

St Michael and All Angels Catholic Church

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Portsmouth Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No 246871

God and Caesar

Scriptures at Mass on the 29th Sunday of the Year, 18th October 2020

Prayer of the Church Week 1

The return of the people from exile, made possible by King Cyrus, is seen as a sign of God's love for his people, Israel, and of his lordship over all peoples. (Isaiah 45:1.4-6)

Here we see Paul's concern for the Christians at Thessalonika. (1 Thessalonians 1:1-5)



The Tribute Money by Peter Paul Rubens 1614

This is the story of an effort by the enemies of Jesus to trap him into saying something incriminating. (Matthew 22:15-21)

Pray the Rosary this Sunday

Join children around the world in prayer this Sunday 18th October.

Pope Francis hopes that one million children worldwide will pray the rosary to unite families, schools, communities, countries and continents!

We can pray from anywhere we like including homes, churches, gardens, and parks!

At St Michael and All Angels we will welcome families to pray the rosary at 9.30 am, in time for 10 am Mass Hope to see you there!

<https://www.catholicoutlook.org/acn-calling-on-children-to-pray-the-rosary-on-18-october/>

Our Mass intentions this week

Saturday 17th October, St Ignatius of Antioch

10 am Mass for Oliver Blackshaw's intentions

5.30 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

6 pm Mass, Vigil for Sunday, for the Parish

18th October, Twenty-Ninth Sunday of Ordinary Time

9.30 am Rosary

10 am Mass for all of our students for the priesthood

Monday 19th October, Feria

10 am Mass Fr Terence Fellows RIP

Tuesday 20th October, Feria

9.30 am Mass Michael Anthony Wren RIP

Wednesday 21st October, Feria

10.30 am Mass Pat & Tom Leonard

11 am - 11.30 am Adoration

(Please note these times. They allow Canon Gerard to celebrate Mass for a Year 7 group at Oaklands.)

Thursday 22nd October, St John Paul II

9.30 am Mass Andrew Martin RIP

Friday 23rd October, Feria

10 am Mass Margaret Messenger's intentions

Saturday 24th October, Our Lady on Saturday

10 am Mass for the Parish

5.30 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

6 pm Mass, Vigil of Sunday, John Hickie RIP

Sunday 25th October,

Thirtieth of Ordinary Time

10 am Mass Josie Connors RIP

We celebrate Mass every day and you are welcome on any day; the Sunday obligation is suspended.

Reconciliation is available before every Mass.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is after Mass on Wednesdays; an ideal time to pray for all of our pressing needs!

Alton Day of Renewal (ADoRE)

Saturday 24th October 10 am - 12.45 pm: conference for spiritual renewal with Mass, Adoration, praise, prophecy, and an inspiring talk *My Spirit rejoices in God my Saviour* from Mgr John Armitage. Please register for Zoom by: bit.ly/ADOREOCT20 For information go to www.altonrenewal.com

ADoRE also offers healing prayer by phone, Monday to Friday 10 am – 4 pm. Leave a message on 07579 824523.

Come and pray at St Michael's! We open from 8.30 am until early evening and we are an ideal place to pray! Reconciliation is available before every Mass. Thank you for observing necessary precautions, detailed in our Welcoming Area. Covid19 guidelines are adhered to carefully at St Michael's. 114 people on average have participated at Mass on Saturday evening & Sunday morning these past four weeks. Average weekday Mass attendance is 24 people. There's plenty of room for all!

Our Bible Study Group soon completes *A Biblical walk through the Mass*, an insight into something that we can take for granted ... the fantastic gift of union with Our Lord at Mass. Another program starts on Wednesday 4th November, from 1 - 2.30 pm for 5 weeks. Please let Chris know if you wish to attend: chrisbates134@gmail.com. The session is for 6 people, wearing face coverings. The £7 workbook is very helpful. Kathy Collins leads sessions on *Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible* from 4th November at 7.30 pm. This is an excellent foundation on Old and New Testament history and covenants, on which our faith is based; another step forward in *The Year of the Word*, listening to *The God Who Speaks*. Please let Chris know if you would like to attend, and want a £14 workbook.

If you do not worship God, you worship something, and nine times out of ten it will be yourself. You have a duty to worship God, not because He will be imperfect and unhappy if you do not, but because you will be imperfect and unhappy. Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

Collections Thank you for your kind support for St Michael & All Angels. To continue our mission of bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church we need people like you, generously giving time, talents and money to support our Church, Parish and clergy. Our Parish has felt the pastoral and financial effects of the COVID19 pandemic. Our Lord is always here for us all; we will endeavour to be there for you through challenging times. If you can, please support our parish and mission. Direct Debits can help; fill out the form below and the Diocesan Finance Team will do the rest.

Direct Debit and Gift Aid form
Online Giving

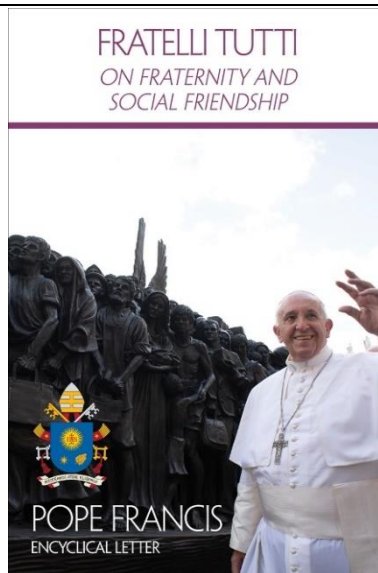


Direct Debit and Gift
Aid form (New).pdf

Or Give as you Live [here](#)

Or: Click here to Donate (Over £1000 has been donated via this button to date. Thank you!)





The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has written a letter calling to us to think in new ways about our sisters and brothers, and it is really timely! Many are asking questions and seeking not to go back to the old ways. Pope Francis is giving us a road map for new ways, rooted in the Gospel, calling the peoples of the world to recognise the dignity of every person, every people. This is surely an opportunity that we miss at our peril. Fraternity and social friendship are the ways the Pontiff indicates to build a better, more just and peaceful world, with the contribution of all: people and institutions. With an emphatic confirmation of a 'no' to war and to globalized indifference. Here's a fine video reflection: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=rJHXgnp27BI>



Oaklands Catholic School
are offering virtual open events to help families selecting a school for their children.

<https://www.oaklandscatholicschool.org/open-events/>

<https://www.oaklandscatholicschool.org/about-us/departmental-tours/>

Oaklands Catholic School application forms If you wish Canon Gerard to endorse an application form please complete as much of the form as you can, please, and leave the form in a self-addressed envelope with Canon Gerard after any Mass. It will be ready for collection at a subsequent Mass during the following week. Thank you.



Just one world

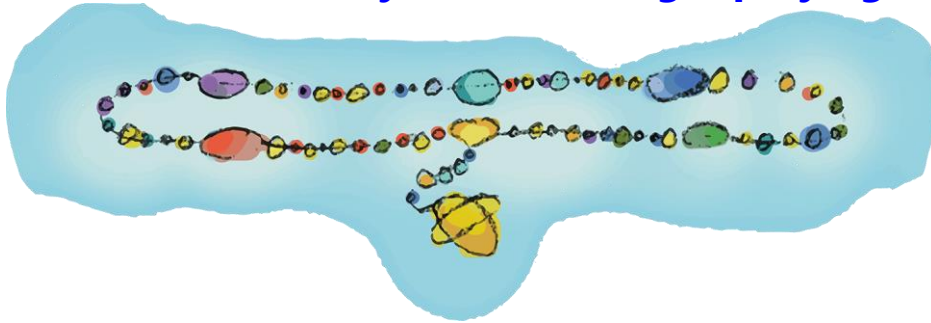
Thank you for your contributions totalling £277. If you missed out on giving at Mass you can donate online at cafod.org.uk/give or give easily via text. Text CAFOD to 70085 to donate £10. Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about Cafod's work& fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text CAFODNOINFO to 70085.



Buy a Poppy Support The Royal British Legion by buying your poppies and poppy items online, at the Poppy Shop, this Poppy Appeal: <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/>

Praying the Rosary

Come and join us at St Michael and All Angels, Leigh Park on Sunday 18th October, with thousands of other children across the world, as we pray together before Sunday Mass: we begin praying at 9.30 am.



The sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,

where he is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

Glory Be To The Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

<https://www.catholicoutlook.org/acn-calling-on-children-to-pray-the-rosary-on-18-october/>

The Glorious Mysteries of the Holy Rosary

Resurrection of Jesus Christ

The Ascension of Jesus to Heaven

The Descent of the Holy Ghost

The Assumption of Mary into Heaven

Mary is Crowned as Queen of Heaven and Earth

First reading Isaiah 45:1,4-6

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whom he has taken by his right hand
to subdue nations before him
and strip the loins of kings,
to force gateways before him
that their gates be closed no more:
'It is for the sake of my servant Jacob,
of Israel my chosen one,
that I have called you by your name,
conferring a title though you do not know me.
I am the Lord, unrivalled;
there is no other God besides me.
Though you do not know me, I arm you
that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun
that, apart from me, all is nothing.'

Responsorial Psalm

Give the Lord glory and power.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples.

Give the Lord glory and power.

The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens,

Give the Lord glory and power.

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts.

Give the Lord glory and power.

Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness.

Give the Lord glory and power.

Second reading 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Your word is truth, O Lord: consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 22:15-21

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'



Clocks go back 1 hour at 2 am next Sunday, 25th October.

David Bateman, one of our seminarians at St Mary's College, Oscott, spent his lockdown here at St Michael's where he completed his Theology Degree. He is now on pastoral placement on Jersey from where he sends this message: *I hope all is well Leigh Park. Please send my very best wishes to the parish along with my prayers. Please keep David, and all of our seminarians and inquirers, in your prayers. Thank you.*



Aba Shields, of the Marriage and Family Life Office of the Diocese, and her husband David, commend the related link, below, to parents:

<https://voiceofthefamily.com/fathers-call-bishops-help-defend-childrens-purity/>

29th Sunday of the Year, 1^{8th} October 2020 Homily GDF

Wherever you look in this church today you will see something of God.

Beside, behind, in front and across from us, there is God.

We are all made in the image and likeness of God.

God is good, God is truth, God is beauty, praise Him.

We see God in each other, in every age and size and colour and gender.

When we hear our youngsters giggling or crying or toddling or running we hear God.

If we want to hurry past someone who has slowed down a bit

with general wear and tear and age remember that we are trying to hurry past God.

When we give each other a sign of peace

we draw on the peace of God which comes in a unique way from our neighbour.

When we arrive for Mass

it would be good if we made a habit of looking at anybody and everybody

here in church with us.

Say a prayer for them as soon as you see them.

It would be great if, every weekend at Mass, we prayed for the person

beside, behind, in front and across from us and thanked God

that they are praying for us too.

It would also be great if we made

a habit of looking at anybody and everybody we see

at home, and in the street and at work and wherever we go and said a prayer for them.

Most especially, let's pray for the people we would never normally think to pray for,

the people we really don't like,

the people whose views are diametrically opposite to ours,

whose political views dismay us

whose attitudes outrage us

or whose lifestyle appals us.

Every last one of us is made in the image and likeness of God.

Think now of the person you least like ... and pray for them.

The image of God is pressed into us at the very moment when we are conceived.

We are in that image for eternity.

One or other of those Herodians or Pharisees

dipped into their purse to draw out a coin to show to Jesus. What did Jesus see?

The image of Caesar, Tiberius Caesar Augustus,

pressed into metal to impress all the subjects of his empire

with his authority and power.

He and Jesus lived around 1500 miles apart.

Augustus had earthly power.

He died a very few years after soldiers, acting in his name, crucified Jesus.

Crumbling and jagged ruins in Rome and across the Empire

speak of the ways in which he ruled.

Earthly power and authority can be very exhilarating and exciting for those who exercise them.

But how many lives today are deeply touched by Augustus Caesar?

Who chooses to follow a word he said, or to imitate a single deed that he did?

Whose heart and soul does he reach, of any one of us, anywhere?

My former parishes were on the Isle of Wight.

The Island had a wondrous motto: *All this beauty is of God.*

When I hear Jesus answer that malicious group

who are out to catch him in the Gospel today I often remember that thought:

All this beauty is of God.

'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you.

Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?'

Those characters really are the slipperiest of hypocrites.

They are deliberately trying to trap Jesus so that he can be arrested.

Do you see how they manage to make such a deal of proclaiming that he is honest:

we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way?

All they really show is how dishonest and double-dealing they are.

Consider the wisdom with which Jesus replies:

'Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

All this beauty is of God.

The Isle of Wight has it so right: absolutely everything is of God.

Without God there could be no Caesar, no power, no rule and no coins.

We Catholics respect all legitimate ways and means of running a society.

Our notes and our coins, upon which are impressed the image of our monarch, are legal and useful and can be used for the good of everyone.

Each Christmas afternoon I listen to Her Majesty the Queen.

I was glad to listen to her messages during the lockdown.

These past years her message to her people has become more and more explicitly a profession of her deep and great Christian faith.

Queen Elizabeth II knows so much better than many

that every earthly ruler, just like every one of their subjects,

are made in the image and likeness of God.

'Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

All this beauty is of God.

Be sure to see God wherever you look this week.

Straightaway you will find that your heart fills with gratitude and joy and love.

