



# THE PARISH OF SOUTH BEDDINGTON AND ROUNDSHAW

*"Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight."*

## GAUDETE SUNDAY

WELCOME TO ST MICHAEL'S SOUTH BEDDINGTON & ST PAUL'S ROUNDSHAW. IF YOU ARE VISITING US FOR THE FIRST TIME, WE HOPE YOU FIND THE SERVICE ENJOYABLE. IF YOU ARE NEW TO THE CHURCH, PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF KNOWN TO OUR CLERGY OR CHURCHWARDENS AFTER THE SERVICE. YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO JOIN US FOR REFRESHMENTS.

**Nine Lessons & Carols:** this evening at 4pm in St Michael's Church. A beautiful candlelit service of carols, bible readings and poems.....Do invite friends and family to come along. There will be refreshments following the service.

**Working party- St Michael's;** thank you to those who helped out yesterday for the working party at St Michael's to clean the church for our Christmas services.

**Working party - St Paul's:** if you are able to stay behind after the service on Sunday 24th December to prepare the church for Christmas, please let the churchwardens know.

**Christmas services:** there are still a few leaflets at the back of church for delivery to the parish. Please take some if you are able and give to your friends, neighbours, local shops etc etc.

**Understanding the Eucharist :** There is a sign up sheet at the back of church for this course which will help us to understand a little more about the Eucharist. Session 1, Saturday 13 January 11.00am to 1.00pm, we will watch the superb 1980s film *Babette's Feast*, in which food and drink work their magic and restore and heal a divided community. Sessions 2-4, Saturdays 20, 27 January and 3 February, all 11.00am to 12.30pm, we will look at the themes of offering and sacrifice, of remembering, and at eucharistic practice past and present. What does it mean to follow our Lord's command to 'Do this in remembrance of me'? And how does that change us? All sessions will take place at St Michael's church. All are very welcome. Please come and bring your thoughts, your questions and your friends. There will be tea/coffee and hopefully cake. Not forgetting the regular Saturday Mass at St Michael's, 10.30 to 11.00am, which will precede each session.

### SERVICES TODAY:

#### St Paul's:

9.<sup>00</sup> am Said Eucharist

#### St Michael's:

10.<sup>00</sup> am Sung Eucharist

### SERVICES NEXT WEEK:

#### St Michael's

Sat 10.30am

Sun 10am

#### St Paul's

Thurs 10.30am

Sun 9am

### YEARS MIND:

18<sup>th</sup> Frederick Wickenden

21<sup>st</sup> Dorothy Gbebikan

22<sup>nd</sup> Glenys Seymour

### RECENTLY DEPARTED:

### BIRTHDAYS:

17<sup>th</sup> Jean Beale

17<sup>th</sup> Rob Nelson

18<sup>th</sup> Harry Nelson

21<sup>st</sup> Konrad Malin-Smith

21<sup>st</sup> Craig Duncan

22<sup>nd</sup> Alex Gbebikan Kennedy

### CLERGY:

MOTHER ANGELA 020 8647 1201

FATHER DENNIS 020 8647 5891

MOTHER MARIA 07765 182 042

MOTHER MARTHA 07901 568549

### CHURCHWARDENS:

MICHAEL WALKER 020 8669 2404

ROSALIND SINKA 020 8647 5997

SALLY PAGE 020 8647 9567

JENNIE NASH 07800 572852

### READINGS NEXT WEEK:

#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### 1ST READING

2 Samuel 7:1-11,16

#### PSALM

89:1-4, 19-26

#### 2ND READING

Romans 16:25-27

#### GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

### DIARY DATES

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES INFO

10 December 3pm Carol Service at St Pauls'  
17 December 4pm Nine lessons and Carols at St Michael's  
24 December 4pm Crib Service at St Michael's  
24 December 11.30pm Midnight Mass at St Michael's  
Christmas Day 10.30am Festival Eucharist at St Paul's

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

@ ST PAUL'S Every 1st Sunday of each month

@ ST MICHAEL'S Every 1st and 3rd Sunday of

**REFLECTION:** Today's Gospel continues our reflection on the message of John the Baptist; a call for us to prepare, a call for us to change both our hearts and actions. John the Baptist challenges us to live differently, to change not just ourselves but also our world...he also invites his hearers to prepare for a baptism of the spirit which will change them from the inside out. The church is often accused of being solely concerned with the spiritual aspect of life but our calling is to change ourselves in order to change the lives and situation of those who are in need. You cannot recognize Jesus in the most holy sacrament of the altar if you cannot recognize Jesus in the homeless and hungry on our streets, in the destitute, in the marginalized and oppressed. Our message is proclaimed and heard most effectively in those places where God's presence is most hidden. When we enable people to recognise God's coming to them, even when they don't expect it or don't feel they deserve it, we have revealed God's Reign. When we have touched people with God's love and grace through our actions and words, we have made straight paths for God's coming, and have prepared the way for people to open themselves to God's transforming presence. Like John the Baptist our task is both internal and external, and it enables both people and the communities they live in slowly, but surely, to become more just and peaceful and compassionate.

