

Mass Intentions

Sunday, 15 January (Saturday)	Second Sunday of the year 6.00 pm Pro Popolo 9.30 am Patrick Curran RIP 11.30 am Patrick Joseph Smith RIP 6.00 pm Thomas Patrick Good
Tuesday, 17 January	St Anthony, Abbot 9.15 am SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
Friday, 20 January	Feria 9.15 am SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
Saturday, 21 January	St Agnes, Virgin and Martyr 9.30 am Fr James Smith RIP
Sunday, 22 January (Saturday)	Third Sunday of the year 6.00 pm Michael and Margaret Hayes RIP 9.30 am Pro Popolo 11.30 am Roland and Claire Spurgeon RIP 6.00 pm St Michael's Payer Group

Sunday Mass

Saturday, 6.00 pm (First Mass of Sunday)
9.30 am Family (Folk Group, Children's Liturgy of the Word)
11.30 am Sung (First Sunday, Ordinary of the Mass sung in Latin)
6.00 pm

Eucharistic Adoration

Saturday, 10.00 - 10.30 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, 10.30 - 11.00 am

Sacrament of Baptism

Second Sunday of the month (contact Parish Secretary)

St Michael's Catholic Church

112 Clarendon Road, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 2QD

Email: ashford@rcdow.org.uk

Website: www.stmichaels-ashford.org.uk

Parish Priest: Mgr James Overton Tel: 01784 252230

Parish Secretary, Parish Registration, Baptism Enquiries and Hall Bookings:
Mrs Shenda Holmes Tel: 01784 252263

*Holy Michael the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle,
be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May
God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the
Heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil
spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.*

Second Sunday of the year, 15 January 2012

"Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."

Today we hear about a young boy, Samuel, brought up in the house of the priest Eli. He thought he heard his master calling him, but eventually he was instructed how to answer the call. It was God who was calling to him, and Samuel was to reply, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening." From that day and from that experience of hearing the voice of God within, Samuel grew up to be a great prophet, and, in a magnificent phrase, we are told that the Lord "let no word of his fall to the ground".

Those who listen carefully to the word of God will also speak their own words with great care. Such speech has power to reach not only to the human ear and mind, but it even penetrates to the human heart. When heart speaks to heart, the world will know the power of peace. Such impressive speaking was the main event down by the waters of the River Jordan, where the Baptist was gathering crowds, who had come to listen to his powerful words. He was clearly leading up to something, as he prepared people for someone who was to come. And when that someone came, John gave him a piercing look, and told the two of his own disciples who were standing with him, "There he is."

The man they then followed, like two private eyes, was Jesus from Nazareth, who turned round and asked them directly, "What do you want?" What they wanted was to know all about him. On that day, they began their education. It would occupy them for the rest of their lives. Listening to this man, they knew that they had struck gold. As the Jerusalem police would say at a later date, "Nobody has ever spoken like this man."

Finding Jesus of Nazareth is never a one-time event. It is a lifelong engagement. Each day we are invited to say to the Lord, "Where do you live?" And each day the Lord will reply, "Come and see." For there is much to learn and much to find out. How can we ever say that we know the Lord? Our lives would indicate that we know very little and we understand less. But every new day is a fresh opportunity to seek the Lord and to say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."

All our human relationships can demonstrate this activity of listening and speaking. We can practise a true respect for ourselves, and for one another. Any casual "using" of one another is unworthy of us as children of God. St Paul speaks to the Corinthians about that today. Honest and open involvement with one another is the way to life.

We do not know all the answers to all the challenges of life. But at least we can live the questions in an open and honest way. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

Redemptorist Publications, The Living Word, B1, 2011 (adapted)

Thank you. I would like to thank Fr Richard Calcutt and Fr Ken Rimini for covering the Masses this weekend whilst I am away from the parish.

Pax Christi. Pax Christi is the Catholic movement of Peace in England and Wales and it relies on support to continue its work of peacemaking. If you would like to support the work of Pax Christi, you will find donation envelopes in the Narthex. You can place them in the collection baskets.

Services of Holy Communion on Tuesday, 17th January and Friday, 20th January at 9.15am. There will be no Masses from Monday to Friday this week. There will be Mass on Saturday, 21st January at 9.30am.

Lasallian Developing World Projects. Brother John Deeney FSC thanks you for your donations of £752.19 last weekend for the work of the Lasallian Developing World Projects.

Crib offerings. Many thanks for your donations of £397.70 for the Catholic Children's Society (Westminster).

Monsignor Jim Overton

PLEASE PRAY

for all the sick and housebound in our parish.

for anniversaries in January since 2005. Jack Byrne, Elizabeth Collins, Dan Corry, Edward Davies, Catherine Harding, Valerie Hill, Margaret Kinsella, Ermen Lee, Mick McCarthy, Rose Monaghan, Richard Monet, Helen Paterson, Derek Stephens, Paul Sweeney.

For the Religious Brothers and Sisters living and working in the Upper Thames Deanery.

for the Holy Father's Mission Intention that the commitment of Christians to peace may bear witness to the name of Christ before all people.

Readings for Sunday, 22 January

Jonah 3: 1-5, 10; 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31; Mark 1; 14-20

*You can read this newsletter on our parish website:
www.stmichaels-ashford.org.uk*

The Bucket Collection in January is for The Passage.

Readers & Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. The new rotas are now ready for collection from the Sacristy and are also available online at www.stmichaels-ashford.org.uk

Flower Ladies. Please collect the rota from the coffee shelf.

Adult Faith Formation - A new 8 week course, 'Do you trust God?', will be starting on Monday 16th January in the presbytery meeting room from 7.30pm – 9.00pm. This eight-part study briefly covers salvation history in a series of eight, half-hour DVD talks that are complemented by group discussion questions. This course provides an excellent introduction and overview of the Bible from a Catholic perspective. If you would like to book your place on the course please email lee.gibson.2na@btinternet.com or leave a message at the parish office on 01784 252263.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 18-25 January. An Ecumenical Service of Light will take place on Sunday 22 January at 6.30pm at St Mary's Church, Stanwell.

Jesus as model of servant-leadership in lay ministry on 4 February 2012 - 10.30am-3.00pm - Nazareth House (Hammersmith, London Rd W6 8DB), W6 8DB. Fr John Farrell OP will lead a diocesan retreat for parish adult faith formation leaders, volunteers and those who would like to get involved in parish adult faith formation. For further details and registration pack including directions and plan for the day, please contact ausrakaraliute@rcdow.org.uk or call at 020 7931 6078. Lunch will be provided. Suggested donation £ 14.00

Young Adults in the West. Bishop Alan Hopes invites all young adults ages 16-35 to join him at St Lawrence's Church, Feltham, TW13 4AF on Sunday 12th February for Mass at 6pm followed by food, faith-sharing and a chance to put him in the hot-seat. This will be a great opportunity to look back on World Youth Day in Madrid last summer and to look forward to Brazil 2013. For more information or to offer help contact St Lawrence's at feltham@rcdow.org.uk, tel. 020 8890 2367 or see www.saintlawrences.org.uk.

St Anselms Catholic Primary School, Church Ave, Southall UB2 4BH, have vacancies for a Full Time Year 1 Class Teacher commencing 16th April 2012 (closing date: 12 noon 24th Jan), and a Lunchtime Assistant (closing date: 12 noon 20th Jan) working Mon to Fri from 12pm to 1.15pm. Please contact Susie Debono via email sdebono@st-anselms.ealing.sch.uk or telephone on 020 8574 3906 for an application pack. Further details can also be found at <http://www2.ealing.gov.uk/services/jobs/education/>.