

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, 11th August 2019

“See that you are dressed for action.”

In today's Gospel Jesus instructs us: “See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit.” However, this involves more than watching the weather forecast and making sure we have sturdy walking shoes; it has to do with faith. Today we are given the example of Abraham, who set out in search of a new life, a new family, in a new land. We have no idea what preparations he made for his journey, except that he went in response to a call from God. When everything seemed to be stacked against him, Abraham put his trust in God and kept going. It is the same story with the family of Abraham at a later stage in the history of God's people. They made a covenant with God, believing that the God of their ancestors would save the virtuous and punish their enemies.

In the Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples that, while God the Father has fulfilled his promises by giving them the kingdom, they still have to have the right attitude: faith to keep going; not allowing themselves to be bogged down in the material treasures of this world, but always focusing on the everlasting treasure of heaven. He gives them the example of a faithful servant who is always at his duties while waiting for the master's return.

So what does it mean for us to walk by faith today? If the example of our ancestors in faith is anything to go by, we are in a similar situation. St Luke is writing his Gospel for a community of new Christians who are expecting the return of Jesus at any time. But it has not happened yet and their natural tendency is to fall back into well-established patterns of behaviour. When we expect something to happen imminently, it tends to sharpen our focus, whereas the routine of every day encourages us into taking things more easily. If we had a more pressing sense of the Lord's return, would we not be more fervent in our prayer, in our response to our duties, more sensitive to the needs of the world around us?

Because Abraham believed, God was able to establish his family of faith. Because of people like Moses and the prophets, this faith prepared for the coming of Christ. Because of the faith of the disciples, we have been able to receive the Good News, the sacraments, the promise of eternal life. Now it is our turn not only to receive but to share what we have received, and we do this first of all by living a life of love and service with and for others. So are you dressed and ready for action, or are you just waiting for the storms of this life to surprise and overwhelm you?

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Thursday 15th August. Masses will be at 9.15am and 7.00pm. It is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Farewell Reception. The members of the Finance Committee and the Parish Council are arranging a Farewell Reception (wine and canapés) for me in the Parish Hall on **Friday evening, 27th September 2019 (7.00pm to 9.00pm)** – please make a note in your diaries!

My last weekend in St Michael`s will be the 24th / 25th August 2019.

Fr Christopher Gawecki RIP. Fr Christopher Gawecki, a former assistant priest of the Church of St Margaret of Scotland, St Margarets, Twickenham, died on 4th August 2019. His funeral will take place in the Church of Our Lady of Pity and St Simon Stock, Hazlewell Road, Putney, SW15 6LU on **Tuesday 13th August at 11.30am**, and his burial will be in Poland.

Sanctuary curtains. Many thanks to Stella Walter and Joe Mascarenhas for making and hanging the new curtains behind the balustrades in the sanctuary. They are beautiful and bring colour and life to the sanctuary.

Re-varnishing the benches. You will be pleased to see that John Clark has begun re-varnishing the benches in the church. He hopes to complete his work before the end of August.

Parish Office. During the school holidays the Parish Office will open **ONLY on Friday mornings (9.30am to 12.30pm)**. It will re-open on **Monday 2nd September**. Please leave a message on the answer phone (01784 252230) or send an email (ashford@rcdow.org.uk) and I will respond as soon as I am able to do so.

Fr Jim Overton

Offertory Collection. Last week's collection was £1,652.21 - Envelopes £525.80; Bankers Orders £600.00 (weekly average); Loose Plate £526.41

The Bucket Collection in July and August is for Sam Beare Hospice.

Readings for 18th August, 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jeremiah 38: 4-6, 8-10; Hebrews 12: 1-4; Luke 12: 49-53

Emergency Exits: In the event of an emergency, please note that the three fire exits from the church are the main church entrance, the side door to the left of St Joseph's Chapel, and the main entrance to the hall.

PLEASE PRAY

For all the sick and housebound in our parish.

For anniversaries in August since 2012. William Andrew, Patricia Cowling, Gary Dale, John Field, Tom Kelly, Catherine King, Keith MacKenzie, Jimmy Rowan, Michael Sugrue, Irene Tompsett, Gilbert Francis Van Gramberg.

For Fr Voytek Przejalkowski and the parishioners of St David's, Stanwell in the Upper Thames Deanery.

For the Holy Father's Prayer Intention that families, through their life of prayer and love, become ever more clearly 'schools of true human growth.'

Mass Intentions 11th – 18th August

Sunday 11th	Vigil Mass Saturday, 6.00pm Joseph Fernandes RIP
	9.15am The people of the parish
	11.00am Deceased members of the Stewart Family
	6.00pm Patrick Lee RIP
Mon 12th	9.15am Mary Beary RIP
Tues 13th	9.15am Special Intention (FC)
Wed 14th	9.15am Holy Souls
Thurs 15th	9.15am Special Intention (MC)
	7.00pm The people of the parish
Fri 16th	9.15am Holy Souls
Sat 17th	9.15am Paul Martin RIP
Sunday 18th	Vigil Mass Saturday, 6.00pm Tom Kelly RIP
	9.15am Margaret Jones RIP
	11.00am Rocky Fernandes RIP
	6.00pm The people of the parish

Sunday Mass

(Vigil) Saturday, 6.00pm

9.15am Family (Folk Group, Children's Liturgy of the Word)

11.00am Sung (First Sunday, Ordinary of the Mass sung in Latin)
6.00pm

Holy Days of Obligation Mass

9.15am and 7.00pm

Weekday Mass

9.15am Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday

Eucharistic Adoration

Saturday 9.45 – 10.15am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 10.15 – 10.45am *(and at any time by appointment)*

Sacrament of Baptism

Normally celebrated on a Saturday once a month. To arrange a Baptism contact
Baptism Catechist Lee Gibson on 07713 760281 or lee.gibson.2na@btinternet.com

St Michael's Catholic Church

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This parish is part of the Westminster Catholic Diocese Trustee Charity no. 233699

Parish Priest: Mgr James Overton

Parish Secretary: Mrs Shenda Holmes

Summer Parish Office Hours: Friday 09.00am - 1.00pm
