

St Michael and All Angels Catholic Church

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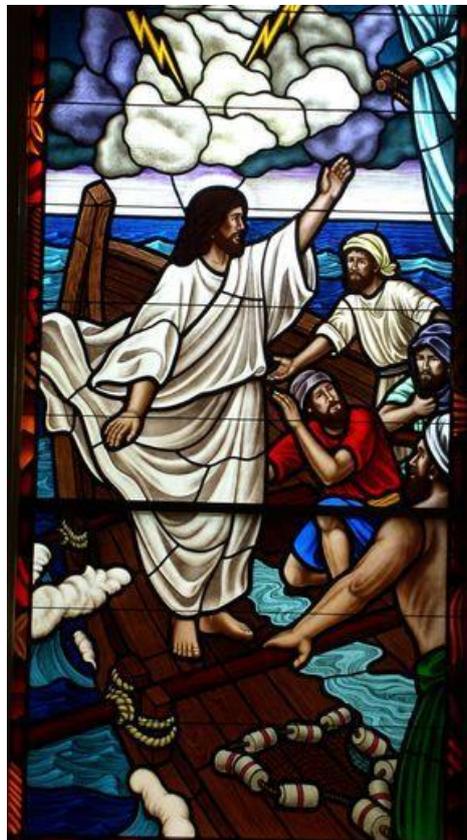
Newsletter for the week beginning 20th June 2021 **Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time: the Storm on the lake**

Scripture Readings at Mass

Only God has mastery over the sea. Job 38:1,8-11

Christ showed His love for us by dying for us. We are to imitate that love. 2 Corinthians 5:14-17

Jesus calms a storm and shows his divine power and His care for his disciples. Mark 4:35-41



Calming the Storm, a stained glass window in Shiloh Baptist Church, South Carolina

Please pray for all those who are sick, bereft or in any particular need.

Day for Life, this Sunday, 20th June, is the day in the Church's year dedicated to raising awareness about the meaning and value of human life at every stage and in every condition. The Church teaches that life is to be nurtured from conception to natural death. On this site, [About – Day for Life](#) you will find [resources](#) and information on [subjects](#) which cover the journey of life. You can also [read](#) documents and publications released by the Catholic Church and her bishops on the key issues. *Day for Life* is celebrated annually by the Catholic Church in Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales. The proceeds of the *Day for Life* collection to be held in parishes in England and Wales assists the work of the [Anscombe Bioethics Centre](#) and other life-related activities supported by the Church.

Our Liturgies this week

Prayer of the Church: Week 4

Saturday 19th June, Our Lady on Saturday

10 am Mass with the baptism of Darcy Benham & First Holy Communion for Jillian, Kyron and Mason
6 pm Mass for the people of the Parish

20th June, Twelfth Sunday of the Year

10 am Mass Joseph Watkins-Glass: First Holy Communion
11.30 am Mass Alana, Orran and Eva: First Holy Communion
Mary & Dan Fogarty RIP
The additional 11.30 am Mass continues until a review late in July.

Monday 21st June, St Aloysius Gonzaga

10 am Mass Leslie Burgess RIP (at the request of Noreen)

Tuesday 22nd June, Ss John Fisher & Thomas More

10 am Mass for St Thomas More School is at school.
We are not yet able to invite parishioners to join us at school for Mass but please pray for the intentions of our school community.

Wednesday 23rd June, Feria

10 am Mass Betty Fellows RIP (family request)
10.30 -11.30 am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday 24th June, Nativity of St John the Baptist

10 am Mass for the work of Cafod

Friday 25th June, Feria

10 am Mass priest's intentions

Saturday 26th June, Our Lady on Saturday

10 am Mass Liliana and Louise: First Holy Communion
6 pm Mass for the intentions of the Parish

27th June, Thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

10 am Mass Emily and Thierry: First Holy Communion
11.30 am Mass for intentions of all of our First Holy Communion families

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

We livestream on Facebook and our website.

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

Thank you for helping us all by adhering to the requirements to wear a face-covering, to use sanitiser & to sit where our stewards & signs indicate.

For this week

Maureen Thompson has arranged a Zoom meeting with Flick Drummond MP about the world's poorest people, the climate crisis & unjust debts for 24th June at 6.30 pm.

Maureen hopes that many parishioners will join the meeting.

Please let Philip Hayllar know if you can attend: philiphayllar@hotmail.com



Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

First reading Job 38:1,8-11

From the heart of the tempest the Lord gave Job his answer. He said:
Who pent up the sea behind closed doors
when it leapt tumultuous out of the womb,
when I wrapped it in a robe of mist
and made black clouds its swaddling bands;
when I marked the bounds it was not to cross
and made it fast with a bolted gate?
Come thus far, I said, and no farther:
here your proud waves shall break.

Responsorial Psalm 106(107):23-26,28-32

O give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures for ever.

Some sailed to the sea in ships
to trade on the mighty waters.
These men have seen the Lord's deeds,
the wonders he does in the deep.

O give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures for ever.

For he spoke; he summoned the gale,
tossing the waves of the sea
up to heaven and back into the deep;
their souls melted away in their distress.

O give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures for ever.

Then they cried to the Lord in their need
and he rescued them from their distress.
He stilled the storm to a whisper:
all the waves of the sea were hushed.

O give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures for ever.

They rejoiced because of the calm
and he led them to the haven they desired.
Let them thank the Lord for his love,
for the wonders he does for men.

O give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures for ever.

Second reading 2 Corinthians 5:14-17

The love of Christ overwhelms us when we reflect that if one man has died for all, then all men should be dead; and the reason he died for all was so that living men should live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised to life for them.

From now onwards, therefore, we do not judge anyone by the standards of the flesh. Even if we did once know Christ in the flesh, that is not how we know him now. And for anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 4:35-41

With the coming of evening, Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let us cross over to the other side.' And leaving the crowd behind they took him, just as he was, in the boat; and there were other boats with him. Then it began to blow a gale and the waves were breaking into the boat so that it was almost swamped. But he was in the stern, his head on the cushion, asleep. They woke him and said to him, 'Master, do you not care? We are going down!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, 'Quiet now! Be calm!' And the wind dropped, and all was calm again. Then he said to them, 'Why are you so frightened? How is it that you have no faith?' They were filled with awe and said to one another, 'Who can this be? Even the wind and the sea obey him.'

Homily for 19th/20th June 2021

Jesus and his disciples are crossing the Sea of Galilee. Moving from the Jewish side, where they are at home and comfortable, over to the Gentile side where they are strangers and everything unfamiliar. Although we may never have crossed the Sea of Galilee, we certainly know what it feels like to be in that boat. Although it is impossible to argue that this Gospel is about the weather and a boat trip, it is something so much more than that. This is a teaching on life. A story about faith. A story about fear. And if you find one of those somewhere on your travels, you will find all three as they cannot be separated. At various times we will find the sea of life rough. Strong winds and the waves high. The boat may feel like it is sinking as it takes on water. We can all relate to this feeling. We all will have our own storm story. Some of our stories will begin with a phone call, a trip to the doctor or some news we didn't want to hear. Some of our stories will start with choices we made, some of our mistakes and sins. Some stories will involve difficult and challenging relationships, the hopes and dreams we had but then fell apart, it could be the struggle we faced in growing up and not sure how to find our way. Then of course we have the storms which just literally seem to come from nowhere and take us completely by surprise. Then we can also see other storms building and brewing in the distance as we stand by helplessly and watch.

The thing with storms is that they happen. No matter what sort of storm, we know that regardless of when or how they arise up they are going to bring changing conditions. Storms of failure, depression, loneliness, regrets, uncertainty.... even storms of our own thoughts. Life can seem to be overwhelming, not going our way and life seems out of control. The circumstances surrounding these storms are just too much to handle. We are sinking in the boat. The water is deep and the new shore we were heading for is just a distant blur on the horizon. The disciples were quick to try and make that particular storm all about Jesus. *Don't you care we are about to die?* How many times have we cried out similar things? *Do something! Make it better! Fix this mess!*

Right in the middle of this storm it is true that Jesus seems not to care. He is even sleeping! Sleeping Jesus is not who they or we want in the middle of storm! Even though we may not want sleeping Jesus, he is right there in the boat, surrounded by the same storm, surrounded by the same water, blown around by the same wind, feeling the beating waves crashing against the boat.... he is there and feeling all the same things as they are and that we do.

What is different is his response. While the disciples want busy, active Jesus to do something, Jesus is in complete peace and stillness. This is revealing that the storm and threat of wind, waves, and water around is not the real threat, but that the most dangerous storm, the raging, churning violent storm is the one within us. This is interior storm that beats against our faith, blows us off course and can easily drown us. The storm within us is fear, vulnerability, and anxiety. The waves pounding the boat are the feelings of abandonment, the unknown, judgement and criticism of ourselves as well as others and all too often we find that anger, cynicism, isolation, and denial become the welcome shelter from the storm.

Jesus speaks to the wind and sea. *Quiet now! Be calm!* But maybe Jesus isn't changing the weather so much as inviting the disciples and inviting us to change. He is speaking to wind and waves within us. The disciples are pointing and speaking about the things outside of them, but Jesus is now pointing to what is happening inside of them. *Why are you so frightened? How is it that you have no faith?* The words Jesus speaks are more about us than the circumstances of our lives.

Faith, more faith, better faith, stronger faith, the right kind of faith does not stop the storms of our lives. Faith doesn't even change the storm.... but faith will change us. Faith will not take you around the storm but will lead you through the storm. Faith allows to see and know that Jesus is right there with us as we navigate the storm. Faith allows us to be calm, to be peaceful and to be still even when we are right in the middle of the storm. That peace means we don't have to interiorise the storm anymore. In every storm there is a choice to make. Which power are you going to trust? The power of the storm or the power of Jesus Christ? *Quiet now! Be calm!*

With love and prayers, Deacon Nick

Last weekend here at St Michael's



.... Megan Watkins and Richard Adams celebrated the Sacrament of Matrimony in our stunningly beautifully decorated church



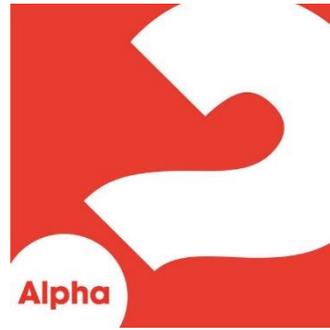
and Iga, Natalia, Victoria, Szymon, Jaeden and Ryan made their First Holy Communion.



***O Sacrament most Holy,
O Sacrament Divine,
All praise and all thanksgiving,
Be every moment Thine.***

ADoRE Online A spiritual mini-retreat morning is on 26th June 10 am -1 pm with Mass, adoration, prayer, reflection & discussion on the theme: *Growth in the Holy Spirit - Grow your Christian life in the Spirit through Prayer, Scripture, Service and Community*. The speaker is Carol Ann Harnett, a Catechist trainer. Please register in advance at bit.ly/ADOREJUN2021 **ADoRE** offers confidential prayer for healing by telephone: 07579 824523 Monday to Friday 10 am to 4 pm. Experienced prayer ministers will pray with you confidentially for healing of physical, emotional and spiritual problems.

Covid: If God exists, why...? Has the Covid crisis shaken your faith in God? Has it made you wish you had a faith? Has it made you think deeply about what really matters in life? Has it made you ask *Is it all worth it?*



We are pleased to offer **Online Alpha** to those curious about God, Jesus Christ and His message of the Good News. To anyone feeling *There must be more to life than this*, or for renewal of Faith, we start on Thursday 1st July, 7.45 pm to 9.15 pm, for 11 weeks. All the elements of Alpha from the comfort of your own home! So, if you wish to join us email: alphawaterlooville@gmail.com or call and we will take your details, or you can leave a message to contact you on 07948 205237.

Prayers to our shelter in any storm

Oh God, our Rock, You are our shelter when storms come our way.

We are secure, no matter what news we hear of danger. You are our rock and our defence.

We will not be alarmed or fearful. When the wind rages around us, we have our safe retreat in You.

You alone are our refuge, be ever near us, we pray. Keep us safe through this time. Amen.



A Scottish landscape in a storm

Lord, we give thanks to You, for You are good; Your faithful love endures forever.

When the winds and the waves rise, and we cringe in terror, we cry out to You in our distress, knowing

You can calm the storm to a whisper and still the waves.

Please draw near, and be our safety.

We praise You for Your great love and the wonderful things You have done for us. Amen.

