

St Michael's News



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

Issue 101

Easter 2019

Superheros bringing hope



Local residents may have thought they were seeing things recently when students and staff from St Paul's Catholic College, many of whom were in fancy dress, took to the streets of Sunbury and Kempton Park for their annual Sponsored Walk.

This year the school is raising funds for East to West and Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. East to West is a charity that St Paul's work closely with, whose aim is to bring hope to young lives by providing support to

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

IN BRIEF *with Mgr Jim Overton*

Building works. We have upgraded our PA system from graphics to digital to improve the quality of the sound. We also carried out some tree pruning in the church gardens in January. The large cedar tree in front of the hall entrance overhangs Fordbridge Road so we have the safeguarding responsibility to ensure that it is kept secure and safe. Railings have been erected next to the entrance to hall to protect the area from nuisance.

External Audit. Every year Buzzacott, the external auditors of the Diocese, audit the accounts of a number of parishes in the Diocese. This year it was our turn. The auditor commended us for the excellent way that we account for all our income and expenditure, and follow all the required financial procedures.

First Holy Communions. This year 68 children are preparing to make their First Holy Communion. Because of the large numbers there will be three First Holy Communion Masses on Saturday 13th May 2019 – at 10.00am, 12.30pm and 3.00pm. I am grateful to Sarah Davies and her team of catechists for preparing our children.

Planned Giving Drive. I am most grateful to all of you for reviewing the level of your financial support to meet the needs and the mission of our parish, and for your generous response. Many of you have taken monthly standing orders for your offertory and this is real help to the parish. I would like to thank all those who helped with the Planned Giving Drive.

I wish you all a joyful Easter!

Confirmation 2019

22 candidates have written to Mgr Jim asking for this sacrament, which will be conferred by Bishop John Wilson on Saturday 29th June at 2:30pm. Please keep them in your prayers.

Helping me deliver this course this year are Sarah Davies, Clare DeSilva, Philomena Meddelton, Madeleine Menezes, Amy James and Emily John.

Our sessions are in the parish hall every Monday (excluding bank and school holidays) from 7:00pm 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



Continued from front page

vulnerable children and their families struggling with difficult and damaging issues. Great Ormond Street Hospital, as you are aware, is this country's leading centre for treating sick children. The Sponsored Walk is one of the highlights of the year and everyone always throws themselves enthusiastically into raising money for the school's nominated charities. Staff and students can wear their own clothes on the walk but many do like to dress-up, particularly the younger students. This year they had a number of superheroes, dinosaurs, Disney characters, Buzz Lightyear, Robin Hood and many more walking for charity. As well as the Sponsored Walk, they have held other fundraising activities around the school to raise as much money as possible. Sponsorship money is now coming in and they are well on the way to reaching their target of £12,000. St Paul's would like to thank everyone for their support.



From the Registers

January – April 2019

Baptisms: Amber McDonagh, Oliver Baggs, Kelwyn Chris Madayah, Luca Srnecz

Deaths: Tony Hill, Sylvia Marshall, Mary Paton, Arthur Davies, Bianca Hunt, Joseph Carroll, Mary Monahan, Richard Richardson, Dermod Murphy, John Curran, Bridget Gooch, Marie Day

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Ofsted - December 2017



Open Day & Evening

Admission to Year 7 in 2020

Thursday 26th September 2019

MORNING:

Choose to visit between 8.45am - 10.15am or 11.00am - 12.20pm

EVENING: Visit between 6.00pm - 8.30pm

Address by the Headteacher, Mr James Mc Nulty, at 6.45pm and 7.30pm
(tours last approximately 1 hour - No appointment necessary)

St Paul's Catholic College rated 'Outstanding'

Ofsted - December 2017

Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider

St Paul's Catholic College
Manor Lane, Sunbury on Thames, TW16 6JE
Tel: 01932 754213 Web: www.st-pauls.surrey.sch.uk
Email: admissions@st-pauls.surrey.sch.uk

St Michael in Brussels

by Michael George

On the first weekend in March, Joseph and I were fortunate enough to be in Brussels. Joseph had been invited to play football in an international tournament – an opportunity that came through a football academy he trains with at St Michael's School.



It was great to discover that our hotel was two minutes away from the Catholic cathedral, which is dedicated to St Michael and St Gudula. We would have taken the opportunity to visit whatever the dedication, but were especially keen given the 'St Michael' connection.

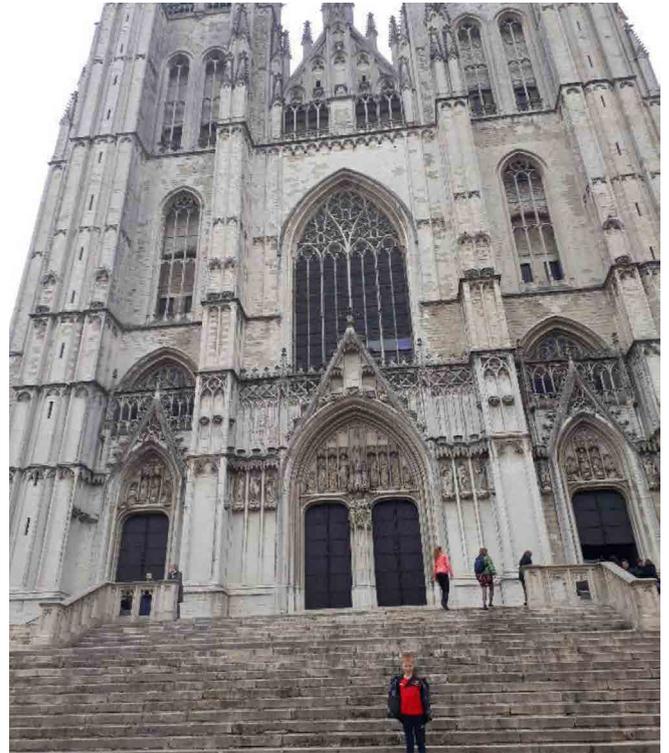
The cathedral of St Michael and

St Gudula is an inspiring Gothic building. It towers above the local landscape. Outside one is struck by the height of the towers and the beautiful symmetry. Inside the cathedral is light, with some extraordinary stained glass windows. On each of the twelve pillars of the nave of the cathedral there is a statue of an apostle, making us think of our own church and the remarkable statues we see and admire each week.



The statue of St Michael in the cathedral is golden, like the statue of the co-patron St Gudula, but in contrast to the other statues which are stone. The high altar is magnificent; this contrasts markedly with the new main altar built in a forward position following the Second Vatican Council. The main altar seems rather small in a building of such scale.

On the afternoon of our visit the cathedral was a quiet and peaceful place. In a busy city centre it was a haven where locals and visitors



alike could sit in silent prayer or light a candle. We were glad of the opportunity to pray for all in our parish, and to invoke the intercession of St Michael to watch over us, while we were away as well as when we at home.

St Francis Xavier Church, Hereford



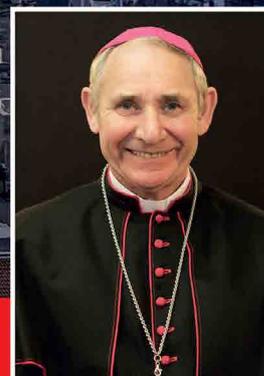
St Francis Xavier Church is a Catholic parish church in the city centre of Hereford, Herefordshire. The neoclassical-style church was built in 1839 and was designated a Grade II* listed building in 1952.

Along the side walls of the church are 14 Stations of the Cross, modelled on designs which were first exhibited by a Belgian artist at the Great Exhibition of London in 1851.

In recent times, it has been externally renovated and restored, with the interior being completed in 2002-3. The Narthex now includes a glass screen allowing visitors to sit or kneel in prayer each day. It is in the Hereford Deanery of the Archdiocese of Cardiff. *Ed (adapted)*

9th Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

20th – 28th November 2019



The Pilgrimage will be led by **Bishop Paul McAleenan**

Price: £1,599 per person (based on two people sharing a room)

Single room supplement **£486** per person.

- A pilgrimage of faith, tracing the Lord's footsteps
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Galilee – Jerusalem – Bethlehem

- Travelling on BA from Heathrow
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- Travel insurance is essential and is not included in the price

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

Vaughan House, London SW1P 1QN

Tel: 020 7798 9173

Email: elizabethuwalaka@rcdow.org.uk www.rcdow.org.uk/holylandblog



Diocese of Westminster

Tangney Tours

Pilgrim House, Station Court,
Borough Green, Kent TN15 8AF

Tel: 01732 886666 www.tangney-tours.com



48 hours in Bruges

by **Alex Houlding**

Starting the car for a trip to a port. Friends luggage loaded no more clothing to sort. We're off for some fun leaving loved one's behind. It's 48hrs they're still on our minds.

Driving down A roads to the M25, onto the 20, can't wait to arrive. Now we at Folkstone, Fiona, Matt you and Me. Linda keeps asking "Is there time for a tea?"

Deep breaths, Fiona we're boarding the train. Hold Linda's hand you won't feel the pain. Alex and Matt chatting, passing the time. The train speeding on down the underground line.

Daylight streams through the windows at last. Didn't take long, 20 minutes have passed. "Bonjour" says the Gendarme "you may be on your way". Drive on the right side. It's our holiday!

Foot on the gas, there's no time to wait. The beer is chilling, the weather is great. Matt telling stories of cows eating grass. Regarde la Vache as we motor on past.

Making good time from La France to Belgique crossing the border. C'est Fantastique! Matt guiding Alex helping us on our way, cross that small bridge to Hotel Adornes.

Unpack the cases, parking the car. Back to the Hotel it's not very far. Rik's telling stories, he's booking us in, recommending and listing the places he's been.

At last we are out there, cobbles and all. Down to the town square, having a stroll. Don't eat on the square Rik had warned us. No, we'll be ok he's just making a fuss!

£80 later we're not feeling great, that omelette and chips was a great big mistake. To make ourselves better let's go have a drink, but what drink to have they've a hundred I think.

So now we're relaxing, feeling just swell. I'll have another, will Matt have one as well? Yes, let's have one more but then we must go. There's a boat trip to take and onto a show.

Well the boat trip was funny with Captain James Bond, of my lovely Linda he was very fond. To view Bruges from canals was like being in heaven, so pretty and quaint thank you 007.

And now we must find the venue of choice, to hear the Harp player and then we'll rejoice. So peaceful and tranquil, such a nice chap but after 10 minutes we're having a nap!

Back to the Hotel for a shower and wash, then down to the pub for a plate of posh nosh. Mussels and fries, a bowl of beef stew. There's plenty to choose from, they have snails too.

It's been a long day, so we all off to bed. The walk home is slow as we've all been well fed. Tomorrow it's cycling, for that we can't wait. Straight into bed then back up at 8.

The Continental's like Furters or so we are told. But for breakfast next morning they were on hold. We had croissants and bread rolls, yogurts and cheese. With such a great choice it was easy to please.

Off on the Bikes we just couldn't wait, choose the right size then its right out the gate. Down to the windmills, all's going well. Watch out for the walkers, you must use your bell.

On the way back we're in need of a drink "into a bar? What do you think?" Then we get hungry, must get some grub. Three hours later we're still in the pub.

Back on the bikes, Fiona wants more. Straight past the Hotel, past the main door. Onwards she speeds going alone, left us just hoping, she knew her way home.

Finally the bikes are back in the shed but this time we're certainly not off to bed. Out for a burger then into town, we're just like the locals, know our way round.

A few in Delany's then to the Monk, there's one thing on our mind and that's to get drunk! Chatting and laughing Linda, Matt, Al and Fi the way we were going we could be there till three.

On the way back we played KDG, not great for the residents at a quarter to three. We ran to the Hotel with tears in our eyes. Tears of laughter well that's no surprise

The next day we rose feeling a little bit rough, but back on the bikes we had not had enough. Riding round town on a bright Sunday morn, soon to be leaving we felt so forlorn.

Back in the car once again on our way grateful for having a wonderful stay. Into the tunnel to the M25. Really we have had the time of our lives.

So thanks to you all, Fiona, Lin, Matt, I really don't know how the hell we'll top that. We were onto a winner we just couldn't lose. The best way to spend 48 hours in Bruges!

When it's not your time

My father was stationed in East Africa for much of the Second World War, serving in the RAF. He never spoke much about it, just saying: 'war is a terrible thing'. He did mention this to me, though, which has stuck in my mind ever since I was a teenager. He was due to go on a training exercise as part of a plane crew but, for some reason, was swapped around for another serviceman at the last minute. The plane crashed on takeoff and there were no survivors.

On 9th February 1996, the London Docklands bombing occurred when the Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA) detonated a powerful truck bomb in South Quay. The blast devastated the area and caused widespread damage.

Although the IRA had sent warnings 90 minutes beforehand, the area was not fully evacuated. Two people were killed, and more than 100 were injured, some permanently. The attack marked an end to the IRA's 17-month ceasefire.

I had left work just after 6pm on that Friday and the DLR wasn't running; not unusual, as it was an often unreliable service plagued with many problems. I walked with a colleague in the hope of picking up a service from South Quay. We thought we might go for a drink at a bar near the station, which was packed with Friday evening workers, to bide some time until the trains were up and running.

We didn't have enough cash between us for even one drink (incidentally, the bar took some of the blast). The station was partially cordoned off with tape, but we were free to move around, even walking under the bridge, towards the stairwell, unwittingly past the truck and very close to the kiosk where the shopkeepers died.

Many people were milling about, and it looked like something *had* been going on. My colleague suggested we take the bus from the stop right outside the station. However, there was a sizeable queue, and I preferred to keep moving and walk to Westferry station, about ten minutes away, to pick up a train from there, which we did, about the time that the bomb exploded.

We had walked within a few feet of where the bomb had been planted, and avoided waiting around. It was as though we were being guided away to safety, divine intervention maybe? *Anon*

My Friend

*Wherever you are. whatever you do,
He is always thinking of you.
Whatever the time, whatever the day,
His thoughts will be there to show you the way.
Whenever you are down, whatever the hour,
He's always there to give you that power.
However hard life is, whatever the pain.
He will be there to help and sustain.
Whatever the path, whatever you contrive,
He will be there to ensure you arrive.
If you fall by the wayside, He'll be there too,
to hold your hand gently and see you through.
If you have a heavy load, He'll take the strain,
to lighten your burden and remove the pain.
Remember, He is always awaiting your call,
no matter the problem, He solves them all. *Anon**

When I leave the world behind

*I know a millionaire
who's burdened down with care
A load on his mind
He's thing of the day
When he must pass away
And leave his wealth behind
I haven't any gold
To leave when I grow old
Somehow it passed me by
I'm very poor but still
I'll leave the sunshine to the flowers
I'll leave the springtime to the trees
And the old folks, I'll leave mem'ries
Of a baby upon their knees
I'll leave the nighttime to the dreamers
I'll leave the songbirds to the blind
I'll leave the moon above
To those in love
When I leave the world behind
To every wrinkled face
I'll leave a fireplace
To paint their fav'rite scene
With the golden rays
Scenes of their childhood days
When they were sweet sixteen
I'll leave them each a song
To sing the who;e day long
As toward the end they plod
To ev'ry broken heart
With sorrow torn apart
I'll leave the love of God *Anon**



Prayer Vigil for Life

St Dominics Rosary Shrine

Southampton Rd, London, NW5 4LB

May 10th – May 11th

Programme

Opening Mass (10 May 7.30pm)

**Rosary Procession, Testimonials
and Praise (8.30–midnight)**

All Night Adoration (midnight – 6.15am)

**Benediction (11 May, 6.15am) followed by
Dominican rite Low Mass**

**Parish Mass (7.30am) followed by
Morning Prayer (8.00am)**



MARCH FOR LIFE UK
Life from Conception - No Exception!

It's so important to gather in prayer with Our Lady before we engage in Pro-Life witness, so we invite you to come for Adoration, to venerate the relic image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the unborn, and to pray the Rosary in London's Rosary Shrine.

ROSARYSHRINE.CO.UK

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24 RUNS ALL NIGHT AND LINKS US DIRECTLY TO PARLIAMENT SQUARE AND MORNING VENUES

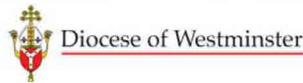
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THE SOLEMNITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI

THURSDAY 20TH – SUNDAY 23RD JUNE 2019

CORPUS CHRISTI, MAIDEN LANE, COVENT GARDEN

The Diocesan Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament



THURSDAY 20TH JUNE, 7PM

*Pontifical High Mass (EF) of Corpus Christi opening 40 Hours Devotion
Blessed Sacrament exposed until Midnight*

FRIDAY 21ST JUNE

*Continuation of 40 Hours:
Blessed Sacrament exposed 7am-Midnight
Holy Hour & Benediction, 6:30pm*

SATURDAY 22ND JUNE, 12NOON

*Pontifical Sung Mass (OF) closing 40 Hours Devotion
Blessed Sacrament exposed from 7am*

SUNDAY 23RD JUNE, 11AM

*Solemn Sung Mass (OF) of Corpus Christi
followed by Procession of the Blessed Sacrament in Covent Garden*

Further details to be announced in due course.

Corpus Christi, Maiden Lane, London, WC2E 7NB
maidenlane.org.uk | 020 7836 4700

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

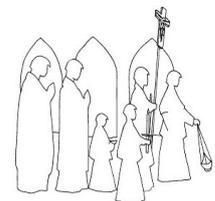
Parish: Feltham
Distance: 1.5 miles
www.st-lawrencesprimary.co.uk

St Michael & St Martin's Catholic Primary School

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

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



CALLING ALL PARISH GROUPS
Give us your news!
01784 252263 or email: ashford@rcdow.org.uk

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	ashford@rcdow.org.uk
Baptism	Lee Gibson	07713 760281	lee.gibson2na@btinternet.com
Charismatic Prayer Group	Frances Castledine	01784 455915	–
Choir	Peter Turner	01784 252230	ashford@rcdow.org.uk
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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Followers	Colin Berkeley	01784 246514	colin.berkeley@sky.com
Folk Group	Sarah Walsh	07798 918064	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
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	Jennifer Parsons	01784 248314	ashfordsg2@safeguard.rcdow.org.uk
Sunday Friends	Rob Andrews	07905 249266	robandrews27@gmail.com
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St Michael's School	Stacy Rielly	01784 253333	info@st-michaels.surrey.sch.uk
Transport	Gavin Boyle	01784 254345	–

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diocese/privacy-policy](http://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy)



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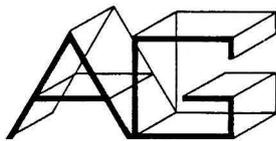
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For more information please call Tony Berkeley on 01344 883363
Email : province23@hotmail.com
www.province23.co.uk

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 and hall bookings contact:

Shenda Holmes on **01784 252230**
Office Hours: Monday – Friday (not Thursdays), 9:00am – 1:00pm.

Usual Service Times

Sunday Masses
Saturday 6:00pm,
First Mass of Sunday; 9:15am (including Children's Liturgy of the Word); 11:00am 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

Pact the Catholic charity for prisoners and their families, is offering free training and support for parishioners interested in volunteering with them in prisons or in the local community. No experience necessary. All enquiries welcome. To find out more please contact ParishAction@prisonadvice.org.uk

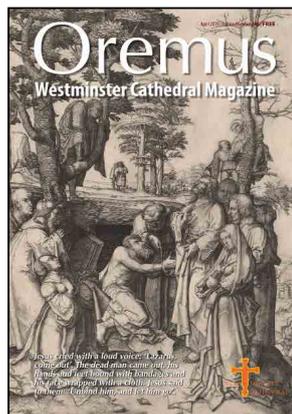
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If you would like to advertise your business in our magazine, please telephone: **01784 252230** or email: **ashford@rcdow.org.uk**

Local hospital visits If anyone in your family is in hospital and would like a Hospital Chaplain to visit them, please contact Frances Castledine for Ashford Hospital on **01784 884488** or the Chaplain's Office for St Peter's Hospital on **01932 872000**. Hospital Chaplains will only know if one of your family is in hospital if you inform them.

Oremus – The Best Things in Life are FREE

This magazine is now a FREE publication! And it is our hope that it will continue to be so for many years to come. Everyone who now visits Westminster Cathedral, be they worshipper, pilgrim, wanderer or tourist, is most welcome to take home a copy of its official magazine. For more information and how to subscribe* please call *Oremus*: **020 7798 9052** or go to Gift Shop On Line: **www.westminstercathedralshop.co.uk** and click on "Subscriptions".



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St Michael's News
The quarterly magazine for the people of St Michael's Parish, Ashford
Issue 100 Christmas 2018

Love one another. As I have loved you

by Mrs Jim
During my visit to Kolkata in November this year I had the great joy of visiting the Mother House of St Teresa of Kolkata and, with many others, praying at her tomb in the Chapel. I met Mother Teresa once at St Ann's Church, Southall when she was visiting Father Michael Hollings, the Parish Priest. I was immensely struck by her presence, an impression of great holiness. Only on one other occasion have I felt the same impression of holiness, when, as a seminarian at the English College, Rome, I served at the Mass celebrated by St Pope Paul VI for the Canonisation of the Forty Martyrs in St Peter's on 25th October 1970.

In the Mother House in Kolkata there was great sense of peace and the Sisters and novices were very joyful and most welcoming. I saw the very small, sparse room where Mother...

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