

This Weekend's Mass arrangements:

Saturday 10 th February:	6.00pm at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 11 th February:	9.00am at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 11 th January:	11.00am at St. Oswald's Church

Weekday Mass arrangements:

Wednesday 14 th February:	11.00am at St. Oswald's Church
Wednesday 14 th February:	7.00pm at St. Michael's Church
Friday 16 th February:	7.30pm at St. Michael's Church (Preceded by Station of the Cross at 7.00pm)

Dear All,

The Holy Season of Lent begins next Wednesday, 14th February. There is Mass with the giving of ashes at Saint Oswald's church at 11.00am that morning and in the evening 7.00pm Mass at Saint Michael's church. Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence, preparing us to walk with Jesus spiritually to his crucifixion and death on Good Friday (also a day of fasting and abstinence), but rising spiritually with Him in the Easter Vigil and continuing that celebration on Easter Sunday. Details of the requirements for fasting and abstinence were outlined in last weekend's Parish News.

On Friday 16th February there are Stations of the Cross at 7.00pm, followed by Mass, in Saint Michael's church. This will be the case during Lent, giving many an opportunity to keep special the Fridays of Lent. Each Friday we remind ourselves of the Lord's Death on Good Friday, and, unless a Holy day or Solemnity, each Friday of the year is a day of abstinence. Lent is a good time to embed this more firmly in our lives as part of our spiritual journey. So let us look forward to a good Lent, allowing it to be a time to grow in holiness as Christ's disciples.

Pope Francis's February Prayer Intention for the terminally ill

This month's intention comes during the month in which the Church normally observes the liturgical memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes, 11th February, the day on which the World Day of the Sick takes place. This year Our Lady of Lourdes is not celebrated as it falls on a Sunday, the Day of Resurrection.

Pope Francis explains that "when some people talk about terminal illnesses, there are two words they often confuse: incurable and 'un-carable'. But they are not the same."

Citing his predecessor Pope St. John Paul II, he says, "Cure if it is possible; always take care."

He explains clearly that even when little chance for a cure exists, "every sick person has the right to medical, psychological, spiritual and human assistance."

"Healing," he acknowledges, "is not always possible, but we can always care for the sick person, caress them."

Pope Francis concludes by asking for prayers and a commitment from everyone so that "the terminally ill and their families always receive the necessary medical and human care and assistance."

Let us pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.

First Holy Communion 2024

On Thursday 8th February, Marion Evans, Jenny Seaborn and I met with the parents of those in our Parish who have requested First Communion for their youngsters. It was an enjoyable meeting and my thanks to the parents for their interest in the preparation we offer and for their engagement. First Communion Enrolments will be at **Saint Oswald's church on Sunday 18th February** and I am grateful to Ellen Goodall for organising a coffee morning after the 11.00am Mass for the parents, youngsters and parishioners attending.

So, please keep Isabella, Lou, Daniel and Jacob, together with their parents, in your prayers in the coming days.

Seeking a new Christian Aid representative

Tina van Ewyk has asked if anyone would be prepared to take up the reigns as Christian Aid representative in our Parish, with a view to kickstarting our Christian Aid work & taking it to a higher level. Please do speak with Tina directly or let the Parish Office know if you are interested.

Our thanks to Tina, not only for her work with Christian Aid, but also organising the St. Michael's Church cleaning rota, in addition to her commitment in providing liturgical musical accompaniment at Mass on a fortnightly basis & other occasions.

Charter for the Care of Victims and Survivors

As you may have seen in the last Diocesan e-news, the Charter for the Care of Victims and Survivors has now been published on the Diocesan website, which you can view [HERE](#). It sets out the Diocesan commitment to Victims and Survivors of abuse, providing a clear and transparent outline of the services and support available for those who report having been harmed to the Diocese. A copy of the Charter is also attached to the back of this Newsletter.

Silchester CTAT Lent Groups

The Silchester Ecumenical Group is organising Lent Groups on the subject of 'A Christian Look at the Environment' for five sessions from the week commencing 19 February:

- on Monday evenings at Silchester Methodist Church, 7.15-8.45pm
- on Thursday mornings, 10.00-11.30am, on Zoom.

All welcome. Each session is independent of the others, so don't worry if you can't attend all five sessions. Please contact Rev Karen West at revkarenw24@gmail.com to attend the in-person sessions or Gill Lawson to join the Zoom group: gillmlawson@icloud.com.

Thanks from CTAT!

At the **Churches Together Around Tadley** AGM and forum on Thursday 1st February at St. Paul's church on The Green, the Reverend Steve Mackay and Salvation Army Officer Stuart Madden were re-elected as joint moderators. Both thanked all our local Christian communities for their support.

Stewart Madden particularly asked us to pass on the Salvation Army's sincere thanks for the CTAT response to their annual Christmas Toy Appeal, which had enabled them to meet a record demand in the area to support 120 local families, who all received a £20 food voucher and 2 or 3 new toys for each child in the family. He said the families greatly appreciated this support, so many thanks to all those who donated new toys or cash contributions.

Peter Hay, Pastor of the Community Church, also passed on their thanks to all those who helped make Christmas Day special for the 72 guests given lifts, fed and entertained at the Christmas Day Lunch at the Ambrose Allen Centre. It was very much appreciated!

In addition, my own thanks to Mary Lee & Ben Rowden who attended the AGM & Forum as our CTAT representatives - as I was unwell that day - and for their reports.

Further CTAT Events coming up:

Evening with Comedian, Steve Legg

This will be held on Saturday 24 February, 7.30pm at St Paul's Church on The Green. Tickets: Adults: £10; Under 18s: £5. All welcome.

World Day of Prayer Service

This year's service will be held on Friday 1 March at St Paul's Church on The Green at 2pm. All are very welcome to attend and to stay for refreshments afterwards.

The Service has been prepared by the Christian Women of Palestine. The theme is "I beg you...bear with one another in love".

The Liturgy Project

This is a project of The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth which is available to all. It exists to help people to encounter Christ through the liturgy of the Holy Mass. We hope that it can serve you as a liturgical resource and respond to the needs of those serving in the local church and to empower them to fully participate in the liturgy where they are. You can access the website via this link:

For more information click on this link: [The Liturgy Project](http://www.theliturgyproject.com) www.theliturgyproject.com

Father Patrick intends to re-introduce the use of Extraordinary Ministers to bring communion to the sick in the near future. Please let the Parish Office know if you are interested in continuing this Ministry if you were commissioned before covid or if you wish to discuss becoming a new Minister.

Save the Dates:

The Liturgy Project is also pleased to announce it will be organising two training days in 2024 - one for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and one for Readers. These will be held at St Bede's Church and Hall in Basingstoke as follows:

Day for EMHC – Saturday 4th May

Day for Readers – Saturday 19th October

Both days will run from 9.30 am to 2.30 pm and will include some light refreshments. Please enrol now if you would like to by emailing liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

CAFOD – Daily Lent emails

With Ash Wednesday fast approaching, CAFOD would like to invite you to join them as we all seek to make space and time to draw closer to God and our global family through reflection and prayer this Lent.

This year, as part of their reflections on one of the readings of the day, CAFOD will be sharing the stories of people from a fishing community in Liberia, as well as a daily prayer and suggested action you might like to take. Please spread the word and encourage your family and friends to sign up and join in this Lenten journey too.

Click here to join this journey by signing up for CAFOD's daily Lent emails:

[Lent calendar with daily prayers and reflection \(cafod.org.uk\)](https://cafod.org.uk)

ADORE spiritual mini-retreat: "I have chosen you - trusting God's promises."

St. Paul says that God "*chose us in [Christ] ... to be holy*" (*Ephesians 1:4*). 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, it is necessary for us to trust God's promise that He has chosen us to be holy, indeed to trust all of God's promises

This mini-retreat occurs on 24th February 10.00am - 1.00pm. Including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring guest speaker **Mary Hirst**. Please register for the Zoom meeting in advance at bit.ly/ADOREFEB2024 More information at www.altonrenewal.com

BOOKINGS NOW BEING TAKEN!!! Parish Skittles Evening - Friday 8 March

As previously advertised, the Archangels are organising a Skittles Evening at AWE RecSoc on Friday 8 March at 7 pm. This is always a fun and popular evening! We now have the details of the event as follows:

Tickets cost £15 and include a bar meal from the following options:

6 Fish Fingers and chips

6 Scampi and chips

6 Chicken Goujons and chips

Cheese and beans jacket potato with side salad (V, GF)

Tuna mayo and cheese jacket potato with side salad (GF)

Places are limited to 25, so please book early. A "reserve list" will operate to be offered any cancellations. To book, please telephone Mary Lee on 0118 981 3221, who will note your food order. Food orders need to be pre-ordered by Thursday 29 February. Drinks may be purchased on the night in the RecSoc Bar, which operates on a 'card only' basis.

The Archangels look forward to welcoming you to the Skittles Alley!

REMINDER: The Diocese is hosting a 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

Diocesan Vacancies

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

Administrator (Programmes & Governance), 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/>

A prayerful Lent!

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

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

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Charter for the Care of Victims and Survivors

As the Bishop for the Diocese of Portsmouth the safeguarding of all those who worship within our parishes and church communities is of upmost importance to me. We will work tirelessly to provide safe places for everyone, and above all, those who are most vulnerable. This is a primary focus for all our clergy and people, one that is mandated by the Lord Himself. Our Charter for the Care of Victims and Survivors sets out our commitment to those who contact us and report they have been harmed. The Church not only expresses her heartfelt sorrow and her apologies to anyone who has suffered abuse within her domain but wishes to do all she can to help and to assist with healing. I thank all those who contribute their time to the work of safeguarding in our parishes and I pray that those in pain and sorrow may receive comfort and healing. "Little children, let us not love in word or talk, but in deed and in truth." (1 John 3:18).

In Corde Iesu

Introduction:

The Bishop, Trustee Board, Safeguarding Committee, and all those who serve within the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth are committed to ensuring that safeguarding is an integral part of the life and ministry of the church. Our charter for the care of victims and survivors sets out our commitment to victims and survivors of abuse. As a Regulated Affiliate of the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA), our work is shaped by the eight national safeguarding standards and our charter reflects standard number three – engaging with and caring for those who report having been harmed.

Our commitment to victims and survivors:

We understand how difficult it may be to make a disclosure about abuse or harm. We will ensure that all victims and survivors who disclose abuse or harm to us receive a professional, caring, compassionate and timely response. We will follow the national safeguarding policy and procedures for the Catholic Church of England and Wales when we respond to disclosures. We are committed to helping and supporting victims and survivors through the process of reporting their disclosure for example to the police or other agencies who can help. When and how we keep in touch will be led by the wishes of the victim or survivor and agreed when we have our first contact. A copy of our victim and survivor privacy notice will be provided to all those who disclose abuse or harm to us. You can also access this [HERE](#).

How we will meet our commitment:

- We will ensure that we can respond to those who raise concerns with us in a professional and timely way by having the right resources in place.
- We will promote safeguarding across the Diocese in all aspects of our work and ministry.
- We will foster a culture which recognises that safeguarding is an integral part of the Church's mission and is understood as everyone's responsibility.
- We will ensure that all clergy, staff and volunteers who may receive a disclosure of abuse are trained to help them respond in a compassionate and caring way.
- We will work with the statutory authorities, and other relevant organisations to provide a robust and supportive service to all those who seek our support.
- We will signpost to those agencies and organisations that provide professional support services, if we have the consent from those who have been affected.
- All victims and survivors will be informed about our Safeguarding Complaints policy so they can express if they are not satisfied with the service they have received from us.
- We will ask for routine feedback from victims and survivors about our service to help us to improve the way we provide support to victims and survivors.



Access to support services:

If you are not ready to contact us at this time, we understand. There are a number of other organisations that can provide support, advice and guidance to victims and survivors of abuse.

- **Safe Spaces** is a free and independent support service, providing a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has been abused by someone in the Church or as a result of their relationship with the Church of England, the Catholic Church of England and Wales or the Church in Wales.
- **Minister and Clergy Sexual Abuse Survivors (MACSAS)** supports women and men who have been sexually abused, as children or adults, by ministers, clergy or others under the guise of the Church.
- **Grief to Grace UK** – Healing the wounds of abuse Founded in Pennsylvania in 2006, Grief to Grace ministers in several dioceses in the USA, Canada and Kingston, Jamaica. With the support of the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Southwark, The Most Reverend Peter Smith, the program was first piloted in the UK in 2011 and established as a UK charity in 2014.
- **The Survivors' Trust (TST)** is a UK-wide national umbrella agency for 130 specialist organisations to support the impact of rape, sexual violence and childhood sexual abuse throughout the UK and Ireland.
- **One in Four** provides support to people who have experienced child sexual abuse and trauma.
- **NAPAC** The National Association for People Abused in Childhood offers support to adult survivors of all types of childhood abuse, including physical, sexual, emotional abuse or neglect.



Reporting a concern:

- If you need to report a safeguarding matter, you can contact the Diocesan safeguarding team by telephone on 02394 216487 or by email safeguarding@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.
- If you are concerned that a child or adult is at immediate risk of harm or requires medical attention, please telephone the emergency services using 999.