

## The Year of the – WORD

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Acts 2:41 | NIV

### **BIBLE CHALLENGE**

*(Answers will be in next week's leaflet)*

1. Who was the father of many nations?
2. What was the name given to Jesus that meant "God with us?"
3. What did the Israelites put on their doorposts so that the death angel would pass?
4. In what country is Bethlehem?
5. In the parable of the talents, how many servants were given talents?
6. What is the second commandment?

### **Previous week's Challenge answers**

1. Absalom *(2 Samuel 18:9)*
2. Jesus *(Mark 13:1-2)*
3. Stable *(Matthew 2:11)*
4. Jericho *(Mark 10:46)*
5. 3 *(Hebrew, Greek, Latin)*
6. In the morning *(Psalm 5:3)*



'I am the light of the world' (John 8:12)

We are a church in Umhlanga that connects people to God,  
to others and to the needs of the world.

We're glad you're here.

6 Durban View Road, Umhlanga

Rector Fr Martin Tiffin: [rector@saintmichaels.org.za](mailto:rector@saintmichaels.org.za)

083 707 1344

Email: [admin@saintmichaels.org.za](mailto:admin@saintmichaels.org.za)

Web: [www.saintmichaels.org.za](http://www.saintmichaels.org.za)

Facebook: [stmichaelsumhlanga](https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsumhlanga)

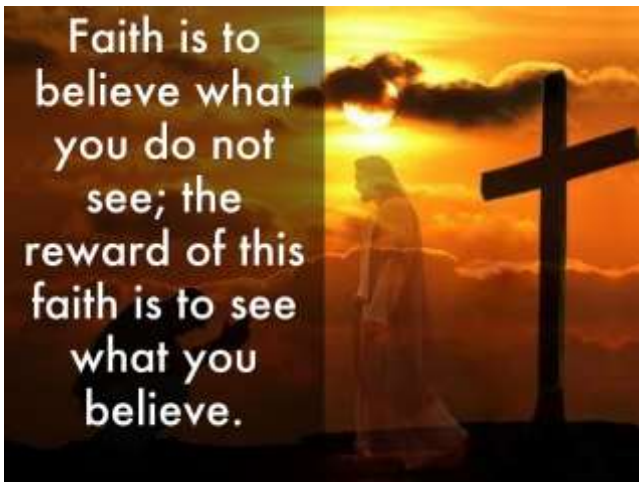
## 10<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2021 THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

### **BIBLE READINGS**

Genesis	1:1-5	OT	Pg	2
Psalms	29	APB	Pg	636
Acts	19:1-7	NT	Pg	205
Mark	1:4-11	G	Pg	53
Canticle	13	APB	Pg	352
Creed	Baptismal	APB	Pg	59
Eucharistic	Prayer	APB	Pg	119

**COLLECT:** Creator God, our soul's delight, your voice thunders over the waters, liberating the future from the past: speak your affirming word that we may share in the baptism of Jesus Christ, drink from his cup and serve the world in his name; who is lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**A PRAYER FOR OUR CONTINENT** God, bless South Africa and Africa, guard her children, guide her leaders and give her healing and peace; for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen*



*Saint Augustine*

## GOD'S PROMISE:

Remember that God made you. God loves you. And that God is with you.

## FOR YOUR DAILY PRAYERS



O God, my Father, silence everything in me that would keep me from hearing what you have to say. Control my mind, that all my thoughts may be concentrated on you. Help me find here a light to shine upon my path and strength to walk in it through Jesus Christ my Lord.

## THE SICK (JAMES 5:13-16)

**For our Parishioners:** Barry Lambert, Anand Rapiti, Stan Bromley, Mike Sturgess, Don Attwood, Laurelle Barnett, Marcus Smidt, Barbara Crossley, Maeve Pearce, Di Aiken, Shirley McMullen, Wendy Heffer, Rob Stock

**For family and friends:** Courtney Hunt, Theo Prinsloo, Jessica Wilson, Caleb Camp, Natasha Heffer, Roy Dunster, Alex Whitehead, Belinda Irmischer, Chloe Sherwood

Please can you keep Kerry updated on your progress via email and if you are sick at home or are going into hospital, please also inform her.

Pray for the Parish of St Mary, Richmond with Indaleni, Byrne & Mid-Illovo; and in our Archdeaconry, the Parish of St Peter, Newlands and their Rector Rev Pinky Nyoni and Rev Lovington Nyoni

## For Your Prayers & Reading of Scripture this week

Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Parishioner Birthdays Anniversary Years Mind Mark	Margaret Beaumont Bontle Makgoe, Ken Modise Andrew & Fiona Charnaud Doreen Schonborn 1:4-11
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Parishioners Birthday Anniversary Years Mind Mark	John & Marita Berning Dylan Thompson Frank & Chris Collier Alexandra Houston 1:14-20
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Parishioner Birthdays Mark	Terri Bernstein Diana Aiken, Brett Harper 1:21-29
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Parishioner Birthday Mark	Daphne Blackbeard Nathan Alexander, Cynthia Townsend 1:29-39
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Parishioner Anniversary Mark	Marion Blake Ernest & Leah Sithole 1:40-45
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Parishioner Birthdays Years Mind Mark	Bette Blom Joan Maggs, Cathy Ten Brink Fred Stace 2:1-12
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Parishioner Mark	Tshepo, Paul, Kutloano, Kgosi, Khumo Bokaba 2:13-17

## COVID 2021 – ONLINE MINISTRY (SERVICES)

**SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 8am EUCHARIST**

**SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 8am EUCHARIST**

**NO WEEKDAY SERVICES FROM 4<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> JANUARY AS FR MARTIN IS ON LEAVE**

## COVID-19 PRAYER

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

## NOTICES:

### **Church Services**

Your Parish Council has taken note of the second wave of the Covid pandemic and has reluctantly decided to cancel all Services, until the week of Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021, to be reviewed. During this period there will be online Sunday Services on the 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> January at 8am, as outlined above.

### **Zapper**

The QR Code below is for St Michael's Parish. You can make payments by scanning this QR Code with your mobile. If you are making a payment for anything other than plate giving, please let Kerry in the office know.



### **Bank Details:**

St Michaels Church,  
ABSA 4068992982  
Umhlanga Ridge, 632005

## From the Rector's Pen –

My beloved Family of St Michael's,

I pray for each one of you daily and I ask God's blessing and protection upon you. I pray for your faithfulness to His church and that we all live by His Kingdom's values.

During the past year we were forced into isolation and were unable to worship freely and join in fellowship at the church. That, however, has not prevented us from being united in prayer and worship through our online ministry. I thank you for joining me online, and I also thank you for your faithful financial generosity which has sustained our commitment to the ministry of our parish, enabling us to feed the hungry and bring joy to those in need.

As the pandemic gains momentum, and many more folk are infected and succumbing to the disease, there is an urgency for us all to pray more intensely.

Pray for your family, our communities, our social and religious leaders, all frontline workers, those infected with the virus, those whose livelihoods have been affected, those who choose not to keep to Covid protocol. Pray for our parish family and the elderly folk especially at Twilanga, Ridgewood, Pioneer Park, Rolling Hills and Somerset Park. Lastly pray for yourself and do so with thanksgiving.

Our President has asked all of us to light a candle in memory of those who have succumbed to the virus. For me that memory is to also thank God for His faithfulness and loving kindness, for without Him things might have been worse.

Please take heed to my request for us to pray, let's not be like the proverbial ostrich, burying our heads in the soil and wishing the crisis away. God honours the prayer of the faithful as we take heed in the words of 1 Thessalonians 5:24: "He who calls you is faithful, and He will do it."

To you and your loved ones, a blessed and happy New Year and may 2021 be God's gift of Emmanuel.

Fr Martin

## SEASON AFTER THE EPIPHANY

The Feast of the Epiphany is celebrated on 6 January

The liturgical colour for the Feast of the Epiphany is white; the colour of the Season after the Epiphany is green. If the whole of the Incarnation Cycle is observed, the colour will remain white until the Feast of the Presentation on 2 February, after which the colour becomes green. The colour for the Sunday of the Transfiguration, the last Sunday after the Epiphany, is white.

The focus of the readings reveals the trust that Christ is manifested to humankind, to the world, to the entire creation. In them we catch a glimpse of the cosmic dimension of the work and achievement of Christ. They also express the challenge for all Christians to reveal that truth through their own lives.

The Sunday themes:

Epiphany

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

2<sup>nd</sup> February

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

Last Sunday after Epiphany

Magi come to adore the Christ Child

The Baptism of Jesus

The Call of Philip and Nathanael

The start of the Galilean ministry

The healing in the synagogue at Capernaum

Feast of the Presentation - End of the Incarnation Cycle – 40 days after Christmas

Good news spreads to all of Galilee

The Transfiguration



## **New beginnings, new births**

*Psalm 139; Genesis 15; Luke 1:57-80*

You, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High God; you will go ahead of the Lord to prepare his road for him, to tell his people that they will be saved, by having their sins forgiven. *Luke 1:76-77*

A new year is a time for new beginnings and of new births. The above prophecy over his baby by John the Baptist's father is echoed in the lives of many of the Celtic saints. Such Prophecies were signs that God was doing something new from the very beginning of their lives.

Take, for example, the parents of St Samson, Anna and Amon. They were court officials in neighbouring kingdoms of fifth-century Wales. Anna was infertile. She took to fasting, to charitable giving, and to churchgoing in order to get God to give her a child. One day when they were in church they overheard an animated discussion about a man in North Wales who could foretell with uncanny accuracy what would happen to people.

So Amon and Anna undertook a three-day journey to see this man, Libarius, who gave them overnight accommodation. Next day Libarius surprised Amon twice. First, he told them, before they had spoken of it, he knew they had come because Anna was barren and they wanted him to prophesy that they would have a baby. Second, he asked Amon, not just to give him payment, but to have made a silver rod the same length as his wife and to give this to God, A rod is a symbol of a ruler's control. It seemed God wanted both Amon and Anna to put God first, before power, before one another, and even before their longed-for baby. Amon was so keen to respond that he made not one, but three rods, and handed them all over.

That night an angel told Anna in her dreams that she would indeed have a baby who would be holy, profitable to many, seven times brighter than the silver her husband had given to God, and that 'of the British race there has not been or will be anyone like him'. The angel encouraged Anna to trust God and to name the baby Samson, after the biblical Samson, who was so strong for God. Few who read the *Life of St Samson* can doubt that all that was prophesied has indeed come to pass.

## **Holy Innocents**

Holy Innocents (1<sup>st</sup> century AD)

The children of Bethlehem who were massacred on the orders of Herod in his attempts to eliminate the threat posed by the newborn Christ (as related at Matthew 2:1-18). Their number is given in different sources as being anything from 6 to 25. They were identified as martyrs as early as the 4th century and their memory was once celebrated in the English feast of Childermas. They are considered the protectors of dead children and comforters of their grieving parents.

*Feast Day 28 December or 11 January*

