

This Weekend's Mass arrangements:

Saturday 17th February: 6.00pm at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 18th February: 9.00am at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 18th February: 11.00am at St. Oswald's Church

Weekday Mass arrangements:

Friday 23rd February: 7.30pm at St. Michael's Church
(Preceded by Stations of the Cross at 7.00pm)

Dear All,

First, I shall not be available next week excepting emergencies. On Wednesday, I am hoping to be at the Clergy Lenten Day of Prayer at Douai Abbey, and this will take me out of the Parish for most of the day. Although I shall be taking Monday as my day off, as is happening quite regularly, I still have to try to catch up with some Parish and Diocesan issues. Tuesday requires my attention to assist Eamonn McCardle and Dennis Murtagh of our Finance Committee to deal with financial matters and in the late afternoon there is the launch of our First Holy Communion Preparation. Thursday and Friday are already full of items, and no doubt more will emerge by next week. I am most grateful to Dan for dealing with the heavy workload, even to the extent of regularly going beyond his normal working hours.

Our sincere thanks to both Eamonn and Dennis for their oversight of our Parish finances since the sudden death of Helen Warner, our Parish Treasurer, last year. This has been a considerable loss, especially with new Diocesan systems coming into play in respect of money matters. Helen's first anniversary of death will be remembered at our 9:00 AM Mass next Sunday 25th February.

Many thanks also to Marion Evans, ably assisted by Jenny Seaborn, in coordinating arrangements for our First Holy Communion preparation with me. This Sunday, at Saint Oswald's church at 11:00 AM, we have the First Holy Communion Enrolment. One of our candidates has asked to defer until next year so please keep Lou, Daniel and Jacob in our prayers this weekend, who come from the Kingsclere/Ashford Hill part of the Parish.

CTAT Holiday Club meeting

This takes place on Thursday 22nd February at the Salvation Army Hall, at 7:00 PM for 7:30 PM. All are invited to assist at this meeting in the development of the Tadley CTAT Holiday Club early in August. This is an outreach to our local youngsters, part of our joint mission as Christians to bring Christ to our local community from beyond our church walls. Looking forward to seeing some parishioners at the meeting next Thursday.

Also, please see details of the Silchester CTAT Holiday Club, from 8th - 12th April, on the poster in Saint Michael's Church.

CAFOD Family Fast Day

This is a Voluntary Fast Day, held this year on Friday 23rd February, as part of our Lenten call to reach out to those in need. It is a day to fast in some way and/or give up something, the financial savings going to the Voluntary Collection at our Masses on the weekend of 24th/25th February.

This weekend Maureen Atkinson and Dennis Murtagh will outline the area being addressed by the Catholic Fund for Overseas Development this year at the end of our Tadley Masses. Next weekend, Anne Howlett will speak at the end of our 11:00 AM Burghfield Common Mass.

Gift Aid envelopes are available this weekend at both churches. However, please use them only if you are gift aiding in line with HMRC regulations, as outlined on the envelopes. For those not gift aiding, parish envelopes should be used as normal (use of the CAFOD envelopes if you are not gift aiding only causes inconvenience to the counters).

I was delighted to see a photograph in CAFOD's *Side by Side* magazine of one of my previous parishioners, Edna Wharton, receiving a Papal Blessing at the Church of Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus, Totton, for 30 years of volunteering for CAFOD in the Portsmouth Diocese. She was a sterling parishioner during my time at Saint Theresa's Church, my first place as Parish Priest. It was good to meet her recently at Portsmouth Cathedral. Congratulations, Edna! Happy memories.

The Globalisation of Indifference - Do we have time to care?

Pope Francis in his Lenten message speaks about how: "Baptism has begun the process of liberation from sin, yet there remains an inexplicable longing for slavery".

Lent calls us to throw off our indifference to the indifference caused by sin & leads us to look beyond ourselves & our own cares & recognise the cry of the needy. The indifference of many in our world to the spread of direct abortion, especially here in the United Kingdom, is something we should address during this Holy Season. It is a time calling us to new life in Christ, yet around us the life He comes to redeem is often extinguished even before it is born, even up to the moment of birth if a child is handicapped.

I shall be addressing the issue of home abortions during Lent with the opportunity for you to send a postcard via the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) to ask for an end to this, which is also detrimental to many women getting ill at home with no medical supervision.

Furthermore, this weekend, The Right to Life charity has asked us to address the area of the time-limit for abortions in respect of Parliamentary attempts to extend it even to birth. More later.

Laudato Si Network – Further ideas for Lent

Caritas Portsmouth have shared with us news that the Diocesan Laudato Si' Network has been gathering some green actions and resources to share this Lent. In the busyness of life, it is easy to slip away from our intention to live more simply, sustainably to take care of God's creation. This is a chance to take a moment, to pause, reflect and try a new step in the journey in Caring for our Common Home:

- Green Christians have a new 5 week lent course '[Calling a Wounded Earth Home](#)'
- Join in the '[No Faith in Fossil Fuels](#)' Lent Vigil
- See how much plastic you throw away by taking part in the [Big Plastic Count](#) from 11-17 March
- Learn how to [Eat for Net Zero](#)
- Consider booking one of the 'in person' [Laudato Si' Retreat](#) at Boarbank Hall
- Follow some of the suggestions on how to [Go Green\(er\) for Lent](#) from A Rocha UK
- Caritas Plymouth have put together a series of [weekly actions](#) to remind us that a few actions each week can make a positive difference
- For other prayers and Stations of the Cross visit <https://laudatosilent.org/europe/> and <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/lent-prayers>

To come along to the Diocese Laudato Si' network, contact Maureen at mthompson@cafod.co.uk Everyone is welcome, and it is a great space to learn what other parishes are doing.

If you are looking to live more simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor, come along to the online networking lunch on **Tuesday 5th March from 12:30-1pm** where we will be joined by Jo Lewry from CAFOD to tell us more about the **LiveSimply Award**. You can [register here](#).

"Save the Date" items

Tadley World Day of Prayer – Friday 1 March

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".

See the poster in St. Michael's Church also.

Retrouvaille – 14-16 June 2024

Retrouvaille offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. 10s of 1000s headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. There is no group therapy or group work. The next programme commences with a weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024. Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443, email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

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

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Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through his Church

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

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