lent. Lent is a time to reflect on our life priorities; in particular it is a time to increase our prayer, fasting and almsgiving (charity work). The school's main fundraising event is the Sponsored Walk around Sunbury and Kempton Park which was held in March.



As well as this, pupils have held bake sales, raffles, 'Guess how many sweets in the jar', table tennis sessions, car washes and a 'Sponge the Teacher' (which is always very popular!) to raise as much money as possible. All students worked extremely hard to raise the money, and our parents were fantastic in supporting our children to do this.

During the period of Lent the government matched every pound raised therefore the amazing sum of £25,000 will be donated to CAFOD. This is a fantastic achievement and thank everyone for their support.

RECENT VISIT

Finding Jesus in Bruges



"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you made me welcome, lacking clothes and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me."

(Mt 25, 35-36)

The 'Homeless Jesus' at the Magdalena church on the outskirts of Bruges, is the first and only copy of the statue in Belgium. Homeless Jesus was designed by Timothy Schmalz, a Canadian sculptor and devout Catholic. It depicts Jesus as a homeless person, sleeping on a park bench. His face and hands are obscured, hidden under a blanket, but crucifixion wounds on his feet reveal his identity. Ed (adapted)

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St Paul's Catholic College rated 'Outstanding'

Ofsted - December 2017



St Paul's Catholic College

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Email: admissions@st-pauls.surrey.sch.uk

RCIA Course and the Easter Vigil

Reflections on the 2017-2018 RCIA Course and the Easter Vigil on 31st March 2018.

Nick Blackford: "I found the Easter Vigil to be a warm and comforting experience. It was lovely to be amongst the community of God's wonderful people and share Easter together. My own personal experience was enhanced with my confirmation into the life with God, who is now by my side."

Carollynn Courtney: "Being baptised was an extremely special occasion for me and I felt elated and privileged. It was a joy meeting so many amazing people on the RCIA course, and to be guided by Fr Jim and Louise Walton."

Lauren and Vernon Green: "We started the RCIA course in September and are so grateful to have been given this opportunity. Being baptised and confirmed at the Easter Vigil was an experience we will cherish forever. We can't thank enough everyone who helped us on our journey of faith."

Mgr Jim Overton: "It was a great privilege to see God working so powerfully in those taking part in the RCIA Course. I am most grateful to Louise Walton for helping with the Course, and to Joe Miller for his support and help."

Joanne Richardson: "To participate in the RCIA Course to me was a life saver, an honour and pleasure, from a dark place to feel the love of Our Lord, to learn again the teachings of the Faith amongst like-minded souls. Now I know that Our Lord was always there, and I am so blessed. My appreciation to Fr Jim, Louise Walton and Joe Miller for guiding me back on the right path."

Louise Walton: "It is so joyful to participate in an Easter Vigil as someone who has helped prepare those becoming full members of the Catholic Church that night: I re-learn what it is to be Catholic and part of a thriving community."



At the Easter Vigil Carollynn Courtney, Lauren Green, Vernon Green and Lorraine Shaw were baptised and confirmed; Nick Blackford and Jessica Ludlow were received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church and were confirmed; and Daniel Ludlow was confirmed. It was a very joyous occasion. Our congratulations to them!

The Blessing of the Easter Baskets



by **Harry Meddelton**

On Holy Saturday, the Polish, Armenian, Slovakian and Hungarian communities gathered to celebrate the tradition of the Blessing of the Easter Baskets. This Polish tradition known as Świąconka in Polish is said to date back to the 7th century.

It is a tradition in Poland and other parts of Eastern Europe that the food items fasted from during Lent, are then enjoyed for breakfast on Easter Sunday.



A vibrant display of fragrant food baskets were assembled on a long table in the parish hall. The baskets, lined with a white cloth, included cold meat, cheese, bread, cakes, brightly decorated hard boiled eggs and chocolate items for the children.

As the people gathered around and said The *Our Father* in their native languages (led by Father Jim in Polish). Father Jim then blessed the long row of baskets by sprinkling holy water on them.

Refreshments were served afterwards by the Hospitality Team. Some of the baskets were kindly donated to those who helped out. We got to sample some European delicacies, for me, in particular, it was the Polish sausage!

Those present seemed to really appreciate Father Jim giving them the opportunity to observe this important Easter tradition.



Ordination to the Priesthood of Father Michael O'Grady OFM



by Mgr Jim Overton

On Saturday 24th March 2018, I had the privilege of representing our parish at the Ordination to the Priesthood of Fr Michael O'Grady, of the Order of Franciscans Minor in the Church of St Francis in Stratford, East London. Fr Michael was ordained by the Bishop of Brentwood, the Rt Revd Alan Williams, SM.

Fr Michael's father Frank, his aunts Mother Francis, a Poor Clare from Carlow, and Sister Mary Agnes, a Presentation sister from Swindon, and members of his family from many places including Ireland were present. His uncle Fr Michael O'Brien from San Antonio, Texas concelebrated together with Franciscan and Carmelite priests and deacons. Franciscan brothers and parishioners of St Francis were also there to support Fr Michael. At the end of the Mass it was announced that Fr Michael's first appointment is to serve as an assistant priest at St Francis Church, Stratford.

On the afternoon of Sunday 25th March 2018, Fr Michael celebrated his First Mass here in St Michael's Church. Again a number of

Franciscan priests, deacons and brothers, together with members of Fr Michael's family attended. It was so good to see many of our parishioners at his First Mass. Fr Michael preached beautifully on the importance of expressing gratitude to God. It was a truly lovely, prayerful occasion. After his First Mass Fr Michael gave his First Blessings, and then a reception followed for family and parishioners in the hall. What a great joy that another priest has been ordained from St Michael's Parish!



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.

Here to serve

I would like to thank the altar servers for the sterling work they do. Without them Mass would be very different. The young ones give up their time when there are so many other things happening at weekends. They are truly committed and I would also like to thank the adults who serve and those who train the altar servers. *Anon*



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Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary School
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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
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www.stmichaelandstmartin.co.uk

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The Cottage

A wooden gate hangs off one hinge, a broken slat or two.
The garden is overgrown with weeds, where shrubs and plants once grew.
Dark green ivy climbs lazily, covering windows and walls.
Black holes in the window panes, caused by stones or balls?
The paintwork is tired and peeling, the front door, battered and worn.
A tile in places, missing from the roof. Curtains are tattered and torn.
A solitary tub sits on the doorstep, with a shrub, withered and dead.
A coconut mat with a curled up edge, lies askew with hardly a thread.
I push open the door and walk inside, the air is musty and damp.
The floorboards are bare and dirty, on a shelf sits a dull brass lamp.
The kitchen is large with an old oak table, with four chairs scattered about.
A black cast iron range sits all alone and a porcelain sink looks worn out.
I looked through a window into the rear garden, which is overgrown with weeds,
brambles are colourful, already in flower and a sparrow pecks at long grass for seeds.
At the end of the plot stands an old apple tree, its branches still covered in blossom.
A mass of honey bees are buzzing around, their legs weighed down by the pollen.
I walk up the stairs, the treads are quite bare, a hollow sound follows my shoes.
The landing is small with three doors leading off, which of those doors should I choose?
The nearest leads into a room, empty and cold. A box room or spare maybe?
The second door leads to a room much larger and showing signs of damp I see.
I gazed through the window at fields beyond. bright green with hedgerows so dark.
I suddenly felt I belonged to this scene, for just a moment, however stark.
This a quaint and beautiful place, which tears at the heart strings today.
The story it tells of a previous time, is now lost and gone faraway.

by Roger Houlding

PARISH CONTACTS

Altar Servers	Heather Nolan	01784 256549	heathernolan61@gmail.com
Ashford Hospital Chaplain	Frances Castledine	01784 455915	ashford@rcdow.org.uk
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Church Flowers	Louise Lloyd	07896 698954	louise.lloyd@gmx.com
Church Gardens	Gavin Boyle	01784 254345	–
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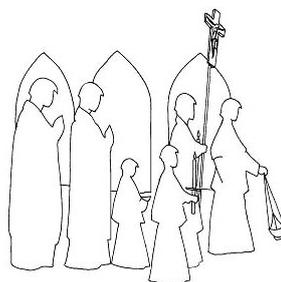
St Michael's News is always looking for interesting and diverse articles, so if you would like to contribute a piece to the next edition in as many or few words as you wish, please do so. You can remain anonymous if requested and you can be any age. The copy deadline for the next edition is **15th September 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**



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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)

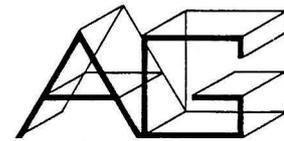
Parish Priest Mgr James Overton

St Michael's Catholic Church,
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Middlesex TW15 2QD.
Telephone: **01784 252230**
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Parish Secretary, parish
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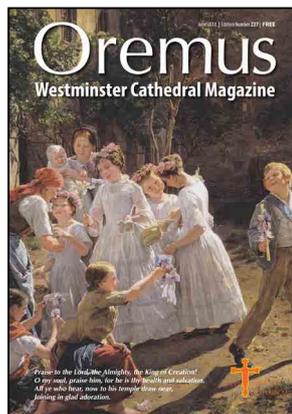
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