



# THE ARCHANGEL

St. Michael's School and Parish • Harts Lane • Burghclere • RG20 9JW

April 2022

No. 49 - 50p

## Dear Parishioners,

This month, if all goes to plan, ground works will commence on the soon-to-be newly fenced off church construction site. We are encountering some additional challenges regarding site drainage. The stony clay soil makes drainage difficult and slow and the last test results show that extra soak-away areas may need to be excavated.

As the diggers begin to clear the ground in readiness for the concrete base of the church, the reality of this project become concrete. Very soon we will see the erection of the steel frame. The walls will then begin to rise out from ground level and our new church will take shape.

We sincerely hope that the sight of walls emerging from the ground will incite every parishioner to generously subscribe to our fundraising efforts. It should be the concern of every parishioner to bring their gift to the future temple of the Lord. As King David assembled the materials needed to construct the Temple, he spoke to his people: "Over and above the things which I have offered into the house of my God I give of my own proper goods, gold and silver for the temple of my God... Now if any man is willing to offer, let him fill his hand today, and offer what he pleaseth to the Lord." (1Chr 29:305)

It is easy to give of one's abundance. It is hard to give of one's necessity. And yet, time and time again, it is the widow's mite that comes first and most readily. Such donations offer the best guarantee of project completion and success. Christ tells us that when we give of our necessity, we give more than the rich man who cast his money into the treasury. (Mk 12:43) Such generosity touches the heart of God.

Giving of one's necessity means that we give up something that we would otherwise need. It means placing ourselves in God's hands, knowing that He will care for us. (1Pet. 5:7) It means practising the virtue of faith that is so necessary to the building up of God's kingdom on earth.

We tend to think that church buildings owe their existence to rich patrons. They do to a large extent, but records show that the churches of the Middle Ages and, indeed, those more recently constructed after Catholic Emancipation, are in large part the result of the poor man's frugality and courage. Like the widow praised by

our Lord, we must look to forgo that which in better times we take for granted.

Scripture encourages almsgiving as one of the best means of obtaining the remission of our sins. Old Tobias endured harsh words from his wife for his generosity which placed them in such a predicament that he was forced to send his son on a perilous journey to claim some money owed to him. Tobias' generosity thus brought to our knowledge the identity of one of the seven spirits who stand before God's throne: the archangel Raphael. "Prayer is good with fasting and alms more than to lay up treasures of gold: For alms delivereth from death, and the same is that which purgeth away sins, and maketh to find mercy and life everlasting." (Tob. 12:-8-9)

Please include in your family prayers the *Memorare* to St Joseph for the successful completion of the church project. Holy cards are available in the vestibule and on request.

On Palm Sunday, after Mass, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed until Benediction at **5pm (not 6pm)**. This exposition is part of a daily adoration schedule that is apportioned to every house of the Society of Saint Pius X worldwide. Adoration is organised for the following intentions: for victory against the enemies of the Church; for the conversion of Rome and of bishops; for the sanctification of priests and seminarians and for vocations.

Let us take advantage of this opportunity to spend time in our Lord's presence as He prepares to give up His life for the Redemption of the world. An hour's adoration is a wonderful way of sanctifying the Lord's Day. Please use the "[adoration sign-up sheet](#)" to ensure that the Blessed Sacrament is not left alone. The link will be sent via the noticeboard.

Tenebrae will be sung on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. In former times the entire village would congregate to assist at the Church's lament for Her Lord and Spouse. We are very blessed with an able choir. It is a tremendous honour to be able to sing the Divine Office with dignity and splendour.

The community wishes all the parish every grace and blessing this Easter.

**Fr John Brucciani, Prior**

# Compassionate Mother

It is good to remind ourselves of the price of Mary's universal mediation and motherhood. We beg from her so many graces, and she grants us even more. Yet every grace we receive had its price. She bore us to the life of grace. If we could only grasp just how painful were the pangs of birth.

It seems strange that the Church celebrates the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. There does not seem much to "celebrate" when it comes to the intense suffering which afflicted Our Blessed Mother's heart and soul. We should be ashamed of such pain, for which we are so much the cause, and we should be glad that the pain is now over.

Yet, there is cause to celebrate. Such celebrations remind us of all that Our Lady went through for our salvation. They give us an example to follow in times of trial. They also teach us the methods God uses to bring souls, in particular the souls of mothers, to great sanctity.

Our Lady's crowning glory is her divine motherhood. Her Seven Sorrows are as seven pearls of great price that adorn that crown, and make it all the more precious and beautiful. When she agreed to become the Mother of God, she accepted also all the great honour that proximity with God brings in its train. She knew that her crown would be one of thorns.

Our Lady's sorrows are of a particular nature. They are different from those of her Son. Jesus Christ suffered in His Person. He was hated, persecuted, tortured and murdered. He bore the brunt of sin and died its victim. In a mysterious and mystical way He had, at least, the satisfaction of knowing that He was diverting divine wrath and suffering away from those He loved: by His wounds we were healed. He could satisfy His love by giving everything He had. When He died, He sighed as if in relief. All was accomplished: "consummatum est!" His mission was done.

It was not given to Our Lady to satisfy her love by offering her life. She was called upon to give up something much more precious: her Son. She was called upon to accompany Him all the way to Calvary and to assist, powerless, at His demise.

More terrible still, she was required to love and pray for those who persecuted her Son, not only for the Jews and the Pharisees, but for all of mankind, for we all participate in Our Lord's death by the sins we commit.

There is more: Our Lady was called upon to care for those who murdered her Son, who was her sole Love and unique Care. "Woman, behold thy son." When Our Lord uttered those words, there was created in Our Lady's Most Immaculate Heart a new fountain of solicitude for every member of the human race. She became at that moment our Mother, and her pains were doubled. For she had to witness, powerless, her loved ones killing her Loved One. Her Immaculate Heart became a heart filled with unadulterated sorrow. Thus was it fully configured to Our Lord's Most Sacred Heart, pierced for our sins.

We have here Our Lady's crowning glory. She loved when love became distasteful. She did not push us away. She did not push God away who wished her heart to be crushed, a heart that had loved so freely and, in times past, so delightfully and willingly. The delight was now gone, but the will remained. That is holiness.

Every Catholic mother's heart will be worked by God according to the same pattern. Mothers suffer for those they love, with those they love, at the hands of those they love. Family can be the source of great joy, but also of intense despondency. So it was for Our Lady.

But the equation may be applied to all Christians seeking to be like unto Christ. He will lead them down paths of disappointment, injustice and sadness. In a world of sin, that is what happens. It was His lot in life. It was the lot of His Mother. If we wish to be like Our Lord and Our Lady, it will also be our lot in life. In heaven, where there is no sin, there will be no suffering, only bliss and joy.

Let us be careful of inflicting pain on those we love. That pain is of a particular, life-draining sort. Only God is powerful enough to inflict pain without destroying love. It is not for us to consider ourselves "like unto God". ♡



## Our The Pearl of Great Price

St. Stephen's Stones - A Series on the  
Arch-confraternity of St. Stephen

Fr. J. Steele

Once upon a time, in a steaming hot classroom in sunny Italy, a teacher was instructing his pupils in the fundamentals of the Catholic faith. It was mid-afternoon and many of them were dozing slightly after a tasty noon meal. Outside the classroom, the birds sang cheerfully and a slight breeze freshened the otherwise stagnant air. In the middle of the lesson, to try to revive his dying class, the teacher promised his students an apple if they could tell him where God is. Naturally, the expectation of a reward excited these children and they all strove with all of their might to find the right answer in their minds, but there was a good deal of confusion all around as to where exactly God is. This seems to be quite a tricky question since He is certainly everywhere, but where is “everywhere”? How were they to obtain the much-desired prize if they couldn't answer the question? All of a sudden, one of them raised his hand and remarked in a clear, confident voice: “I will give two apples to anyone who can tell me where God isn't.”

Such clarity in a young person of barely ten years of age is not the fruit of merely natural learning; it is, rather, the wisdom that one acquires only through a close and constant contact with God through prayer and a life of virtue, by the grace of God. This astounding answer came from the lips of one Giuseppe Sarto, known to his friends and family as “Beppo” and later to become the saintly pope St. Pius X. Moreover, he is our secondary Patron as members of the Arch-confraternity of St. Stephen and a special intercessor in heaven for all servers and those who aspire to serve at the Altar of God. From his earliest years this saint sought to learn and drink in the holy truths of our Faith, the wisdom of God Himself. He did this, first and foremost, while serving daily at the altar at his little parish in Riese, Italy. He would even rise early in the morning sometimes just to be able to serve the Mass before setting off to school or work in the fields. What an example he is to us in having a true appreciation for that pearl of great price that is our faith, and particularly the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Is it too much to assume that he prayed often those words that the Arch-confraternity member recites before every Mass: “Come Holy Ghost, fill the hearts of Thy faithful; enkindle in them the fire of Thy love”? I think not. How else could he have had such a tender love for the Mass and for Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist, which he kept for the rest of his life? How else could he have attained to such wisdom at a young age if not by the grace of God, sought and received daily at the Altar? How can we hope to imitate him in this love of the Liturgy of Holy Mother Church if we do not seek grace from God, even daily, and particularly that great request to be, “truly wise and rejoice in His consolations”?



We must strive to imitate him, particularly in this love for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Let us never be satisfied with mediocrity in this regard. Only the best is good enough for God's service, whether that be the movements, the vestments, the flowers on the altar, or the other furnishings in the sanctuary. Let us always strive to be more attentive, more reverent, more simple in our service at the altar. Let us give only our best to the good God as He only gives the very best to us, namely Himself. Let us strive to remember the following words and to live them on the altar, “Love is in the details.” It is not the details *as details* that matter, but it is the love and care with which we pay attention to those details that is pleasing to God. If we do our best to serve God by paying close attention to the details and by following the rubrics to the letter, sacrificing our own petty liturgical preferences to the wishes of Holy Mother Church, we can rest assured that God is pleased with our efforts to show our love for Him. In this we will find and continue to discover more and more as the years pass the incredible beauties of that pearl of great price that is the Holy Mass. We will grow to love it more deeply and to appreciate it with the true wisdom and grace that comes from God alone.

**St. Stephen, pray for us! St. Pius X, pray for us!**

ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL WARMLY INVITES  
ALUMNI, FAMILY & FRIENDS TO CELEBRATE OUR  
**30th Anniversary!**  
PLEASE JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL REUNION  
BUFFET LUNCH & DRINKS  
**Saturday 7 May 2022**  
Arrival 12pm | Lunch served 12.30pm  
Chesil House, 4 Chesil Street, Winchester SO23 0HU  
Tickets £45 | Contact: alumniandfriends@sanctusmichael.com  
BOOK ONLINE HERE >

### CHAPEL CLEANING

Please [Sign up](#) to the schedule or contact the office. It is very important that more people volunteer to keep the Lord's house clean and worthy.



<https://signup.com/go/pHdmngH>

### NOTE EASTER SPRING CLEAN

Monday of Holy Week 09:30

Please sign up above!

## Our Greatest Treasure!

### A Traditional Catholic School



ST. MICHAEL'S  
SCHOOL

Catholics should not choose mixed schools but have their own schools especially for children. They should choose excellent and reputable teachers for them. For an education in which religion is altered or non-existent is a very dangerous education.

All teaching should occur in an atmosphere of Christian piety. If it is otherwise, if this sacred inspiration does not penetrate the spirits of the teachers and of the students, the instruction will produce only little fruit and will often even have seriously harmful consequences.

*Encyclical Militantis Ecclesiae, Pope Leo XIII*

## Admissions open

[secretary@sanctusmichael.com](mailto:secretary@sanctusmichael.com)

## ✠ Holy Triduum ✠

### APRIL 14: HOLY THURSDAY

7:00 p.m. Sung Mass and Adoration until midnight.

### APRIL 15: GOOD FRIDAY

#### *Fasting and Abstinence*

8:30 a.m. Tenebrae

2:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

3:00 p.m. Mass of the Pre-Sanctified

### APRIL 16: HOLY SATURDAY

8:30 a.m. Tenebrae

10:30 p.m. Paschal Vigil


### APRIL 17: EASTER SUNDAY

7:30, 9:00 Holy Mass

THE SSPX WAS UNABLE TO CLAIM AN ESTIMATED £15 000 IN 2021, DUE TO ABSENCE OF GIFT AID DECLARATIONS.

*giftaid it*

## INCREASE YOUR DONATIONS BY 25%

- USE THE YELLOW ENVELOPES
- OR SET UP A STANDING ORDER  
RBS BURGHCLERE PRIORY  
16-26-18 10191331
- MAKE ANNUAL ONLINE   
[GIFT AID DECLARATION](#)



## Liturgical Calendar April 2022

1	Feria in Lent - Holy Hour 18:00	7:15 / 19:00
2	Feria in Lent - 1st Sat.	7:30 / 12:00
3	<b>Passion Sunday</b>	7:30, 9:00
	<i>2nd Collection for District Seminary Fund</i>	18:00 Benediction
4	Feria of Passiontide	7:15
5	Feria of Passiontide	7:15
6	Feria of Passiontide	7:15
7	Feria of Passiontide	7:15
8	<b>Our Lady of Compassion - Benediction 18h</b>	7:15
9	Feria of Passiontide	7:30 / 12:00
10	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	7:30, 9:00
	Perpetual Adoration 11:00 - 17:00	<b>17:00</b> Benediction
11	Monday of Holy Week	7:15
12	Tuesday of Holy Week	7:00
13	Wednesday of Holy Week	7:00
14	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	See schedule
15	<b>Good Friday (Day of Fasting)</b>	See schedule
16	<b>Holy Saturday</b>	See schedule
17	<b>Easter</b>	7:30, 9:00
		18:00 Benediction
18	Easter Monday	7:30
19	Easter Tuesday	7:30
20	Easter Wednesday	7:30
21	Easter Thursday	7:30
22	Easter Friday	7:30
23	Easter Saturday	7:30/12:00
24	<b>Low Sunday</b>	7:30, 9:00
		18:00 Benediction
25	St. Mark, Evangelist	7:15
26	Ss Cletus & Marcellinus, Popes & Martyrs	7:15
27	St. Peter Canisius, Confessor & Doctor	7:15
28	St. Paul of the Cross, Confessor	7:15
29	St. Peter of Verona, Martyr	7:15
30	St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Doctor	7:30 / 12:00

*Don't forget your **Easter duties**: Confession and communion before Good Shepherd Sunday*

**S**tole fees (also called stipends) are offerings in consideration of expenses incurred by a chapel or priest in the course of ministering to the faithful. The stole fee is paid to the priory of the priest's residence.

Mass: £14

Gregorian of Masses: £600

Baptisms: £50

Weddings £150

Funerals £100