



ST MICHAEL'S PARISH

6, Park Road, Shepton Mallet BA4 5BP
Tel 01458 832203

email: sheptonmallet.stmichael@cliftondiocese.com
website: stmichaelshepton.co.uk

15 March 2020, Third Sunday of Lent, Year A

PLEASE PRAY for all whose anniversary occurs at this time including Olivia Pockson, Bridget Carter, Norah McCrae and Mary Murray. May they rest in peace.

CORONA VIRUS

In view of the developing situation, the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales has issued further guidelines. Communion will be given only under one kind, distributed by the priest only, and we will not exchange the sign of peace. We shall not use the hymn books or mass cards, so no hymns. The collection bags will not be passed around the pews. Everyone should use hand gel on entering the church and the door handles will be sanitised before and after each mass. Thank you to everyone who is working to implement these instructions. The full guidelines are on the Clifton Diocesan website.

YEAR OF COMMUNION

In the Jewish faith, water was used often as a powerful metaphor. In such a semi-arid environment water was a precious gift to relieve thirst and bring refreshment. Within the UK we have recently experienced anything but a thirst for water – such have been the terrible floods affecting so many people. However, in today's Gospel, we will hear of a different thirst which needs quenching. Jesus is thirsty, because he is tired and hot, but there is another kind of thirst in him – a thirst for the woman, he meets at the well, to be transformed. Jesus offers living water, a spring of water welling up to eternal life. This is the water we all thirst for, the living water of the Holy Spirit. Lent is a time to quench our thirst, to rediscover the meaning of our life in Christ. It is a special time of encountering Jesus, to be transformed by him, just as the woman was transformed. The Lord wants to give us living water so that we might have life and have it abundantly. Drinking from this well changes us so that we become, like the woman, true disciples, ready and able to share what we have encountered; the love of Christ in all its fullness.

PATHWAY SHOP

The Pathway Shop will be open next Sunday March 22nd for the sale of Easter cards from Walsingham and First Holy Communion gifts.

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER LENT LUNCHES

On Wednesday 4th March we held the first of two Lent Lunches in our Parish Room. It was attended by several of our friends from other Shepton Mallet churches and we gratefully acknowledge their support. This year the proceeds from the two lunches will be divided equally between Christians Together, and St Peter's Lifeline, a grassroots charity we support in Kenya. We were very pleased to welcome David Baldwin from St Mary's, Glastonbury who founded the charity. He came with displays and gave us a very informative talk about all that they are achieving. Starting from the founding a small school in a harsh, remote area of NE Kenya, they now work to empower women to say NO to FGM, to lift families out of poverty through micro finance, to feed children at local primary schools, care for the disabled and provide for women's health. The charity charges nothing for running costs and aims for full sustainability. More information can be found at www.stpeterslifeline.org.uk. Our second Lent Lunch will take place next Wednesday, 18th March, 12.30 till 1.30pm in the parish room.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK 15 – 22 March 2020

Sun	Third Sunday of Lent	Mass at 9.00am
Mon	Weekday of Lent	No Service
Tue	St Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland	Mass at 9.30am
Wed	Weekday of Lent	No Service
Thur	St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary	No Service
Fri	Weekday of Lent	Mass at 9.30am followed by Stations of the Cross
Sat	Weekday of Lent	No Service
Sun	Fourth Sunday of Lent (<i>Michael Scott RIP</i>)	Mass at 9.00am

FROM THE ROTAS

TODAY 15 March

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion (Suspended during corona crisis)

Readers Joanne Cleaver, Christine Davies

Coffee Joanne Cleaver

THIS WEEK AND NEXT SUNDAY 16 – 22 March

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion (Suspended during corona crisis)

Readers Andrew Barnes, Caroline Hutton

Coffee Tia Edwards

Welcome Denis Barnes

Flowers Lent, no flowers

Cleaning Alice Bevan and helpers

OFFERTORY COLLECTION last Sunday = £197.02 (incl. £27.60 Gift Aided). Thank you.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Please collect your new supply of Gift Aid Offertory Envelopes from Julia as soon as possible.

PARISH DIARY

Mon 16 Mar 4.15pm First Holy Communion Class in the parish room

Wed 18 Mar 12.30 – 1.30pm Lent Lunch in the parish room – everyone welcome

Wed 18 Mar 4.00 - 5.30pm Legion of Mary meeting in the parish room

Wed 18 Mar 7.30pm Christians Together Meeting in the parish room

RED BOXES

It's that time of the year again when I am calling in all those red Mission Boxes for emptying please. Any Sunday during March will be fine. Time perhaps for a last minute top up? Also now is a good time to remind everyone to please check the pigeon holes and collect your free Missio magazine. *Jacky*

100 CLUB

Next Sunday we will hold the March 100 Club Draw. Do come for coffee and see if you are lucky this month. Not a member? Join for the rest of 2020 – speak to Julia when the draw takes place.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This took place on 6th March at the Salvation Army hall, entitled "Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk". It was prepared by the people of Zimbabwe and was a lovely service, very well attended. One of the many African themed items on display was a colourful pinboard describing the life and customs of the people of that land. It is at the back of the church now for a short while for us all to enjoy.

AUCTION

A fundraising Auction is being planned for May – more information to follow. If you have an item(s) you no longer need or use, please consider selling it on a 50/50 basis for St Michael's.

Nothing huge, maybe maximum size would fit under a table, although anything too big might still be offered with a photograph only, collection by the buyer being arranged from you direct.

Gift Aid it

If you wish to join the Gift Aid scheme or understand it better, please contact Julia Yardley, Parish Treasurer, tel: 01749 831435