



St Mary's & St Michael's Church Newsletter

Commercial Road, Contact 0207 790 5911

Priests in the Community: Fr. Willie Skehan, Fr Aidan Sharratt.

Email: commercialroad@rcdow.org.uk

Website: <http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/Commercialroad>

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Ana Cardoso 07766302792

We seek to be a community witnessing to God's inclusive love, welcoming and affirming all people of every race, age, gender, sexual orientation, place of national origin and economic status.

This Month we pray for the Parish of Wapping and the Jesuit Hurta

First Sunday of Advent

Dec 1 st	Sat 6:00pm	Int Paul Brunning. Sean Patrick Faye, Jean Tottman. Rip
Dec 2 nd	Sun 9.00am 11.00am	Harry Golding. Patrick Hanshaw, Fr Stanilas Rosario. Anniv. Annette Prior. Rip
Dec 3 rd	Mon 9:30am	People of the Parish.
Dec 4 th	Tue 9:30am	Sisters who have Served Our Parish for the past 162 years.
Dec 5 th	Wed 9:30am	Priests who have Served Our Parish for the past 162 Years.
Dec 6 th	Thu 9.30am	(Convent) Celebrants Intention
Dec 7 th	Fri 9.30am	John & Ann Connolly, Hannah & John Connolly. Anniv
Dec 8 th	Sat 9.30am	(Convent) Int of Sisters of Mercy

Second Sunday of Advent

162nd Anniversary of the Opening of St Mary & St Michaels Church

Dec 9 th	6.00pm Sun 9:00am 11.00am	Agnes De Costa, Betty & James McArdle, Denny Thomas, Doris Cummings. Anniv. Jean Tottman. Rip. Linda Lockhart. Anniv. Int of Rita Hatch. John Currie, John Hooper. Anniv
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For those who have asked for prayer: Sr Teresita, Sr Bridget, Julia H, Jill G, Julio F, Pat W. Fr Tom.

BANK STATEMENT at end of October 2018 has a total of £ 50,936.62

Sunday November 18th collection came to £769.08. Envelopes £395.30. Loose £373.78.

Sunday November 25th collection came to £847.33. Envelopes £408.50. Loose £438.83.

Our Diocesan Assessment is now £1,018.78 a month.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION Our 4th session is on December 9th at 9am. First Confessions will take place on December 16th after 9am Mass.

Catholic Singles: is an organisation which helps single Catholics of all ages (over 18 years) meet other single Catholics, either one to one or through social events. For further information visit www.catholicsingles.org.uk

Dates for Diary

Dec 11th Parish Carol Service with Westcliffe School, Ongar Academy & friends at 7pm

Dec 15th Seniors Lunch. Altar Servers are our Waiters & Waitresses for the day. 12.30pm to 3.30pm

CELEBRATING ADVENT: Any suggestions as to how we can celebrate the Season of Advent together. Beautiful for families to make their Advent wreath, bring it to be blessed, and we light the candles each week together.

We will be having **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** each weekday morning at 8.30am; finishing with Morning Prayer at 9.15am followed by Mass at 9.30am.

TIMES OF MASSES for Christmas 6pm Mass & Midnight Mass on 24th December.

Christmas day 9am & 11am on December 25th

Seasonal Raffle: Tickets on sale for a raffle for 1st prize of £50 value of Seasonal Meats, (Turkey, Ham)
2nd Prize of a few bottles.

Information about forthcoming Catholic History Walks in London, London at Christmas and the New Year Sunday 16th December 2018 & Wednesday 2nd January 2019, both at 3pm. Join us for seasonal walks through Westminster and Victoria, taking in Christmas trees and crib-scenes. Meet at Westminster Cathedral. Nearest Tube: Victoria.

Baptismal Preparation Saturday 19th January at 11am.

Pre-Marriage Preparation Saturday 16th February from 10.30am to 3.30pm.

Watch it!

The children were all lined up in the Cafeteria for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The teacher wrote a note and posted it on the apple tray "Take only One... God is watching". Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note "Take all you want.... God is watching the apples.

Lyrics During a North African campaign a bunch of soldier boys had been on a long hike, and they arrived in a little town called Casino." The next morning being Sunday several of the boys went to church. A Sargent commanded the boys in church, and after the Chaplain had read the prayer the text was taken up next. Those of the boys who had a prayer book took them out, but this one boy only had a deck of cards, and so he spread them out. The Sergeant saw the cards and said, "Soldier, put away those cards."

After the services were over the soldier was taken prisoner and brought before the Provost Marshall. The Marshall said, "Sargent, why have you brought this man here?" "For playing cards in church, sir." "And what have you to say for yourself, son?" The soldier said, "Sir, I have been on a march for about six days, and I had neither Bible nor Prayer Book, "You see, Sir, when I look at the Ace it reminds me that there is but one God. The deuce reminds me that the Bible is divided into two parts; the Old and New Testaments. And when I see the trey I think of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. When I see the four I think of the four evangelists who preached the Gospel. There was Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. And when I see the five it reminds me of the five wise virgins who trimmed their lamps. Ten of 'em; five who were wise and were saved; five were foolish and were shut out. And when I see the six it reminds me that in six days God made this great heaven and earth. And when I see the seven it reminds me that on the seventh day God rested from His great work. When I see the eight I think of the eight righteous persons God saved when he destroyed this earth. There was Noah, his wife, their three sons, and their wives. And when I see the nine I think of the lepers our Saviour cleansed, and nine of the ten didn't even thank Him. When I see the ten I think of the Ten Commandments God handed down to Moses on a tablet of stone. When I see the King it reminds me that there is but one King of Heaven, God Almighty. And when I see the queen I think of the Blessed Virgin Mary who is Queen of Heaven. And the jacks, or knaves, it's the devil. And when I count the number of spots on a deck of cards I find three hundred sixty-five the number of days in a year. Fifty-two cards, the number of weeks in a year. Four suits, the number of weeks in a month. Twelve picture cards, the number of months in a year. Thirteen tricks, the number of weeks in a quarter. So you see, Sir, my pack of cards serve me as a Bible, almanac, and prayer book." "Friends, I know this story is true, because I knew that soldier."