



THE ARCHANGEL

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No. 101

September 2026

BUSINESS AS USUAL

Dear Faithful,

The appointment of a new Headmaster and Prior is always a significant moment in the life of a school and parish. After many years of devoted service by Rev. Fr John Brucciani, the torch now passes on. Such changes naturally occasion reflection and sometimes a degree of uncertainty, but they should also remind us of an important principle: the work of God continues, and the ordinary life of the parish and school must remain steadfast and stable.

Every successful institution depends upon continuity. Schools flourish when pupils, parents, and staff know that the values, routines, and expectations remain constant. Likewise, a parish thrives when the faithful can rely upon the regular administration of the sacraments, the preaching of the Faith, and the maintenance of a strong Catholic spirit. Leadership plays a vital role in preserving these things, but no institution can depend entirely upon one individual, no matter how capable or well loved he may be.

The temptation in times of transition is to imagine that everything must change. Some expect immediate innovations; others become anxious that cherished customs may disappear. Such reactions are understandable, yet they often overlook the fact that stability is indispensable. A school and parish are not personal projects belonging to a particular priest. They are communities united by a common purpose greater than any individual. Their mission remains the same regardless of who occupies the office of Headmaster or Prior.

The life of St Michael's School and St Michael Archangel Church has never depended upon one man alone. It has been built over many years through the sacrifices of priests, teachers, benefactors, parents, and parishioners who have laboured for the preservation of Catholic education and the traditional Faith. As Fr John Brucciani himself noted, the work continues through the generosity and dedication of many souls who support both school and parish.

This spirit of continuity is particularly important because there are always forces that seek to disrupt stability. Rumour and speculation can flourish whenever leadership changes. Personal preferences can be mistaken for principles. Minor adjustments can be exaggerated into signs of major change. In schools, pupils are quick to speculate; among adults,

uncertainty can sometimes produce unnecessary concern. The wisest course is therefore one of patience, confidence, and trust.

Nevertheless, stability should not be confused with stagnation. Every new superior brings his own gifts, experiences, and perspectives to an office. These can enrich the life of a community without altering its fundamental character. Genuine growth occurs when improvements are made while preserving what is essential. The strongest institutions are those capable of renewing themselves while remaining faithful to their founding principles.

For Catholics, stability has an even deeper significance. The Church herself is built upon continuity, transmitting the same Faith, the same sacraments, and the same moral teaching from generation to generation. Priests come and go; bishops succeed one another; even popes pass from the scene. Yet the mission entrusted to the Apostles by Our Lord remains unchanged. In a similar way, the leadership of a parish or school changes, but the purpose for which it exists remains constant.

As we bid farewell to Rev. Fr John Brucciani, we do so with tremendous gratitude for his years of generous service and dedication. His consistency in prayer, sacrifice, generosity, and fidelity to the Faith have left a lasting mark upon St Michael's.

The months ahead should therefore be characterised not by anxiety or speculation, but by a determination to continue the good work already firmly established. Lessons will continue to be taught, prayers will continue to be offered, Mass will continue to be celebrated, and souls will continue to be guided towards God. The mission remains unchanged.

In short, while the names on the office door may change, the purpose of the school and parish does not. The faithful discharge of duty, the pursuit of Catholic education, and the salvation of souls remain at the heart of everything we do. That is why, in the best and most reassuring sense of the phrase, it is simply **business as usual**.

Rev. Dominic O'Hart, Prior





Living the Liturgy

September is a month of great liturgical feasts, even more particularly for us in the Society of St Pius X. In the mind of the Church, we have the joy and, arguably, the duty to live according to the spirit of these feasts, to celebrate them fittingly and to actively thank Almighty God for the graces received in this liturgically sumptuous month.

In the first place, the new school year opens on the very feast of our primary Patron, Pope St Pius X. St Pius X lived for the liturgy - to beautify it, to help souls to appreciate it more deeply, to bring more souls into contact with the innumerable graces that flow from each feast day as inexorably as water from an underground spring. We wish to foster in ourselves a love of the liturgy that is similar to his and, on this day, such a grace is there for the taking.

A little more than a week later, on the 14th of September, the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross will present us with that marvellous motto of St Paul, “Nos autem gloriari in Cruce Domini nostri Iesu Christi,” which translated is, “But we,” as opposed to the world and its denizens, “will glory in the Cross of Our Lord, Jesus Christ” (Gal. 6:14). As Catholics, we embrace that symbol which is a stumbling-block for pagans and Jews alike. The Cross of Christ is the bridge which spans the chasm between heaven and earth; it is a symbol of both the most abject disaster and failure and simultaneously represents the most triumphant victory ever won on a battlefield. This is the standard that we venerate so piously and glory in above all else.

The following day we will rejoice with the Sisters of the Society in their patronal feast, Our

Lady of Sorrows. Who can forget the part that Our Lady had to play in the work of the Redemption! After all, she does hold the honourable and esteemed title of Co-Redemptrix! She consented to be the Mother of the Redeemer, and with that “Fiat” she accepted all of the pain and suffering that she would endure throughout her earthly life. How fitting that the Society’s Sisters, generous souls who devote themselves to assisting the priests in their work of the apostolate in countless unseen ways, should be able to call upon the patronage of Our Lady of Sorrows. They, too, stand with Our Lady at the Foot of the

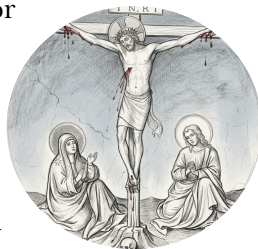


Cross. They offer with her their little sacrifices, prayers, works in the sacristy, and innumerable other invisible yet invaluable aids to the salvation of souls. Thus, they win for so many souls graces that they would never otherwise receive. These religious warriors are, as Our Lady in the work of Redemption, indispensable to the divine plan of salvation.

Finally, to conclude the liturgical riches for the month of September, we come at last to our own patronal feast. The 29th of September is the day each year when we celebrate the protection that the faithful of St Michael’s receive from the chief soldier of the heavenly armies. The feast should impress upon us both the power which God has invested in his angels for our assistance and our duty of gratitude for that service.

We cannot forget how strange the relationship between men and angels is. Angels can travel at the speed of thought; they know everything there is to know about creation. They can instantly predict what will happen with the moon and stars millions of days in advance because they know how these natural movements will progress. They are incredibly powerful and intelligent beings! So, for an angel to serve a man would be similar, though not the same, as a man deciding to wait table upon a dog. There we would stand, awaiting the least inclination of our canine master, ready to spring into action when called upon.

Yet, even this debasing scene cannot come close to the reality of an angel being at the beck and call of human beings. In comparison to the angels, we are quite limited; we need food to live, sleep to function even at the slow pace that we do. We cannot travel anywhere without great effort;



the same goes for learning. Yet angels, almost infinitely our superiors in power and ability, serve as our lackeys, spiritually speaking. They carry messages from God to men; they guard us in moments of temptation; St Michael, in particular, guards Holy Mother Church from the onslaughts of the devil.

Our gratitude to these, our heavenly best friends, ought to be shown more frequently and fervently. We should constantly recall that they are at our side, ready to help every moment of the day or night. If we have a prayer or petition to offer up, they take it to Our Lady, who in turn presents it to her divine Son in a way that He cannot possibly refuse. If we are under attack by temptation — be it to tell a lie, to be disobedient, to waste our employer's time at work, to give in to the disordered desires of our body for pleasure or the yearning of our mind in idle curiosity, or any other of the manifold ways in which we may be tempted — the angels are there to help and to guide us to make the right decision.

In a special way, we at St Michael's have the right and duty to call upon the aid of our great Patron at all times. We must follow his shining example no matter the cost, proclaiming to anyone who will listen the glory of God. Regardless of human respect, not caring that, at this moment in time, the world and its Prince seem to be victorious over Christ and His Church, we ought to make his motto our own: "Who is like unto God?!"



This is the only answer to the Crisis in the Church. This is the only answer that we can make to the debacle of world politics. It is the only lasting solution in our time of confusion and darkness, in a world which rejects God and truth. No one is like to God; no one can replace Him; no one can explain His judgements, nor challenge His prerogatives. Let us not forget St Michael's lesson to us, as easy as that is to do in the midst of the million and one duties and stresses of day-to-day life.

Clearly, we see now why St Michael's School and Chapel are, and must continue to be, bastions where respect and reverence for Almighty God and His divine Will are the primary focus and goal. At least here we hope that God is given the glory and honour that He is owed. Even if the whole world has turned away from following the

truth, renouncing the imitation of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, yet we stand with our angelic Patron in proclaiming boldly and proudly His Might and Eternal Wisdom. In doing so, we earnestly hope to triumph with St Michael and all of the angels of heaven so that we may be united with them for all of eternity in continuing to praise the ineffable majesty and dignity of Almighty God. With them we will cry, "Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus!" for all of eternity, an eternity which has, in fact, already begun. Living the liturgy is nothing else than repeating the cry of St Michael from now through eternity: "Who is like unto God?!"

Catechism!

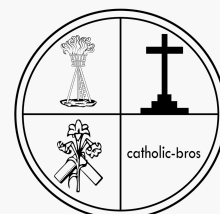
Don't forget to **sign up** for the **A-Level Doctrine** classes. All 16-18 year-olds encouraged to attend. Send an email to house-master@sanctusmichael.com with any inquiries.

Adult Catechism: Christ & His Church
6th September, following the 10:00am Mass

Take advantage of the opportunity to deepen your knowledge and love of our Holy Catholic Faith!

Sign up for Catholic Bros! A group of Catholic fathers who organise walks, a monthly men's rosary and holy hour, regular talks (open to all), and work days.

<https://www.catholicbros.co.uk/>



LITURGICAL REMINDERS - SEPT 2026

Confessions:

- Saturday 11:15 - 11:55am
- Sunday 7:15am and 9:15am
- During 1st Friday Holy Hour (18:15).
- Upon request if a priest is available

Weekday Sung Masses:

- 3rd September - St Pius X
- 15th September - Seven Sorrows
- 29th September - St Michael



REQUIESCANT IN PACE

In the charity of your prayers, please remember the following souls who have recently died:

Peter Watson

Martin Martinez

May they rest in peace!

SEPTEMBER

1	Feria	7:30
2	St Stephen of Hungary, King & Conf	7:30
3	St Pius X, Pope & Confessor	7:15 / 19:00
4	Feria 1st Fri. - Holy Hour 6pm	7:15 / 19:00
5	St Laurence Justinian, Bp, Conf 1st Sat.	7:30 / 12:00
6	Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost	7:30, 10:00
	<i>2nd Collection/Prayers for Vocations</i>	17:00 Benediction
7	Feria	7:15
8	Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	7:15
9	Feria	7:15
10	St Nicholas of Tolentino, Confessor	7:15
11	Feria	7:15
12	The Most Holy Name of Mary	7:30 / 12:00
13	Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost	7:30, 10:00
		17:00 Benediction
14	Exaltation of the Holy Cross	7:15
15	Seven Sorrows of the BVM	7:15 / 19:00
16	Ss Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Martyrs	7:15
17	Stigmata of St Francis	7:15
18	St Joseph of Cupertino, Confessor	7:15
19	Ss Januarius + Co. Mart.	7:30 / 12:00
20	Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost	7:30, 10:00
		17:00 Benediction
21	St Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist	7:15
22	St Thomas of Villanova, Confessor	7:15
23	Ember Wednesday	7:15
24	Feria (Our Lady of Ransom)	7:15
25	Ember Friday	7:15
26	Ember Saturday	7:30 / 12:00
27	Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost	7:30, 10:00
		17:00 Benediction
28	St Wenceslaus, Duke & Martyr	7:15
29	Dedication of St Michael Archangel	7:15 / 19:00
30	St Jerome, Priest, Confessor & Doctor	7:15
1	Feria	7:15
2	Holy Guardian Angels 1st Fri. HolyHr 6pm	7:15 / 19:00
3	St Theresa of the Child Jesus	7:30/12:00

Sanctuary Lamp in Memory

Request that a sanctuary lamp burn in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for graces received. Holy Mass is celebrated for those remembered and their donors each first Wednesday of the month.

	Main Altar	Our Lady	Sacred Heart	St Joseph	St Philomena	St Anthony
Sept 6	Private Intention	Private Intention	Private Intention	In Thanksgiving	Forgotten souls	Private Intention K.S.
Sept 13	Private Intention K.S.	Keating Family RIP	Private Intention	Private Intention	Private Intention	
Sept 20		Private Intention K.S.	Private Intention K.S.	Private Intention K.S.	Private Intention K.S.	
Sept 27					To do God's will	

£10 for one 7 day lamp (Sun. - Sat.) | Cheques to the order of SSPX, Burghclere Priory | Or pay with card (machine in narthex)