

## Fifth Sunday of the year, 5 February 2012

### Mass Intentions

Sunday, 5 February (Saturday)	<b>Fifth Sunday of the year</b> 6.00 pm Maud Doran RIP 9.30 am Adrian Whelan RIP 11.30 am Gary Fox RIP 6.00 pm Pro Popolo
Monday, 6 February	<b>Ss Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs</b> 9.15 am William and Maud Evans RIP
Tuesday, 7 February	<b>Feria</b> 9.15 am Holy Souls
Wednesday, 8 February	<b>Feria</b> 9.15 am Justin Richards RIP
Friday, 10 February	<b>St Scholastica, Virgin</b> 9.15 am Holy Souls
Saturday, 11 February	<b>Feria</b> 9.30 am Derek Stephens RIP
Sunday, 12 February (Saturday)	<b>Sixth Sunday of the year</b> 6.00 pm In honour of Our Lady of Lourdes 9.30 am John Donnelly RIP 11.30 am Pro Popolo 6.00 pm Michael O'Shea RIP

#### 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

#### Mass on Holy Days of Obligation

9.30 am and 8.00 pm

#### Weekday Mass

9.15 am Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday (*not Thursday*)  
9.30 am Saturday

#### 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](mailto:ashford@rcdow.org.uk)

Website: [www.stmichaels-ashford.org.uk](http://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

**"He cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another."**

*In the Gospel today there is no attempt to answer the question, "Why I suffering?" In other passages Jesus emphasises that it is not the consequence of sin, refuting this commonly accepted belief among his contemporaries, but more than that he does not say. When confronted with human suffering, he chooses to heal rather than philosophise.*

*First he heals Simon's mother-in-law of a fever, then at sundown the crowds gather, having heard of his presence; he heals and casts out demons. Among those who came to him there would be some who would ask, "Why?", but would be glad to receive his healing touch and go on their way. Jesus goes off into the darkness to find a quiet place to pray and to rest. But his disciples track him down and tell him everyone is looking for him. Now it is time to move on to other towns and villages to proclaim the message there, to heal those who are sick and to cast out demons.*

*We each have our own demons to taunt and tempt us. We are not possessed, nor do we need exorcism. But each day we face our own weaknesses, and struggle lest they take possession of us completely. Probably the greatest temptation of all is disillusionment, even despair, when we are confronted with suffering in our own life or in the life of one we love. It cannot be rationalised or explained away; it cannot be settled like a bad debt; it remains and challenges whatever faith we have in God and God's goodness.*

*Jesus experienced personal suffering and pain in his passion and cried out, asking why God had abandoned him. There will be times when we will feel that God has abandoned us and we will cry out. Yet, strangely, these are the times when we can know the love of God most of all: in our weakness and our fragility.*

*The caring professions are an incarnation of God's compassion. It is here that men and women, dedicated medical professionals, face the big questions of life and death, of suffering and healing, and the constant searching for answers. They know that, even with their extraordinary skills, they will not always succeed, and they will ask, "Why?" It is good to keep these wonderful men and women in our prayers.*

*This week, on 11th February, we will keep the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. It is also the World Day of Prayer for the Sick. In 1858, Our Lady appeared to the young Bernadette and said that Lourdes, then just a small village in the south of France, would be a place of healing and prayer. Since then, a number of miraculous cures, medically substantiated, have occurred. People who are broken and troubled leave there comforted and strengthened, better able to live with the trials that sickness has placed upon them. This is the power of prayer. It is a reality that confounds and perplexes the unbeliever. It defies rational explanation and cannot be explained by delusion or hysteria, because it endures. Those who have lost faith find it again, the despairing are given new hope. The proud are humbled and the lowly are exalted.*

*Prayer is not a palliative for the feeble-minded. It is the language of loving trust in the God who has care of us. It is surprising how fearful and diffident we often are in our prayers, in spite of our outward show of self-assurance and sophistication. We are inclined to reveal in prayer only what we feel comfortable in sharing. Yet God knows everything, even our hateful fantasies, our pettiness, our meanness. We can open up that darker side of ourselves to God, and subject it to the healing light of grace. Then the healing power of God can bring peace into our lives.*

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

**Education Sunday.** In his letter for Education Sunday, Bishop McMahon says,

*"We are mindful that our educational institutions, many of which are among the very best in the country, depend on us for their success and their faithfulness to the evangelical commission to make disciples of all people. They depend first of all upon the support and cooperation of Catholic parents, who are the first teachers of their children. They depend on local parishes in whose mission and witness they share, and they depend on a great number of committed staff who reflect in their own lives the joy that knowing Christ brings.*

*"Our Catholic schools and colleges are a great treasure. This treasure has been given to us and we must ensure that we hand it on to future generations. Education is in a time of great change. For some schools, this may mean working in new ways and in new relationships. Whatever the challenges that we face, now or in the future, let us remain focused upon Christ in all that we do."*

**Catholic Education Service.** There is a donation collection this weekend for the work of the Catholic Education Service. Please place your donations in the fixed free standing donation box beside the hymn book trolleys.

**First Holy Communion.** The children will meet this Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> February in the parish hall and their parents will meet in the church at 3.45pm.

**Sr Mellitus Lawlor RSM.** Sr Mellitus' Funeral Mass will be at St Dunstan's, Shaftesbury Road, Woking at **12 noon on Thursday, 9th February.** May she rest in peace.

**Pro Popolo.** Some of you have been asking why Masses are '**Pro Popolo**'. The Church requires every parish to offer one Mass every Sunday and on great Feast Days for the people who live in the parish and this is traditionally described as '**Pro Popolo**' - '**For the People**'.

**Thanksgiving Mass for the Sacrament of Marriage.** Archbishop Vincent Nichols wishes to invite all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> or 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2012 to a Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Marriage to be held on Saturday 26th May 2012 at Westminster Cathedral at 3.00pm.

If you would like to attend this Mass, could you please let me have your names, wedding date, full postal address and email or telephone number, if no email, as soon as possible so that the Archbishop can send you a personal invitation. Those who attended the Mass last year found it a marvellous occasion.

**Accommodation needed.** A young Catholic man teaching in Ashford is looking for accommodation. If you are able to offer him a room, please contact him on 07825 300533.

**Fr Jimmy Garvey.** Fr Jimmy will be leaving us this week as the Archbishop has asked him to look after Cranford Parish for the next six months in addition to serving as Catholic Chaplain to Heathrow Airport. I am sorry to see him go. I am sure we all wish him well as he undertakes his new responsibilities.

**January Bucket.** Thank you for your donations of £336.59 during January for The Passage.

**Parish Council Minutes.** Minutes from the last meeting are available in the narthex.

**Monsignor Jim Overton**

**PLEASE PRAY**

**for all the sick and housebound in our parish.**

**for anniversaries in February since 2005.** Fr Ron Aylward, Monica Ebert, Oliver Griffin, Margaret Kinsella, Christina Maher, Derek Salisbury, Sibendra Sen, Roland Spurgeon, Ellen Weller, Emily Louise Wells.

**for Monsignor Jim Overton and the parishioners of St Michael's and for the staff and patients of Ashford Hospital in the Upper Thames Deanery.**

**for the Holy Father's Mission Intention that the Lord may strengthen health workers assisting the sick and elderly in poorest regions of the world.**

**The Bucket Collection in February is for Canaan Ministries** - to support Canaan bookshop in Staines High Street which helps the local churches and Promotes Christianity to passers-by and to enquirers.

**Ladies' Circle.** We meet on Thursday, 9th February at 8.00pm the Parish Hall all - "Quiz night" - small prizes to be won. New members always welcome. At our last meeting, the book sale raised £20 which was donated to the Parish's Bucket Collection.

**Parish Hall Furniture.** If anyone would like to take any of the old Hall tables and chairs, please contact Shenda Holmes on 01784 252263. A donation of £3.00 a table, and £1.00 a chair would be appreciated

**Young Adults in the West.** Bishop Alan Hopes invites all young adults ages 16-35 to join him at St Lawrence's Church, 9 The Green, Feltham, TW13 4AF on Sunday 12th February for Mass at 6.00pm 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.

**Sparks of Light.** A Diocesan 6-week Lenten Course, *Sparks of Light*, on the theme of holiness, will begin on Monday 27th February. Sue MacFarlane will lead a group at 2.00pm and Jordan Pullicino will lead a group at 8.00pm. Course booklets are now available in the narthex. A donation of £1.00, placed in the Publications Box in the narthex, would be appreciated.

**Linzi Jay Holy Communion dresses** are now available in store at Schooldays, 94 High Street, Whitton TW2 7LN. 020 8898 4881. Please call for a brochure or to make an appointment.

**Readings for Sunday, 12 February**

*Leviticus 13: 1-2, 44-46; 1 Corinthians 10:31 - 11:1; Mark 1: 40-45*