



St Michael's Messenger

FEBRUARY 2026

A prayer for the season of Lent - St Michael's Prayer

Saint Michael the Archangel, Prince of heavenly hosts, defend us against the evil influence of Satan that threatens not our bodies but our very souls.

Safeguard us from all temptations of body, mind and spirit, so we may resist that which leads only to darkness and death, and be strengthened in the way of our Lord Jesus Christ, which leads to light and life in his heavenly Kingdom.

Amen.



Messenger Diary Dates February-March 2026

Sunday 1 February 10h00 – Eucharist – Presentation (Candlemas)

Readings: 1. Malachi 3 1-5 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Malachi%203%3A%201-5&version=NRSVA>
2. Hebrews 2 14-end <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%202%3A%2014-18&version=NRSVA>
Celebrant Priest: Fr Brett Ward

Sunday 8 February 10h00 – Eucharist – 2 before Lent

Readings: 1. Genesis 1 1-2.3 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%201%3A%201-2.3&version=NRSVA>
2. Romans 8 18-25 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%208%3A%2018-25&version=NRSVA>
Celebrant Priest: Fr Brett Ward

Sunday 15 February 10h00 – Eucharist – Sunday before Lent

Readings: 1. Exodus 24 12-end <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus%2024%3A%2012-18&version=NRSVA>
2. 2 Peter 1 16-end <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Peter%201%3A%2016-21&version=NRSVA>
Celebrant Priest: Fr Brett Ward

Tuesday 17 February 18h00 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Please sign up in advance (by email or at the back of the church)

**Wednesday 18 February 10h00 – Eucharist – Ash Wednesday
with the Imposition of Ashes**

Readings: 1. Isaiah 58 1-12 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2058%3A%201-12&version=NRSVA>
2. 2 Corinthians 5 20b-6.10 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Corinthians%205.%2020b-6.10%20&version=NRSVA>

Celebrant Priest: Fr Brett Ward

Sunday 22 February 10h00 – Eucharist – Lent 1

Readings: 1. Genesis 2 15-17; 3 1-7 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%202%3A%2015-17%3B%203%201-7&version=NRSVA> ; <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%203%3A%201-7&version=NRSVA>
2. Romans 5 12-19 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%205%3A%2012-19&version=NRSVA>
Celebrant Priest: Fr Brett Ward

Sunday 1 March 10h00 – Eucharist – Lent 2

Readings: 1. Genesis 12 1-4a <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2012%3A%201-4a&version=NRSVA>
2. Romans 4 1-5, 13-17 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%204%3A%201-5%2C%2013-17&version=NRSVA>

Celebrant Priest: Rev Liz Morris

Thursdays at 12h15 Exercise and Relaxation

Fridays at 19h00 Pentecostal Service in French

Lent Season 2026



Dame Sarah Mullally, Archbishop of Canterbury

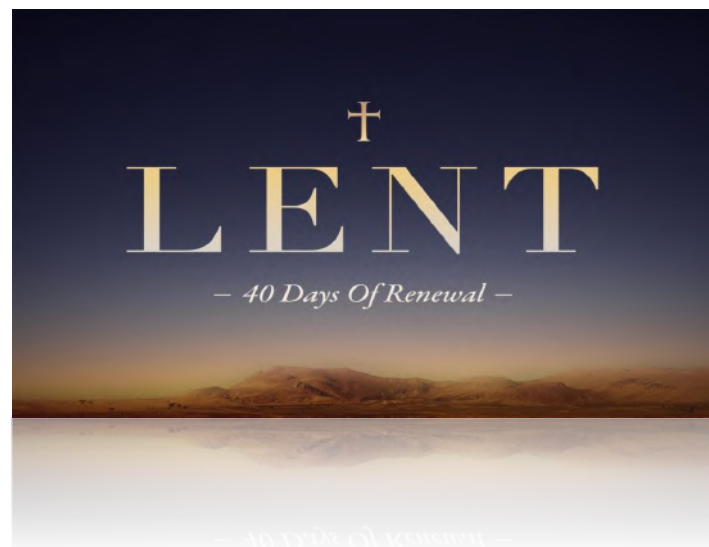
On Wednesday, 28 January, the election of Dame Sarah Mullally as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury was confirmed in a ceremony at St Paul's Cathedral in London. Dame Sarah, who was previously the Bishop of London and England's chief nursing officer, succeeds Archbishop Justin Welby, who resigned in November 2024. Now referred to as the Most Reverend Sarah Mullally, she is the first woman to hold the role in the Church of England's 500 year history. In March, a final event, known as her installation, will take place at Canterbury, at which Archbishop Mullally will preach her first sermon in her new role as the spiritual leader of the Church of England and the estimated 100 million members of the Anglican communion worldwide.

The season of Lent

The forty days of the Christian year leading up to Easter, called Lent, begins this year on Ash Wednesday, 18 February. Lent is a season of prayer and spiritual renewal, looking toward new spiritual life and hope.

The word "Lent" comes from old Anglo-Saxon and Germanic languages, meaning "spring" – a time budding with new life and promise.

The Lenten season is an opportunity to cultivate the interior life through spiritual exercises and practices.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: 17 February 6pm

In keeping with St Michael's tradition, the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper will be served in the church at 6pm on 17 February.

A contribution of 25 euros is suggested and please bring a bottle of wine to share. You are free to make a smaller or larger contribution according to your circumstances.

This year the menu will be Middle Eastern themed, followed (of course) by traditional pancakes, lovely lemons from Eze and yes, even maple syrup!

Please book your place by signing up at the back of the church or by email to ekarlsen@wanadoo.fr

Live piano music will be provided by Andrew Noble.



- Nicola

From the churchwardens

Regarding the **search for a new permanent priest**, we do have a candidate. There are still ongoing administrative matters at the Diocese level that must be resolved before we can share more details with everyone. In any case we have Locums booked through Easter.

Please look at the **sign-up sheets at the back of the church** for Sunday readings and especially refreshments. Thank you in advance for volunteering. If you are away but would like to volunteer when you return, please email warden@stmichaelsbeaulieusurmer.org

Thanks to our locum priests... Fr David Houghton administered the Eucharist for the past two months, including celebrating the busy Advent and Christmas seasons with us, an impressive ten services in a row. We at St Michael's deeply appreciate his rock solid services and always interesting sermons. Fr David will be back again with us again on Sunday 22 March and stay with us all the way through Easter until Sunday 12 April. This coming Sunday 1 February, Fr Brett Ward will join us and we will welcome Rev Liz Morris back again on 1 March before Fr David returns. Once again, many thanks to all our locum priests for their service to St Michael's!

- Egill and Bob



Fr David, Heidi and Beth enjoying lunch at La Colombe d'Or in Saint-Paul de Vence - thanks to Beth for the photos!



The beautiful simplicity of Lent

Lent is an opportunity to pare back our busy lives, to return to simplicity and awareness of the Holy Spirit, to share in a small way the sufferings of the saints, and to receive once again the gospel of Christ, who took the entire penalty of our human failings, "making peace by the blood of his cross" (Colossians 1:20)

Lent is not a chore of necessity. Lent is not an annual fee to earn one more year of God's love and affection. Lent is a holy privilege, a gift from the church to join Jesus in His hunger pains in the wilderness, an opportunity to reflect on the grace given to us by God that has fundamentally changed our hearts, to listen to and discern the Holy Spirit as He guides us into the divine privilege (not mere responsibility) of godly living.

Lent is not about reminding God that he should forgive us, or trying to please him enough to forgive us, or to prove something to God. Instead, it's about reminding us that we worship a God who loved us enough to take away our sins, one who always will.

Lent may seem complex, but it points to something simple. Lent responds to the gospel's beautiful simplicity (and finality). Because God gives us the simple, free gift of salvation, we respond with beautiful, orchestrated, and sometimes difficult acts of worship. The liturgy and sacrifice of Lent is not a desperate plea for the ear of God. It is a holy celebration of the God who so faithfully called us out of our sin and wickedness and "into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9).

- from: *Anglican Compass*



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Lent Season 2026