

DEDICATION SUNDAY



OPENING RESPONSES

To young and to old
We welcome you

To rich and to poor
We welcome you

To loud and to quiet
We welcome you

To regular and to visitor
We welcome you

To happy and to sad
We welcome you

To God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
We welcome you



LORD FOR THE YEARS



CONFESSION

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

We are a temple of God's indwelling Holy Spirit,
yet we have grieved him.

The temple of our bodies does not belong to us,
but was bought at the price of Christ's precious blood.

So we come, in sorrow yet with confidence,
to ask forgiveness of our Father in heaven.

Lord God, our maker and our redeemer,
this is your world and we are your people:
come among us and save us.

We have wilfully misused your gifts of creation;

Lord, be merciful:

forgive us our sin.

We have seen the ill-treatment of others
and have not gone to their aid;

Lord, be merciful:

forgive us our sin.

We have condoned evil and dishonesty
and failed to strive for justice;

Lord, be merciful:

forgive us our sin.

We have heard the good news of Christ,
but have failed to share it with others;

Lord, be merciful:

forgive us our sin.

We have not loved you with all our heart,
nor our neighbours as ourselves;

Lord, be merciful:

forgive us our sin.

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon *you*,
pardon and deliver *you* from all *your* sins,
confirm and strengthen *you* in all goodness,
and keep *you* in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

 COLLECT

Almighty God,
to whose glory we celebrate the dedication
of this house of prayer:
we praise you for the many blessings
you have given to those who worship you here:
and we pray that all who seek you in this place may find you,
and, being filled with the Holy Spirit,
may become a living temple acceptable to you;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

 SPEAK O LORD AS WE COME TO YOU BIBLE READING**Joshua 3**

3 Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over. **2** After three days the officers went throughout the camp, **3** giving orders to the people: “When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the Levitical priests carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. **4** Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about two thousand cubits^[a] between you and the ark; do not go near it.”

5 Joshua told the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you.”

6 Joshua said to the priests, “Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on ahead of the people.” So they took it up and went ahead of them.

⁷ And the LORD said to Joshua, “Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses. ⁸ Tell the priests who carry the ark of the covenant: ‘When you reach the edge of the Jordan’s waters, go and stand in the river.’”

⁹ Joshua said to the Israelites, “Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God. ¹⁰ This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites. ¹¹ See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you. ¹² Now then, choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. ¹³ And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the LORD—the Lord of all the earth—set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap.”

¹⁴ So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. ¹⁵ Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water’s edge, ¹⁶ the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (that is, the Dead Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho. ¹⁷ The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



REFLECTION



CORNERSTONE



DECLARING OUR FAITH

Let us declare our faith
in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.
**Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried;
he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
afterwards he appeared to his followers,
and to all the apostles:
this we have received,
and this we believe.
Amen.**



A TIME OF PRAYER

The risen Christ is here in the midst of us.
We bring our prayers to him as Lord of the Church.
For the Church universal,
of which these buildings are a visible symbol,
Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

For this congregation,
as we remember your promise
that when two or three are gathered in your name
you are there in the midst of them,
Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

For this place, that we may be still and know that you are God,
Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

For the fulfilling of our desires and petitions as you see best for us,
Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

For your blessings in the past and for a vision for the future,
Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

For the gift of the Holy Spirit and new life in baptism,
Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

For the pardon of our sins when we fall short of your glory,
Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

For a foretaste of your eternal kingdom
in the sacrament of the eucharist,
Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

For the blessing of our vows
and the crowning of our years with your goodness,
Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

For the faith of those who have gone before us
and for grace to persevere like them,
Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

For the benefactors of this place who have died in the peace of Christ
and are at rest,
Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

For a sense of our fellowship with [*N our patron and*] all your saints,
Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

O God, from living stones
you prepare an everlasting dwelling—a place for your majesty.
Grant that in the power of the Holy Spirit
those who serve you here
may always be kept within your presence.
This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

Being made one by the power of the Spirit,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory
for ever and ever.
Amen.**



WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Telling your Lockdown Story

As the restrictions on life in the UK continue to be relaxed its important that we recognise our stories of life in lockdown. What have been the defining moments of the last few months for you? What have been the things you have treasured? What have been the things that have been the hardest? Future generations will learn of the Coronavirus Pandemic of 2020. We must take time to record our story.

Either write a letter or a poem. Create something artistic, paint, draw, photograph. Write a short story. If you have any ideas on how we might be able to pull something together to create the story of St Michaels in lockdown get in touch!



WE HAVE A GOSPEL TO PROCLAIM

 **PRAYERS OF DEDICATION**

Good Shepherd of us all,
You have been our guide.

Keep us loyal to our past
And prepare us for our future.

Keep us trusting and hopeful;
Ready to embrace your kingdom as it comes.

For all that has been
Thanks

For all that shall be,
Yes!

 **BLESSING**

Christ, whose glory is in the heavens,
fill this house and illuminate your hearts;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen