

Opening Church for Private Prayer

Our church is open for quiet, private prayer **on Sundays and Wednesdays from 10am to 12pm**. Unfortunately, we cannot offer refreshments or toilet facilities. If you have significant health problems or any concerns, our advice would be to stay safe and stay at home. But if you wish to come into church for prayer, we look forward to seeing you. Precautions including hand sanitiser, social distancing and a one-way route through the church will be in place for your safety, but also for the safety of our volunteers who will be waiting to welcome you.

Rev Karen Brady

Colin Keam

Rosemary Lunt Churchwardens

**Any queries please contact our
Vicar: Rev Karen Brady
on 07419820864
or email revkarenbrady@gmail.com
But not on a Friday.**

or the Church Mobile
Bookings for baptisms and weddings
Tel: **07722470940** and speak to
Robbie

Church website
www.runcornstmichaels.org.uk
Facebook
**Saint Michael and All Angels
Church, Runcorn**

Claire & Matt Roth Announcement

Born 04/06/20

6lb 15oz

Claire and Matt would like to thank everyone who sent well wishes cards and gifts on the birth of their first child a daughter, **Elizabeth Marie**. She is doing fine and coming on great. We hope to see you all soon.



Claire & Matt



**Parish Church of
St Michael and All Angels
Sunday 5th July 2020
3rd Sunday after Trinity**



Readings

Romans 7: 15-25a

Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30

**A prayer for all those affected by
coronavirus**

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen

Reflection for this week's readings

**5th July 2020
Struggling & resting**

Read the two Bible passages on the next page. In the first reading Paul describes his struggles to do what is right. In the second reading Jesus brings challenge but also a lot of comfort.

**Paul says that he wants to do right,
but that there is a tendency
within him to choose wrong in-
stead. Do you identify with his
struggles? Can praying the
Lord's Prayer, "Lead us not**

**into temptation", help? Paul
says that the answer is in Jesus
Christ our Lord. A close rela-
tionship with Jesus enables us
to make the right choices. In
the light of this, pray about any
wrong behaviour that you are
struggling with at present.**

**At the start of the second reading
Jesus challenges those who con-
stantly criticise other people,
using the illustration of chil-
dren playing an outdoor game.
This week, look for opportuni-
ties to encourage rather than
criticise.**

**Jesus says that children can be
closer to God than those who
think themselves wise and cle-
ver. Thank God for any chil-
dren you know, and pray that
they may grow up to know and
love Jesus. Pray that St.
Michael's would always be a
church that welcomes children.**

**Jesus invites us to come to him with
our weariness and burdens.
Spend some time resting in his
presence now.**

Collect & Readings

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; 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.

Romans 7: 15-25a

¹⁵ I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate. ¹⁶ But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. ¹⁸ And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. ¹⁹ I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. ²⁰ But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. ²¹ I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. ²² I love God's law with all my heart. ²³ But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. ²⁴ Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? ²⁵ Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30

¹⁶ “To what can I compare this generation? It is like children playing a game in the public square. They complain to their friends, ¹⁷ ‘We played wedding songs, and you didn't dance, so we played funeral songs, and you didn't mourn.’ ¹⁸ For John didn't spend his time eating and drinking, and you say, ‘He's possessed by a demon.’ ¹⁹ The Son of Man, on the other hand, feasts and drinks, and you say, ‘He's a glutton and a drunkard, and a friend of tax collectors and other sinners!’ But wisdom is shown to be right by its results.” ²⁵ At that time Jesus prayed this prayer: “O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for hiding these things from those who think themselves wise and clever, and for revealing them to the childlike. ²⁶ Yes, Father, it pleased you to do it this way! ²⁷ “My Father has entrusted everything to me. No one truly knows the Son except the Father, and no one truly knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.” ²⁸ Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.”

PRAYERS DURING THE OUTBREAK

For you to pray at home

For hospital staff and medical researchers

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A prayer for God's guidance

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,
we ask you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies
in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments;
that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever,
we may be preserved in body and soul;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

A prayer for the church

May your love that never fails
strengthen the weak
encourage the fearful
calm the anxious
heal the sick
through your church –
your washed hands
and feet on earth –
distant but still present
virtual but still connected
apart but still helping.
God in your mercy,
hear our prayer. **AMEN**