

## Third Sunday of the year, 22 January 2012

### **“The time has come.”**

*If there is one thing that defines Mark's Gospel it is that right from the beginning there is a sense of urgency. Mark is keen to let us know that now is the time or action. He is forever telling us that things happened "at once". There is no time for delay. Jesus begins his public ministry with the words "The time has come"; and the first apostles are called and follow him "at once".*

*This message is reinforced for us today by Paul's insistence with the Corinthians that they should not waste time on things that are no longer of importance. We might think that he rather overdoes things, suggesting that those with wives should be as though they had not, and so on. However, it is worth reminding ourselves that Paul really did think that Jesus was due to return any day and that everyday life would soon be over and done with. In his later letters, he tempers his approach and offers a longer-term perspective on things.*

*I this is in stark contrast to the story of Jonah. We hear about his arrival in Nineveh and his call to the people to repent; but remember that Jonah, like so any of his counterparts, was a reluctant prophet. He was trying to escape his commission from God when the ship he was fleeing on was caught in a mighty storm, whereupon he confessed and was thrown overboard. Only when he had been spat out on the shore by the sea creature did he dry himself off and accept his mission.*

*There is a touch of the Jonah in most of us: there are tasks that we know I await our attention, yet we find all kinds of excuses to avoid them, either because we can't be bothered, or because we fear the consequences, or because we fear failure.*

*The mission that inspired the banner about not being able to recycle time invited the parishioners to think about our Lord's statement: "The time has come." To begin with they pondered that powerful passage in the book of Ecclesiastes, which tells us that there is a time for every season under heaven; and then each evening they focused on a different aspect of the gift of time: a time for stillness, a time for healing, a time for searching, a time for growth, a time for others and a time for rejoicing. Jesus provides us with the perfect model when it comes to the use of time. For all the urgency in Mark's Gospel, Jesus finds time to be still and to pray, he always has time for others and he is not afraid to rejoice at the appropriate time.*

*When it comes to searching, isn't it interesting that while we think it is up to us to spend our lives searching for meaning, searching for purpose, searching for God, the Gospel reminds us that actually it is the other way round. We have a God who is searching for us! Jesus says to us, as he said to his first disciples: "Follow me."*

**Redemptorist Publications, The Living Word, B1, 2012 (adapted)**

## Mass Intentions

<b>Sunday, 22 January</b> (Saturday)	<b>Third Sunday of the year</b> 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 Prayer Group
<b>Tuesday, 24 January</b>	<b>St Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor</b> 9.15 am <b>SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION</b>
<b>Friday, 27 January</b>	<b>Feria</b> 9.15 am Intentions of Fr Ken Rimini
<b>Saturday, 28 January</b>	<b>St Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor</b> 9.30 am Gina Suliani RIP
<b>Sunday, 29 January</b> (Saturday)	<b>Fourth Sunday of the year</b> 6.00 pm Alan Cairns (sick) 9.30 am Maurice (Mick) McCarthy RIP 11.30 am Holy Souls 6.00 pm Pro Popolo

### **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.***

**Thank you.** I would like to thank Fr Richard Calcutt and Fr Ken Rimini for covering the Masses this weekend.

**First Holy Communion.** The next children's preparation session is on Sunday, 22nd January, 3:45pm in the parish hall. Parents do not need to attend this session.

**Service of Holy Communion.** There will be a Service of Holy Communion on Tuesday, 24th January at 9.15am and Mass on Friday, 27th January at 9.15am as usual.

**Pax Christi.** Thank you for your donations of £61.50 last weekend for Pax Christi.

*Monsignor Jim Overton*

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**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, 29th January**

Deuteronomy 18: 15-20; 1 Corinthians 7; 32-35; Mark 1: 21-28

*You can read this newsletter on our parish website:  
[www.stmichaels-ashford.org.uk](http://www.stmichaels-ashford.org.uk)*

**The Bucket Collection in January is for The Passage.**

**Ladies' Circle.** Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January at 8.00pm in the parish hall - "Book Sale and Bring & Buy" – Bring along books that you have finished and/or any small new/nearly new items that you think may sell at a reasonable price. All profits to this month's bucket collection. New members always welcome.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 18-25 January.** Pope Benedict XVI, speaking this week, said this: ' *We are celebrating the week of Prayer for Christian Unity in which all believers of Jesus Christ are invited to join in prayer to witness the profound bond that exists among them and to invoke the gift of full communion.*'

An Ecumenical Service of Light will take place on **Sunday, 22 January (this Sunday) at 6.30pm** at St Mary's Church, Stanwell. All are welcome.

**Familiaris Consortio 30th Anniversary:** An afternoon of celebration and workshops for anyone interested in supporting and encouraging marriage and family life. Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February from 1:30pm – 5pm at Amigo Hall, St George's Cathedral, Lambeth Road SE1 7HY. Concluding with Vigil Mass at 6pm in the Cathedral. Admission Free, including refreshments and choice of 2 workshops from a list of 6 – for details, see Upcoming Events on the homepage of [www.rcdow.org.uk](http://www.rcdow.org.uk) or contact [marriages@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:marriages@tiscali.co.uk) or 020 8690 9310.

**CATHOLIC PARLIAMENTARY AND PUBLIC POLICY INTERNSHIPS.** For the last nine years the Catholics Bishops Conference has organised Parliamentary and Public Policy Internships for recently graduated Catholics. This year we are looking to offer 8 internships: Five interns will be placed with Christian MPs at Westminster; two in Public Policy with CAFOD and CARITAS Social Action Network; and one in a media internship at Archbishop's House Westminster. All internships will run from September 2012 - July 2013 and include accommodation and subsistence allowances. Full details and an application form can be found on our website: <http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/interns> Completed application forms must either be emailed to [interns@cbcew.org.uk](mailto:interns@cbcew.org.uk) or posted to: Michaela Kelly, Head of HR, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX. The closing date is 5pm on 29th February 2012 and Assessment days will be 28th and 29th March 2012. If you know anyone who may be interested in this opportunity, please encourage them to apply.

**Zumba "Gold".** Are you getting back in to shape? Join us for a fun, easy to follow fitness party on Wednesday mornings, 9.30 - 10.30 am in the parish hall. For more information please call Mimi on 07583 708270.