

## ***St Michael and All Angels Catholic Church***

437, Dunsbury Way, Leigh Park, Havant, Hampshire, PO9 5BD, 023 9248 4323

**Parish Priest** Canon Gerard Flynn, The Presbytery, 83, Bramdean Drive, Leigh Park, Hants, PO9 4RR

[gerardflynn@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:gerardflynn@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Deacon** Rev. Nick O'Neill [noneill@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:noneill@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Parish Secretary** Ellen McCarthy [leighpark@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:leighpark@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Parish Safeguarding Minister** Anne Iheanacho 07979 963477

**Website** <http://www.stmichaelsleighpark.org.uk/>  <http://www.stmichaelsleighpark.org.uk/>

Portsmouth Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No 246871

### **Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2021,** **Prayer of the Church Week 3**



*The calling of Peter and Andrew, Duccio di Buoninsegna, 1308-1311*

#### **Prayer for Vocations**

*O Jesus, Divine Shepherd of souls, and Lord of the harvest, You called the Apostles to be fishers of men. Move now the ardent and generous hearts of your youth and make them your followers and ministers. Let them share your thirst of universal redemption for which You renew your sacrifice on the altar every day. Extend, O Lord, Your loving call to many pure and generous souls that they may grow in their desire for evangelical perfection and may dedicate themselves to the service of the Church and to those who desperately need their assistance and love. Amen. Pope St Paul VI*

**Please pray** for the repose of the souls of those who have who died this week; we pray for consolation for their families. We also pray for Canon Giles Goward, the Rector of St Mary's College, Oscott, who has been informed that he has cancer and that no further treatment is possible. He is grateful for all prayers and knows that they will continue.

**First reading Jonah 3:1-5,10** The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: 'Up!' he said 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.' Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.' And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least. God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour. And God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

**Psalm 24(25):4-6,7b-9**

*Lord, make me know your ways.*

Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:  
for you are God my saviour.

*Lord, make me know your ways.*

Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have shown from of old.

In your love remember me,  
because of your goodness, O Lord.  
*Lord, make me know your ways.*

The Lord is good and upright.  
He shows the path to those who stray,  
He guides the humble in the right path,  
He teaches his way to the poor.  
*Lord, make me know your ways.*

**Second reading 1 Corinthians 7:29-31** Brothers: our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.



*The Calling of Saint Peter and Saint Andrew, around 1890, by James Tissot*

**Gospel Mark 1:14-20** After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.' As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him. Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

**The Year of the Word** A leaflet is available from Canon Gerard or the Parish Office.

## **Homily for the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time Year B, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2021, GDF**

Where do you most expect to meet Jesus?

Do you feel that you need to be in this beautiful church of St Michael and All Angels, or maybe some great cathedral, to be uplifted to the Lord?

How about your kitchen, or office, classroom or supermarket?

Where do you suppose those first Apostles most expected to meet their Messiah?

Maybe in a place where they felt most holy, whatever that might be?

Simon and Andrew, James and John were not deep in prayer in the synagogue, when Jesus called them.

They were hard at work by the lake, their fingers calloused from the hauling of nets and the sorting of the fish: the smell of their work hanging heavily around them.

And from there, covered in blood and scales, they followed Jesus directly.

When Jesus needs people to work with Him He calls them where and how they are.

Did you also notice that Jesus leaves behind Zebedee and the other men that he employs?

The world needs fishermen: Jesus leaves them to their honest labour.

So, where do you most expect to meet Jesus today, this week, this Lockdown?

Remember, Levi, the tax collector who was to become Matthew.

Where was he when Jesus called him?

He wasn't in the synagogue or Temple either. He was in his tax-collector's booth.

Jesus called Matthew when he was doing work which many people despised.

His fingers had the taint of money on them; he followed Jesus directly.

He left the tax booth and began preparing for writing one of the Gospels.

But, again, Jesus left other tax collectors to collect the taxes,

and to ensure that what was Caesar's was given to Caesar.

Where do you most expect to meet God this week?

Here in church? Or at home, in the kitchen, the lounge or the garden?

In a supermarket, the High Street or at work?

At school or in the hospital or the prison?

Or shielding at home, making such a sacrifice

so as to save others and to keep yourself safe as well?

Of course, we who can, rejoice to meet God at Mass.

In the Mass we meet God in God's Word, in the Eucharist

and in each other, the Body of Christ.

But remember, those of us who can participate at Mass we are sent out from Mass.

We are sent out to make a difference to the rest of the world.

Some of us are so blessed to be at Mass each Sunday or any day during the week.

It can be the most wonderful part of the day.

But at the end of every Mass we are sent out to make a difference to the world.

God calls us to a wholeness and a goodness that is God's, not of our will or whim.

Jonah in today's reading had already disobeyed God's first call to him.

Now he has no option but to obey, to listen to God's command *Up! Go!* and to be sent out.

He has to do the work that God calls him to do with the people of Nineveh.

Jesus calls Simon and Andrew, James and John,

Matthew and Jonah and YOU as well, wherever we happen to be. God sends us!

God calls us and sends us personally;

calls us to hear the Good News and sends us to share the Good News.

As you meet God at Mass or at home, or wherever you might be,

rejoice that Jesus calls you and sends you to where He knows you need to be.

***During this present phase of the pandemic Deacon Nick and Canon Gerard are observing the recommendations of our Bishops to preach shorter homilies.***

## **VERSO L'ALTO - REACH THE HEIGHTS! An Hour of Prayer and Praise**

Bishop Philip invites you to join him and the Cathedral clergy online every Thursday, 7.30 pm to 8.30 pm, during Lockdown to pray for safety, for the sick and for key workers, for the Diocese and for a speedy end to the pandemic. Join via the cathedral website:

<https://www.portsmouthcatholiccathedral.org.uk/live-mass.php>



This weekend we take the annual second collection in support of St John's Cathedral, in Portsmouth. Appeal envelopes will be available for those who do not have gift aided planned giving envelopes. This collection is the only support our Cathedral receives from the wider Diocesan family. To allow for Lockdown a *Give as you Live* page is at:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/cathedral-annual-appeal> for online donations.

These are difficult times for us all, but please give generously to support your Cathedral, gift aiding your donation wherever possible. Thank you!

**Annemarie Blakemore** recommends a great resource. *I use the free Hallow app on my phone every day to pray with and they are offering something for Lent that you may be interested in:* [Hallow – Catholic Prayer and Meditation App](#)

**At Mass during Lockdown** we follow our Bishops' guidance to keep people gathered for less time than usual.

- We will not pray the *Glory to God in the highest*: we can still give *Glory to God* in our hearts!
- There will only be one reading before the Gospel. We can still read and be nourished by all of the readings which appear in this newsletter.
- The preacher will try to preach a shorter homily than usual (relief all round!)
- We will not pray Prayers of the Faithful, the *bidding prayers*, out loud: we can pray in our hearts for the Church and the world, our Pastoral Area and all its people, our Parish and our own intentions.
- We will use the Second Eucharistic Prayer, the shortest, more often than not and can relish the precious words in their beauty.
- We ask our musicians to keep their beautiful music for only as long as it accompanies a procession or Communion.
- We also ask you not to mingle before or after Mass. Please maintain a very definite social distance between yourself and the people ahead of you in the Communion procession. Pray for someone two meters ahead about to receive the Body of Christ.
- In every constraint there is its complementary freedom, if only we are wise enough to look for it.
- **St Michael and All Angels** is open every day from morning to dusk. Mass is daily at 10 am, and at 6 pm on Saturdays. Prayer is such a powerful Catholic tool against the pandemic. Those of us at Mass pray for all who have to stay at home, or who are at work or in our hospitals, Care Homes and local Hospices. If you cannot join us at Mass but wish to include a prayer-stop at St Michael's on your daily exercise walk please feel very welcome. If you are shielding please be a powerhouse of prayer for us all!

## Year B, the Year of Mark



### Our Masses this week

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation** is available during the half hour before each Mass.

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, Our Lady on Saturday  
10 am Mass, for the repose of the soul of Barnaby Essenhigh RIP  
6 pm Mass, for the people of our Parish

24<sup>th</sup> January, Third Sunday of Ordinary Time  
10 am Mass, for the repose of the soul of Kevin McGahan RIP

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January, The Conversion of St Paul  
10 am Mass, Fr Michael Feben RIP

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January, Ss Timothy & Titus  
10 am Mass, Johnnie Pearson RIP

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January, Feria  
10 am Mass in thanksgiving for our Parish flower team  
10.30 am – 11.30 am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January, St Thomas Aquinas  
10 am Mass, Kevin McGahan RIP

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January, Feria  
10 am Mass, Katie Hazell RIP

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January, Our Lady on Saturday  
10 am Mass, the intentions of Lyn Gwynne  
6 pm Mass, Colin Staggs RIP

31<sup>st</sup> January, Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time  
10 am Mass the intentions of the Parish & Phoenix Class at St Thomas More Catholic School

### **First Holy Communion and Confirmation 2021**

Please pray for those taking up the invitation to these two Sacraments. First Holy Communion will be celebrated for anyone in Year 3 and above. Confirmation is for anyone in Year 8 and above. If you wish to be included in the preparation programmes contact Canon Gerard by email at [gerardflyn@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:gerardflyn@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or on 023 9248 4323. We will let you know how and when we will do this as soon as we can.

The best preparation for now is to pray at Mass.

*I accidentally booked myself onto an escapology course;  
I'm really struggling to get out of it. Adele Cliff*

**Paul Hazell** writes, after last Monday's funeral of his wife, Katie RIP:



*Thank you Father Gerard for such a beautiful service. Many thanks too for inviting Father Jonathan to participate and for welcoming Father Felix back to St Michael's. Many thanks as well to Reverend Nick for his contributions. Thank you to all those who attended both in the flesh and in spirit through the aether of live-streaming. We had over 100 receivers of the live video stream, which probably means we had 500-1000 viewers including those from Ireland. St Michael's looked absolutely stunningly beautiful. The undertakers thought so too! The flower-ladies should be congratulated. Also many thanks to Ellen, for the setting up of the projection and sound system, which worked so smoothly and well on the day. Not one hiccup. 10/10 Bim's music was just lovely, especially his guitar solo of the Lord's My Shepherd, which was beautiful. It went off better than our most optimistic dreams, which made it a very special day. On any scale, it was a funeral to be proud of. We did, I think, Katie proud. Love and best wishes, from me especially, but also from all the Hazells who found it a most moving occasion. Paul*



*Our Flower Team had prepared wonderful displays for Katie's funeral.  
A few of the beautiful Orders of Service are available if anyone wishes to ask our Parish Office.*

### **Responding to the prompt of the Holy Spirit**

#### **A Portsmouth Diocese Meeting, Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February 10 am to 1 pm on Zoom**

This online event, organised by a team working with Fr Mark Hogan, is an opportunity to inspire and to hear from others about how we, as Church, in Portsmouth have responded – or how we might respond - in practical ways, to the Great Commission (Mt 28: 19). Register at [www.tinyurl.com/6th-feb-21](http://www.tinyurl.com/6th-feb-21) to receive the Zoom link. Opening with prayer led by Fr Kelvin from Boars Hill Carmel near Oxford. Fr Mike Schmitz will challenge and inspire us, in a video, to respond to the spirit just as the apostles did at Pentecost. In breakout rooms we will share how we think we might respond to Jesus's commission, or share what has already worked, or could work. Others will give short introductions on their approach to Mission.

