

**This Weekend's Mass arrangements**

Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> March:	6.00pm at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> March:	9.00am at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> March:	11.00am at St. Oswald's Church

**Obligatory Collection at all Masses this Weekend: Clergy Assistance Fund**

For those who prefer, donations for this particular collection can be made online via this link:

[Clergy Assistance Fund Second Collection 2024 | Give as you Live Donate](#)

**Weekday Mass arrangements**

Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March:	7.30pm at St. Michael's Church (Preceded by Stations of the Cross at 7.00pm)
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March: (The Solemnity of St. Joseph)	11.00am at St. Michael's Church

Note: March is the month of Saint Joseph, so this is a good day to honour the foster father of Jesus and the husband of Our Lady.

**The Feast of Saint Patrick, Patron of Ireland**

This Feast Day is not celebrated this Lent, as it falls on a Sunday and the Mass of the 5th Sunday of Lent takes precedence.

**Pastoral Area Easter Reconciliation Service**

7.30pm on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at St. Bede's Church, Popley Way, Basingstoke

**Holy Week & Easter Mass times**

The Sacred Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil) is the liturgical high point of Holy Week and all Catholics are encouraged, if possible, to celebrate it as one liturgical event, embracing the Death and Resurrection of the Lord and the beginning of the Easter Celebration.

- **Maundy Thursday - 28th March:**  
Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30 PM in Saint Michael's Church.  
Followed by prayerful watching with the Lord in the Parish Room until 10:30 PM
- **Good Friday - 29th March:**  
Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3:00 PM in Saint Michael's Church
- **Holy Saturday - 30th March:**  
The Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter 9:00 PM in Saint Michael's Church
- **Easter Sunday – 31<sup>st</sup> March:**  
9:00 AM in Saint Michael's Church  
11:00 AM in Saint Oswald's Church

**NOTE: The clocks go forward an hour on Easter Sunday 31st March so you will need to rise early if you have not attended the Easter Vigil!**

## **Ecumenical Celebrations**

- **Ecumenical Palm Sunday Procession - Sunday 24th of March:**  
Departing from Silchester Village Hall at 9:30 AM followed by a Service in the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin.
- **CTAT Tadley Good Friday Witness – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March:**  
Saint Mary's Church, Tadley at 10:30 AM. Looking forward to seeing you there!
- **Easter Day Dawn Service – Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March:**  
Tadley Skate Park at 6.00 AM  
A short reflective service of songs and readings as the dawn breaks and the sun rises.  
8am breakfast at Tadley URC follows.  
Please RSVP. Further details Mark Ward or Rev. Cathy Pynn.  
Email: [contactct@tadleyurc.com](mailto:contactct@tadleyurc.com)

Dear All,

This weekend we celebrate Laetare Sunday, reminding us that we are halfway through the Lenten period. "Laetare" ("Rejoice") comes from the opening of the Entrance Antiphon of the Mass: "Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her". We look forward to the Heavenly Jerusalem, Mother Church in glory, and also remember our baptism, making us members of Mother Church. Hence: "Mothering Sunday", enabling the life given to us by our human mothers also to be celebrated with thanks. So, it is a Sunday of rejoicing in both heavenly and earthly life. As Saint Paul tells us in his Letter to the Ephesians, the Second Reading if The Scrutinies are not being celebrated: "We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it".

In our desire to uphold the importance of human life from conception to natural death, leading to Resurrection for all people seeking God's Will, we have been supporting the amendment to reduce the time limit for abortions from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. This amendment should be debated soon, alongside one designed to allow abortion up to the moment of birth. Thanks to all who have signed the Right to Life UK cards and posted them to their MPs asking them to support the pro-life amendment. These are still available in our churches, so sign them and post them in the coming week if you have not done so already.

Also, if you have signed the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) card asking that DIY abortions be stopped and not returned these ones to me for posting, please return them in the next few days. They will be sent to SPUC at the end of next week.

Alternatively, you may support the Right to Life UK campaign electronically by accessing the following link: <https://righttolife.org.uk/littlefighters>

SPUC is also asking people to oppose the amendment to decriminalise abortion completely. Full information is available via the following link: <https://www.spuc.org.uk/abortionamendments>

## **Euthanasia Update**

Bishop John Sherrington, Lead Bishop for Life Issues, has issued a statement on the publication of a report by the Health and Social Care Select Committee on Assisted Dying/Assisted Suicide:

### **Statement**

Given that Parliament has already rejected any changes to the law on assisted suicide in 2015 and 2021, I welcome the decision of the Select Committee not to recommend the legalisation of assisted suicide. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales opposes its legalisation out of concern for the good of every person in society, the protection of this good in law, and the spiritual and pastoral care of the sick and dying. The act of assisted suicide violates the dignity inherent to every person's life, which is to be cherished and cared for at all stages until natural death.

As highlighted in the Committee's report, experts have noted that there have been major problems in safeguarding the vulnerable and those without full mental capacity when assisted suicide and/or euthanasia has been introduced in other jurisdictions.

Recognising the distress and suffering of those who are sick and vulnerable, I welcome the Committee's recommendation that the accessibility and provision of palliative and end of life care needs to be improved – something the Catholic Church has consistently called for.

For Catholics and many others, consolation and support in times of terminal illness can be experienced through prayer, the sacrament of the sick and the caring and compassionate presence of loved ones as a person prepares for eternal life.

As Pope Francis has written, "human compassion consists not in causing death, but in embracing the sick, in supporting them in their difficulties, in offering them affection, attention, and the means to alleviate suffering".

### **REMINDER: Diocesan Symposium "What does it mean to be Human? Medical Ethics and Social Care Today" in Winchester on Saturday 16th March 2024.**

The Symposium will take place from 10.00am – 4.15pm at The Arc (formerly The Discovery Centre) in Winchester (opposite St. Peter's Catholic Church) & features presentations from well-known experts & will be led by David Wells, the popular motivational speaker. It is open to people of all faiths and none, specialist and lay, to students and to anyone with an interest in medical and social care.

There will be two keynote presentations: "What does it mean to be a Human Being?" (Mgr. Michael Nazir Ali) and "How significant is the Sexual Revolution?" (Ryan Christopher of ADF International). Participants can also choose two of six workshops on issues to do with the start of life and the end of life, spirituality and mental health, gender dysphoria, respect in healthcare and the value-systems in contemporary healthcare provision. Tickets cost £20, including sandwiches and refreshments, and are available on-line via Eventbrite [here](#). Information is also on display in our churches.

### **Reminder: Ian Sumner RIP**

The Funeral Service for Ian will be held in Saint Oswald's Church at 12 noon on Friday 22nd March, followed by burial in Mortimer. Our condolences once again to Maryanne Sumner and her family members as we keep Ian's soul in our prayers.

### **St. Oswald's – Volunteers needed**

Ellen Goodall writes:

#### **Cleaning:**

The church needs its annual deep clean preferably before Easter. It generally takes 2/3 hours depending on volunteer numbers! This year we are suggesting Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> and or Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March around 10.30. There are some cleaning materials available in the church, but you may bring your own if you wish. It is light work, however, it is a bit dusty. "Volunteer helpers" are very welcome and we would appreciate some of your time. Tea and coffee will be provided.

### **Easter flowers:**

It would be lovely to decorate the church for Easter. Ann and Mary generally coordinate the flower project. Ann has suggested if anyone would like to decorate an area to let her know. You may or she is happy to buy the flowers. We are suggesting March 29<sup>th</sup> -- Good Friday morning to do this work. Thank you and look forward to hearing from you.

Please contact Ellen directly if you can assist with either of the above via: [fitz52@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fitz52@hotmail.co.uk)

### **ADoRE spiritual mini-retreat - 23<sup>rd</sup> March - MADE HOLY BY JESUS**

St. Paul famously said: "I no longer live but Christ lives in me" (*Galatians 2:20*). It's a powerful statement and we might assume it only applies to Paul and other Saints, but it's a vitally important truth of our faith that every baptised person is called to holiness, chosen by the Lord to be fruitful (*John 15:16*).

To understand and live this truth, we need to discover how we are made holy by Jesus. On March 23<sup>rd</sup> there is an opportunity to participate in a free mini-retreat morning on Zoom that will explain this in more depth.

Timings: 10.00 AM -1.00 PM - including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring guest speaker Jenny Baker. Please register for the Zoom meeting in advance

at [bit.ly/ADOREMAR2024](https://bit.ly/ADOREMAR2024) More information at [www.altonrenewal.com](http://www.altonrenewal.com)

### **Divine Mercy Sunday Preparatory Retreat**

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday Retreat at Aylesford Priory, Aylesford, Kent, Saturday 6th April 2024 from 10 am to 4:30 pm.

The retreat will include teachings on the Message of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Stations of the Cross, Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All welcome.

Call Millie on 07957594646 for more information. Coaches from Ealing Broadway and Victoria

### **Diocesan Vacancies**

Youth Ministry Worker, Maidenhead – Closing Date: Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Choral Director, Portsmouth – Closing Date: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Data Protection Lead, Portsmouth - Currently there is no closing date

Health & Safety Officer, Portsmouth – Currently there is no closing date

For these & other vacancies visit: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs/>

### **Further reading**

Portsmouth Diocese news items:

<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/communications/news/enews/>

Catholic Bishops Conference of England & Wales news items:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/news-and-media/>

Caritas Portsmouth Newsletter:

<https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk/news-events/>

Happy Laetare Sunday!.... Father Patrick.

**Fr. Patrick Tansey**

**Parish Priest**

St Michael's Church, Tadley

St Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

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Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through his Church

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