



THE PARISH OF SOUTH BEDDINGTON AND ROUNDSHAW

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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.

Dorothy Morton: It is with sadness that we note the death of Dorothy Morton on Tuesday 19th December. Dorothy had been a longstanding member of St Michael's Church until her failing health required a move to a nursing home in Sutton. Dorothy's son, David, sends his thanks to all who continued to visit Dorothy over the past few years. Dorothy's funeral will take place at 12 noon on Friday 19th January at North East Surrey Crematorium. May Dorothy rest in peace, and rise in glory.

Collection for the Food Bank/Reverse Advent Calendar: An enormous "thank you" to all who contributed to our appeal for Christmas donations for the foodbank. The response has been overwhelming and Phil's car was full to the brink... These items will bring much needed relief to those who are vulnerable and despairing at the possibility of having nothing over the Christmas period. Thank you.

St Michael's Organ Fund raffle will be drawn this morning after the service. If you have not already bought your tickets... this is the last opportunity to do so.

St Paul's Church : if you are able to stay behind after the service this morning please let the Churchwardens know as they will need help with preparing the church for Christmas.

Understanding the Eucharist : There will be a sign up sheet at the back of church next week, 31st December 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.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES INFO

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

SERVICES TODAY:

St Paul's:
9.⁰⁰ am Said Eucharist
St Michael's:
10.⁰⁰ am Sung Eucharist
4pm Crib Service
11.30pm Midnight Mass

SERVICES NEXT WEEK:

St Michael's	St Paul's
Sat 10.30am	Thurs 10.30am
Sun 10am	Sun 9am

YEARS MIND:

30th Mary Horsham
30th Dorothy Washford

RECENTLY DEPARTED:

Dorothy Morton RIP

BIRTHDAYS:

28th Jenni Nash

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:

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

1ST READING

Isaiah 61:10-62:3)

PSALM

TBC

2ND READING

Galatians 4: 4-7

GOSPEL

TBC

DIARY DATES

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

REFLECTION: Today we come to the end of our Advent journey for 2017 and this afternoon and evening turn our hearts and minds to God breaking into our world. In our homes, churches and communities, we may be tempted to celebrate Christmas as a sentimental holiday which takes us out of "the world" for a time, and gives us a distraction from the pain and difficulties facing us all at the moment. Christmas can be a somewhat introspective affair, particularly if we do not give thought to the fact that Christmas is not just about the Baby, but about the new order, the new way of being, that the Baby inaugurated. The Christmas story invites us into more than just an individualised spirituality or a judgmental rejection of materialism. Instead, it calls us into a radical connectedness with others - especially the least and marginalised. It calls us into a radical generosity and care for one another. It calls us into a radical simplicity and servanthood. Which means that, even as we share gifts, we are called to share ourselves, and to move beyond simply giving "things" to taking the time to understand one another and give each other the gifts of love, support, protection, acceptance and challenge. The big question is how our Christmas celebrations can manifest the new order of God's Reign, and how they can welcome and touch others with their life-giving reality. May your Christmas, when it comes, be blessed with generosity of spirit, generosity of love and an abundance of God's grace.

