

St Michael's News



The quarterly magazine for the people of St Michael's Parish, Ashford

Issue 67

Feast of St Michael 2010

A Great Privilege

Pope Benedict XVI arrived in the UK on 16 September for a four-day visit – the first official trip by a serving pontiff since 1982.

St Michael's parishioners who were fortunate to attend the events, share with us their accounts of this historic Papal Visit.

Friday 17 September: Celebrating at St Michael's School as Pope Benedict arrives at St Mary's University College, Twickenham

Saturday 18 September for the Westminster Cathedral Mass and Hyde Park vigil

Sunday 19 September, Crofton Park, Birmingham for the beatification of Cardinal Newman

Editorial

A reason to feel positive in these negative times

The success of the recent Papal events, I believe, will encourage a much needed move forward. The pontiff's visit began in Scotland and included numerous public events including Mass at Westminster Cathedral and the beatification of Cardinal Newman in Birmingham. You can read about some truly uplifting experiences from our parishioners, in the centre pages.

In this edition: We are reliably informed of news from around the parish with Churches Together and we also offer our congratulations to those who have recently been confirmed.

Fr Roger Reader gives us a glimpse of life on the inside at Feltham Young Offenders Institute, and boys and girls, why not take up the offer to become Altar Servers? The reordering of the church is now complete, (well almost) and we feature St Michael's School Sports Day in pictures. A wonderful exhibition of treasures at Westminster Cathedral, is well worth seeing and Saints in St Michael's features St David.

Best wishes

Sunday Bulletin A bulletin is issued each week containing forthcoming events and other useful matters. If you would like an article to be included, contact Shenda Holmes before Friday 10:00am on **01784 252263** or email: ashford@rcdow.org.uk

Local hospital visits If anyone in your family is in hospital and would like a hospital chaplain to visit them, please contact Frances Castledine for Ashford Hospital on **01784 884488** or Sr Mellitus for St Peter's Hospital on **01932 872000**. It is most helpful to the hospital chaplains to be informed of a new admission.

New to the Parish? You will find a Parish Registration form in the narthex - please complete and return to the presbytery.

Churches Together in Ashford and Stanwell

Local News The members of Ashford Baptist Church are enthusiastic about their new premises in Church Road, Ashford (formerly a warehouse) which is being converted into a complex including a place for worship, meeting rooms and a community hospitality area. Let's join them in prayer for a successful outcome to the project, bringing a Christian presence into the busiest part of Church Road.

Canaan Ministries In July, Mgr Jim and ministers of other Spelthorne churches were invited to a meeting to discuss the problems faced by Canaan bookshop in these difficult financial times. Two parishioners represented St Michael's at the meeting, and they agreed with most of those present that the work of Canaan Ministries, based at the shop, is so valuable as a Christian witness in Staines High Street that every effort must be made to support it. The bookshop's takings have now fallen below the safety margin, so I repeat my appeal made in June for regular donations as "Friends of Canaan"-- forms are in the church porch. Please help if you possibly can.

East to West Our Fund-raising Committee is again allocating our October Bucket Collection to East to West to support their work with troubled and vulnerable local youngsters. They are hoping to extend their work to 9-11 year-olds who sometimes need help before they reach secondary school. The Supported Lodgings Scheme is another outreach; Suzanne Harrison, Chair of the Runnymede and Spelthorne Homelessness Task Group, confirms that this initiative is "Welcomed by the Borough Councils as helping to meet the demand for temporary accommodation for young people [16-18 yrs] who are in crisis." For more information visit

www.easttowest.org.uk.

Christmas publicity Shall we continue to join the advert in The Informer which lists Christmas services in Spelthorne churches? Would you like to contribute to the cost of about £100?

Monthly prayer meeting in our presbytery meeting room at 8pm on Mondays 4 October, 1 November and 6 December. Other local Christians join us to pray for Ashford and for Christian unity.

Ecumenical service We are invited to St Matthew's church, Church Road, on Sunday 3 October at 6:30pm for Evensong followed by refreshments.

A prayer for unity

"We pray that in his visit [to Britain], Pope Benedict will draw us closer together in the love of God and the service of Christ, so that the transforming power of the gospel will be proclaimed more effectively to all in our society."

Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, writing shortly before the Pope's visit

A smile and a song

We shall pass this way but once. If there is any good therefore that we can do or any kindness we can show to any human being let us do it now, let us not defer it nor neglect it for we shall not pass this way again.

If we can help somebody as we pass along,
If we can cheer somebody with a smile or a song,
If we can show somebody he is travelling wrong then our living shall not be in vain

With a smile and a song
Life is just like a bright summer's day
Your cares fade away
And your heart is young.

When you smile and you sing, all the world is in tune
And it's spring
And life flows along.

There's no use in grumbling
When raindrops come tumbling
Remember you're the one,
Who can fill the world with sunshine.

Kevin Quinn

United more firmly to Christ

By Clive De Souza

On Tuesday 22 June, Bishop Alan Hopes confirmed 24 of our young people here at St Michael's, completing their initiation into the Catholic Church. The candidates had all written to Mgr Jim at the end of last year asking for this sacrament and for which they prepared by attending confirmation classes, between April and June.

Recommendations

This year Clodagh John and Tess De Souza joined the catechist team as observers before electing to participate fully from 2011. Their views and comments on the confirmation course have been invaluable and their recommendations will be incorporated into the course for next year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our catechists Sarah Davies and Clare De Silva for their help and support, without whom running the course would not be possible.

Stepping down from the altar

By Ben Cross

I have been serving at the 9:30 Sunday Mass at St Michael's for over 8 years, and my time as an altar server has been a part of my week for more than half of my life. In the past year, I was made a Senior Server, meaning I was in charge of the group of altar servers at this Mass. It has felt very special to be able to serve at Sunday Mass, but I have decided that it is now time to step down.

Altar serving has allowed me to complete the service sections of both my Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award, and I would fully recommend it to anybody wishing to take a more active role in Mass.

Life on the inside over the border

Feltham is undoubtedly the best-known young offender institution in England; though not usually for positive reasons.

Fr Roger Reader, Catholic Chaplain at Feltham talks to St Michael's News about the many challenges he has faced there.

Can I ask your prayers for Her Majesty's Young Offender Institution at Feltham? Not because it going through any particular crisis at the moment, but because it is the sort of place which can always do with a lot of spiritual support.

There has been an institution of some sort for boys who have gone off the rails at Feltham since 1854. It started out life as an "Industrial School" in the Victorian era, and the buildings then had all the charm of a work house. You can still see in old photographs the stern looks of the staff and the slightly bemused looks of the boys as they went about their daily tasks. Those of you who have lived in Ashford for a while will remember the young people's prison there also, and the two institutions were closely linked and came together in new buildings in 1991 to form the current institution.

The prison currently holds about 650 boys and young men aged between 15 and 21. Most of them are on remand, which means they are awaiting trial and possible conviction. The length of stay at the prison can vary immensely from just a couple of days through to over a year, depending on when the young man gets to court.

I have been the Catholic priest at Feltham for the last eight years, and have seen all sorts and conditions of people come through our gates. I try never to forget that for each of the young men in my care there is at least one victim out there whose life has been hugely affected by what has happened to them. In many ways, however, a lot of the boys I see are victims also, as their lives have been damaged by emotional neglect, poverty and violence. This is especially the case when they have come from abroad, fleeing violence and grinding poverty, convinced by older people that they will find the streets of London paved with gold – the reality often being that they are forced into gangs of young criminals just like *Oliver Twist*.

Living closer to God

You may ask why is there a priest, sisters and a team of volunteers working with the boys in prison. The simple answer is in response to the command of the Lord in *Matthew 25* to visit those in prison. The longer answer is that this is so clearly the work of the Lord – to bring healing and hope to people in custody, and to help them gradually change their lives and ways of thinking so that they can live closer to God and his Church.

We also try and help the boys after release, when the real challenge comes, by pairing them up with a mentor to guide and befriend them in the right way, through the Feltham Community Chaplaincy Trust. This has turned a re offending rate of 70% to one of 30% for those boys with a mentor.

So, please pray for our work here, and please pray for the governors, officers and other staff who have such a challenging job with these young men. We sometimes have opportunities for volunteering both inside and out, and you can contact me via the Parish Priest if this would interest you.

And then there were five...

By Clive & Tess De Souza

For the first time in a number of years we had no Redcaps going to Lourdes this year. However, this did not mean that St Michael's was not represented. On the contrary, we had a number of parishioners making the pilgrimage; some for the first time whose combined ages exceeded 325 years.

The travel to Lourdes was by air from Stanstead. A journey significant only because, on that particular flight we had the company of a number of dignitaries from Westminster; namely Archbishop Vincent Nichols and Bishop Alan Hopes to name but a couple. Safety was assured on a direct flight to heaven.

Hard to imagine

Lourdes that week was awash with colour as Westminster joined other dioceses that were in the middle of their pilgrimage. Young people, including the Westminster Redcaps, were everywhere ensuring that help to the pilgrims was available where needed. They worked from 7:00 am until 10:00 pm. Until you are there witnessing what they do, you cannot imagine the amount of work they get through.

Apart from the commercialism which is rife in any holy place, the domain itself was geared to placing the needy before the able. Everyone instinctively put others before themselves – no pushing or shoving, no rushing and with those in wheelchairs treated as VIP's. A lesson we soon learned very quickly when we arrived back at Stanstead a week later to find just how intolerant some people are to those less able than themselves.

Do you want to be an Altar Server?

There is an excellent Altar Server's team of boys and girls at St Michaels and almost all the Masses have a team of Servers who carry out their duties with dedication and pride.

As a Server you have a special ministry in the Church. It is a privilege to assist the priest at the Altar. With this privilege comes the responsibility to behave with dignity and in a way that helps others to pray. Although the server is in a different place to the rest of the congregation, they are still part of it, but with special duties.

If you have received your First Holy Communion and come to Mass regularly you might be thinking of joining the Altar Server's Team.

Servers should

- *Be reliable and an active member of the parish community.*
- *Have a strong desire to serve at the Altar of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.*
- *Have already made their First Holy Communion and know the prayers of the Mass.*
- *Know how to make the sign of the Cross, genuflect properly, and know how to receive Holy Communion reverently.*

Parents and guardians are asked to support the Coordinator, senior servers and the servers in their duties. Servers will be expected to be part of a team and be prepared to learn and undertake a range of duties including being available to serve at any Mass. The duty roster will try to take account of individual circumstances. Training will be provided.

A Heartfelt Welcome for His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI

The Votive Mass of the Precious Blood Saturday
18 September 2010 Westminster Cathedral

The sun shone brightly in the sky as 1,700 Invited Pilgrims made their way to Westminster Cathedral for the Papal Mass on Saturday 18 September. It was the beginning of a perfect day. Inside the Cathedral, rows of Pilgrims waited patiently amid an atmosphere of celebration and anticipation. Invited guests including, Dr Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury and other Christian leaders from the Orthodox Churches joined public figures such as Tony and Cherie Blair, Lord Chris Patten and Lord St John Stevas, to stand alongside members of the Catholic community from all over England and Wales to celebrate this very special, Votive Mass of the Precious Blood at Westminster Cathedral.

Once the Pilgrims were seated, the Procession of Clergy, was followed by Morning Prayer, in which the clear notes of the Cantor's voice filled the Cathedral with the opening chords of Psalm 91: *"It is good to give thanks to the Lord..."*

Following the Procession of Bishops, the Papal procession was heralded by the Choir, singing *"Tu es Petrus,"* composed by James MacMillan for the occasion. Against this dramatic musical tribute, The Holy Father's entrance revealed a gentle, calming presence, walking slowly and graciously to take his place at the throne.

During his welcome address to the Holy Father, The Most Reverend Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster thanked His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI for the honour of his visit and gave thanks to His Ministry as Successor of St Peter, commenting: "Standing in the shoes of the fisherman is difficult."

In the homily, The Holy Father referred to the great Crucifix, suspended high above the heads of the Pilgrims in Westminster Cathedral which reminds us of Christ's sacrifice as a sign of God's redemptive mercy.

Blessing

Following the Mass, the Holy Father, left the Cathedral to stand on the steps in front of the West Door, to greet the crowds of young people who had gathered in the piazza. He then returned to the Cathedral for the Blessing of the Mosaic of St David and prayer with the people of Wales. The mosaic, designed by Ifor Davies, was installed in the Cathedral earlier in September, in preparation for the Papal Mass. St David (Dewi Sant) Bishop and Patron of Wales is described in "St Michael's Saints" on Page 16. The Bishop of Wrexham, the Right Reverend Edwin Regan greeted the Holy Father on behalf of the people of Wales, in the Chapel of St Paul. After the blessing, the Holy Father venerated the statue of Our Lady of the Taper, which had been brought from the Welsh National Shrine of Our Lady in Cardigan. The taper in the hands of Our Lady was lit and The Holy Father with Bishop Regan led the Prayer of Our Lady of the Taper.

All too soon, it was time for the Papal procession to leave the Cathedral to the sound of *Fantaisie sur le Te Deum et Guirlandes Alleluiaiques* from L'Orgue Mystique by Charles Tournemire (1870-1939). The congregation dispersed joyfully from the Cathedral into the sunlit piazza, taking with them very special memories of participating in a truly historic occasion in the presence of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI.

From 'Bob the builder' to 'Dave the tiler' –

The completion of the church re-ordering

I do hope that you are all delighted with our new church floor. It gives a wonderful finish to our re-ordering of St Michael's church.

Dave Hargreaves, who travelled down every week from Huddersfield, did the work almost single-handedly. He has made an excellent job of laying and grouting the ceramic tiles and stonework.

I would like to thank Jane Ferra, our architect, and Simon Ormsby of Ormsbys of Scarisbrick for overseeing and managing the work.

Donations and support

I am most grateful to so many of you who very generously made donations for the new floor – without your support the work could never have been carried out.

The final work of the re-ordering is to replace the kneelers. The present ones are extremely heavy and, if dropped, could crack the new ceramic tiles and stonework.

The new kneelers will be made in a lighter wood and the kneelers of the long benches will be divided by a fixed gable. I hope that Ormsbys of Scarisbrick will soon be in a position to supply and fit the new kneelers.

Beginning in Scotland...

On Thursday 16 September 2010 the Pope arrived in Scotland. At St Michael's we celebrated by going into the hall at 10:15am to watch the Pope land in his aeroplane. He was greeted by the Cardinal, lots of priests and other important people including Prince Philip. He drove to Holy Rood House where he was welcomed by the Queen who met him with a parade. After the parade the Pope and the Queen went into the house and exchanged gifts. Everyone was very excited and happy about the visit which was the first state papal visit to the UK in 500 years.

In the newsletter we asked the parents to send in some plain biscuits so that they could be iced in papal colours. In the afternoon year 6 went with Miss Knipe into the dining hall to experiment making icing for their biscuits. Year 6 would then be able to help the rest of the school with their icing on Friday.

On Friday 17 September year 6 went down to the dining hall to help year 1 ice their biscuits in the yellow and white papal colours decorated with silver balls. When the year 1 children came in year 6 showed them how to spread white icing on one side of the biscuit and yellow on the other side. Year 6 then helped year 2. Years 3, 4 and 5 could manage the task on their own. All the children decorated enough biscuits to take home to share and celebrate the Pope's visit with their families.

Yellow on the left and white on the right

At 10:15am we sat down in the hall and watched the service from the Chapel at St Mary's College followed by the big assembly whilst we were waving our papal flags which we had made earlier. The papal flag is yellow on the left and white on the right. The white half has a sign which is two keys crossed together with three crowns on top. The silver key is to enter earth and the gold key is to enter heaven.

We all found the visit of the Pope to the United Kingdom very exciting.

then on to Westminster...

We were asked by Monsignor Jim to act as youth representatives for St Michael's church during the Papal Visit, we were both delighted that we had been chosen to join Westminster in this once in a lifetime opportunity. We attended a training day, which prepared and hyped us up for the brilliant day ahead. This consisted of meeting our teams, learning about Benedict XVI and receiving our Westminster tops.

The big day approached and we were both very excited, especially after watching the Masses that had been broadcast on the news. It was an early start, but even earlier for others who had travelled all the way from Leeds, Cardiff, Plymouth and all the other dioceses across Britain.

Heartfelt excitement

We started the day at Westminster Cathedral where we gathered with all the other youth representatives to take part in Mass. We were outside, watching on a large screen, once the Mass had finished the Pope came out and greeted us all, and the crowd exploded with cheers. Once they had died down Benedict gave us all a blessing and met a member from each diocese, it was a moving event as his genuine appreciation of everybody's excitement was heartfelt.

As the crowd surged forward to take photos we were split up, Lucy was in the middle of the crowd struggling to stretch her camera above everybody else's and Charlie jumped up on a raised platform for a better view, nearly breaking his leg in the process! However it was totally worth it.

...and ending up at Hyde park

From there we all processed to Hyde Park, closing roads to the annoyance of many, many drivers! This provided the perfect opportunity to get to know our group better amidst the buzzing atmosphere and join in with the many chants that ran through the crowd. We did encounter a few protestors, but they did nothing to our upbeat spirits.

After a spot of lunch in the beaming sun of Hyde Park, we were once again on the move to where the vigil would be held. After a long queue, our passports were checked and we were finally in!

Inside there was a festival atmosphere, with food stalls and smiles all around. We had sparkly wristbands (exclusive huh?) and so we all took our seats. Before the Vigil there were various forms of entertainment including dancers, singers and many moving stories about how the Catholic Church has aided people's lives.

Lucy: "The anticipation really began to build as we watched the Pope travelling to Hyde Park on the big screens. Although he was in the 'Popemobile' hundreds of people had lined the streets to see him pass. It was particularly touching when he blessed a baby from the crowds through his wound down window!"

"For a man in his 80s, he was pretty agile as he walked up the slope to reach his spot on stage. The vigil was filled with spiritual songs but, what made them especially moving was the fact that it wasn't just the parishioners of St Michael's singing along as we do every week, but thousands of people all singing in one voice, as one community. However it wasn't just the singing which brought out a sense of community. Even the silence during the benediction was a wholesome one, rather than a stern silence, it was filled with the joy and awe of the people present. It was this feeling of community that I will remember the most from this day. The way that, to see the Pope, thousands of Catholics joined together to show their solidarity and faith. The Vigil almost felt like a festival, everyone there for one cause, to see the 'performer' on

stage, and Benedict XVI didn't disappoint. His sermon was filled with wise and heartfelt words about his message on the visit, 'Heart speaks unto heart', and his talk to the congregation after was a genuine expression of his feelings regarding the trip and the Catholic people. He received a very warm welcome from the assembled youth representatives, smiling, waving and laughing amidst our cheers. He mentioned the World Youth Day in Madrid next year, and if it was anything like Saturday, I will seriously consider going."

Pope Benedict XVI – Hyde Park Prayer Vigil

By Lee Gibson

When the gates were opened at 13.00pm many pilgrims had already gathered for this prayer vigil. As I watched the pilgrims making themselves comfortable in the park it struck me how many young people were present.

It was spectacular to see so many brightly dressed people from around the world. Nuns from Zimbabwe came in dancing and singing. The Mother Teresa nuns in their blue and white uniforms came through smiling and serenely happy. Everyone was looking after each other and there was a wonderful feeling of being part of a family.

I was privileged to be the representative for St Michael's parish and joined the procession of banners carried by representatives from the parishes of England, Scotland and Wales along with representatives from national Catholic organisations.

Deafening cheers

The screens in the park showed live coverage of Pope Benedict as he was driven down the Mall towards Hyde Park, accompanied by music from The Priests. As Pope Benedict entered Hyde Park to the sound of Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus* 80,000 worshippers greeted him with deafening cheers. The noise must have been heard all over London.

The crowds fell silent to listen to the homily, applauding when the Pope expressed his joy at the presence of so many young people. His homily included an invitation to World Youth Day next year in Madrid and this was greeted with loud cheers.

The prayer vigil included the Rite of Eucharistic Exposition and Benediction. I found this particularly moving and in the silent darkness I could feel the presence of God.

I thank God for the gift of Pope Benedict XVI as pastor over His Church.

Understanding the Liturgy

Followers is the Parish's "young people's" Liturgy group catering for those that have received their First Holy Communion all the way up to those preparing for their Confirmation. Our young adults are much more able to interpret and understand the Liturgy in the main Mass and Followers therefore meet fortnightly rather than the weekly Liturgy of Sunday Friends, which caters for children from about Reception age right up to First Holy Communion.

An opportunity to be involved

This Liturgy takes place in St Joseph's Chapel and follows very closely the form of the adult Mass using the same theme and Gospel. The main difference is that the participants have the opportunity to be involved in a discussion about the lesson and to ask questions and express their opinion all of which we find really adds to the experience and to develop their understanding.

Presenting the Liturgy

Each meeting is a little different from the last because the different 'Directors' all have their own individual way of presenting the Liturgy - we find that this is a great way to always keep things fresh and bright. New 'Followers' are always welcome and so long as you have received your First Communion, you are very welcome to come along next time we are meeting and see what you think.

The other Directors and I would be pleased to answer any individual questions anyone might have, just ask.

Colin Berkeley Co-ordinator, Followers

St Michael's Bible Study Group

A bible study group has recently been formed in the parish and will meet weekly to study the scriptures and pray together.

We meet on Monday evenings in St Joseph's Chapel to study the scriptures and pray together, starting at 7.30pm and finishing at 9:00pm. All are welcome.

For further information please contact Lee Gibson on 01784 252194 or lee.gibson.2na@btinternet.com

From the Register July - September 2010

Baptisms

Theo Thomas, Eva Lauren Goddard, Stanley James Goddard, Thomas Jay, Lance Capitan, Ruth Mariana Santos Sousa, Ruben Martins, Joshua Clarke, Cadence Watson, Brooke Danielle Lee, Aaron O'Keefe, Mia Allinson, Isabel Allinson, Annabelle Olivia Martins-Itua, Osagie Joshua Martins-Itua, Nicole Rodrigues, Millie Grace Pegado, Samuel Aungier, Castiel D'Souza, Carter Keadell, Jamie Matthew Turner, Minnie Bruce, Callum Smith, Ross Norsworthy, Jonathon Savage.

Marriages

Giles Hoey and Rebecca Turner, Daniel Layzell and Natalie Zammit, Gary Corner and Gemma Taylor.

Deaths

Halina Dura-Cipior, Mary Roche, Manuel Perez, Patrick Smith, Joan Stratton, Dennis Loveridge, Chris Hilleard

Stay with me, God, the night is dark,
The night is cold. My little spark
Of courage dies, the night is long:
Be with me, God, amid make me strong.

I love a game. I love a fight.
I hate the dark; I love the light.
I love my child, I love my wife.
I am no coward, I love life.

Poem written by a soldier in the Western Desert in 1943 during the battles

Westminster News

Westminster Cathedral Treasures Exhibition

A permanent exhibition of fine ecclesiastical utensils, vestments and relics acquired by the Cathedral. A prominent feature of the exhibition is the 2½ metre model of the Cathedral commissioned by the architect, John Francis Bentley. A radical departure from the Neo-Gothic style of the times, the model has been specially restored for this display.

9.30am to 5.00pm - 6.00pm weekends

Tickets from Gift Shop £5.00 Adult/£2.50 Students & Seniors £11.00 Family

EVENTS: www.rcdow.org.uk/events

Aid to the Church in Need – Westminster

16 October 2010 The day begins with Sung Latin Mass in Westminster Cathedral at 10:30am. Mass will be followed by an afternoon of talks in the cathedral hall.

A very local charity

Some charities are very large and influential; some are very specific to a cause or a need; the concerns of some are very local.

We have charities here in Spelthorne doing excellent work in diverse fields, and I am a trustee for one small organisation whose work is specific to Ashford.

Indeed, its beneficiaries have to live within the Anglican parishes of St Matthew's or St Hilda's. It is called the Ashford (Middlesex) Sick or Needy Charity.

Practical needs

Historically, it provided comforts such as Winter coal for the poor. Now, it has a trust fund from which modest grants can meet once-only, clearly-identified, practical needs connected with a person's health or welfare.

The beneficiary's situation will usually stem from illness, age, disability or misfortune; it may well be ongoing, but the charity's tight formal terms preclude help with any repeating need. No money is given directly to the beneficiary, but is paid to the provider of the item or service deemed necessary. Recently, lack of essential equipment has featured in requests made to us.

First contact is often made by professionals in the fields of social work or medicine, but individuals may apply. A poster about the charity is currently on display in the Fordbridge Day Centre across the road from the church.

Saints in St Michael's

St David (Dewi Sant) Bishop and Patron of Wales

David was born in the 5th Century, possibly at Henfynw in Cardigan, according to legend the son of Sant, a Cardigan chieftain and St Non. From his earliest years he devoted his whole life to God. At the time of the heresy of Pelagius, the Abbot of Bangor, the bishops in Wales, who were unable to speak the truth to the people, sent for St David from his monastic cell to preach to them. Following this, the Pelagian heresy was denounced and he became the Bishop of Caerleon but he moved the See to Menevia, where he might serve God with his monks away from the noise of the world. He founded twelve monasteries and, until he died aged 80, he governed his church according to the canons of Rome. He is the patron saint of Wales and his emblem is a dove.

His feast day is 1st March.

Prayer

*God our Father,
you gave the bishop David to the
Welsh Church
to uphold the faith
and to be an example of Christian perfection.
In this changing world may he help us
to hold fast to the values which bring
eternal life.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.*

A new mosaic of St David, by artist Ifor Davies, has been completed at Westminster Cathedral. The mosaic was blessed by Pope Benedict XVI when he celebrated Mass at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 18 September 2010.

St Michael's Repository stocks a variety of cards and gifts for all occasions, including Mass Cards, Sympathy Cards, Birthday Cards, Get Well Cards and Baby Cards. The Repository is open after all Masses at the weekends and on Tuesday and Friday mornings.

St Michael's News

Is a quarterly magazine for the people of St Michael's Parish, Ashford. Its purpose is to provide for the people of the parish a means of sharing ideas, thoughts and news of events taking place in our community.

The cost of the production is about 50p per copy but the support of the advertisers enables it to be distributed free to the people of the parish.

Please contact: Shenda Holmes at The Presbytery, 112 Clarendon Road, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 2QD Telephone: 01784 252263 Email: ashford@rcdow.org.uk

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