



ST MICHAEL'S PARISH

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22 March 2020, Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year A

PLEASE PRAY for all whose anniversary occurs at this time including Peter Humphries, Edward Hatcher and Sean O'Neill. May they rest in peace.

CORONA VIRUS

After Mass on Friday 20th March there will be no further Sunday or Weekday Mass at St Michaels until further notice.

However, the church will be open for private prayer from 9.30 till 10am on Tuesday and Friday mornings and again each Wednesday afternoon between 4 and 5pm. Please just remember to keep a distance between one another.

YEAR OF COMMUNION

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives sight to a man born blind. First, he can see physically and then with the eyes of faith. We too, through baptism, have been given the eyes of faith, but we can struggle to see what it is that God is asking of us. Through our sinfulness, we can find ourselves overwhelmed by darkness. Jesus longs to bring us out of this darkness. He wants to open our eyes, our minds and our hearts to the compassionate and merciful love he has for us. Lent gives us this special time and opportunity for facing our darkness and seeking once more the light which heals and forgives. Walking in the light of Christ, we walk in freedom and we walk in hope.

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER LENT LUNCHES

So much can change in a week. On March 4th we had what we believed to be the first of two Lent Lunches, the second being arranged for March 18th. In that time everything has turned upside down and occasions such as this were all cancelled. The proceeds, £62.50, of that first lunch will still be shared equally by Churches Together in Shepton Mallet and St Peter's Lifeline. Thank you to everyone who attended.

RED BOXES

Thank you everyone who has delivered their red box to me this month. These have now been emptied and the boxes returned to the pigeon holes from where they may be collected at the times given above.
Jacky

OFFERTORY COLLECTION on Sunday 15th March: £117.55 (incl. £20.00 Gift Aided). Thank you. CAFOD Lent Collection = £294.25, paid directly to CAFOD..

Now that Sunday Mass has been suspended, please kindly consider setting up a Standing Order for your regular giving to St Michael's. Contact Julia Yardley, our Parish Treasurer on 01749 8431435.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION : Current Standing Order Donations

To our parishioners who kindly donate to the parish by monthly Standing Order.

The way in which Standing Order donations are made to the parish needs to change because of the introduction of a new computer system being used by the Diocese to make Gift Aid claims.

The new system requires that donations are paid directly into the Parish bank account rather than via a diocesan bank account.

The Diocese will shortly be writing to all current Standing Order Donors asking them to complete a new Standing Order (or, if preferred, a Direct Debit) made payable directly to the parish and to cancel their existing Standing Orders paid to the Diocese. This change will benefit the parish as they will receive your donation directly each month without this processing delay.

Your donation is extremely valuable to your parish and the Diocese, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing generosity and support.

If you need to speak to someone about this please contact Julia Yardley, or alternatively Graeme Bell at the Diocese Finance Office on 0117 902 5591.

AUCTION

A fundraising Auction was being planned for May, but as you may have guessed, this event has been postponed. It is not possible to know when we might re-schedule, but if you have an item(s) you no longer need or use, and had considered consider selling it on a 50/50 basis for St Michael's, please if you can, hold on to it for the time being. Items you might offer for sale should be 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.

100 CLUB

Today we should have held the March Draw for the 100 Club. When things return to normal we will hold all the missing monthly draws in one session. No draws will be missed.

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