

Dear All,

This weekend we keep Good Shepherd Sunday, traditionally a time of prayer for Vocations to the Ministerial Priesthood, but in recent times embracing all Vocations flowing from our Baptism, calling each one of us to be disciples of Christ in the way God wishes.

In our Parish churches you will find photographs of those in our Diocese preparing for Priesthood, so do familiarise yourself with their faces and embed them in your prayers, that their journeys in faith will end in Priestly Ordination.

As our Ten Year Mission Plan begins to develop in earnest, not only should we be praying for more priests but also for discernment of new vocational callings for the future of our Local Church of the Diocese of Portsmouth. The Permanent Diaconate will be an important element in this prayer-guided development as the availability of priests continues to decline. As is already happening elsewhere, some of our new reorganised Parish Areas may have to depend upon diaconal leadership in place of a priest for most of the time. Also, there is a need to redevelop proper formation for lay men and women to take on this role when no clergy are available. Whilst having a break last week with my brother and his wife in Clifton Diocese, I had a very interesting discussion with a lay woman who had undergone training for this with others. Formerly from our Diocese, the late Bishop Emery, who ordained me, had a great effect upon her as a teenager. The power of witness.

Vocations of all sorts begin with our Christian families, which should be domestic churches, centred on Christ's call in Baptism. A good question to ask this Sunday is: "Is my family a reflection of the Church of which I am a member? A place where Christ is honoured regularly, especially on Sunday, the Day of Resurrection, by Mass attendance, and within which the call to be Missionary Disciples is acknowledged and lived in prayer and Christian witness".

**This Weekend's Mass arrangements:**

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April: 6.00pm at St. Michael's Church  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April: 9.00am at St. Michael's Church - **Children's Liturgy!**  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April: 11.00am at St. Oswald's Church

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

**Weekday Mass arrangements:**

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April (St. George's Day – Solemnity Mass): 11.00am at St. Michael's Church

**Advance notice:**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May (Ascension Day – Holy Day of Obligation Mass): 11.00am at St. Oswald's Church  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May (Ascension Day – Holy Day of Obligation Mass): 7.00pm at St. Michael's Church

**First Communion preparation**

- We keep in prayer Lou, Jacob and Daniel who make their First Reconciliation in St. Michael's Church at 9.45am this Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April.
- Next preparation meeting for the candidates is Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 4.30pm in the Parish Room.

**Pastoral Area Confirmation**

This will be celebrated with Bishop Philip presiding, at St. Bede's Church on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm. Please remember in prayer all the candidates in our Pastoral Area, especially those from our Parish.

### **Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians**

This will be held on 5th May, the 6th Sunday of Easter. Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald is promoting this day, when we are asked to remember the Christian communities in various parts of the world, especially those in the Middle East and Muslim countries in North Africa and elsewhere. Cardinal Fitzgerald, from England, is acknowledged as an authority on Islam and has worked for many years as a missionary in Africa.

### **A Day with Mary**

This event will take place at Bournemouth Oratory, Richmond Hill, Bournemouth, on Saturday 18th May. Full details on the posters in our churches

### **Training Day for Lay Ministers of the Eucharist**

Thank you to the parishioners who have indicated that they would be willing to assist in the giving of the Blessed Sacrament at Masses and to those who are unwell or housebound. All the responses come from our Tadley community. Are any parishioners in Burghfield Common willing to engage in this important ministry? The Diocesan Training Day for this ministry, advertised previously in our Parish Newsletter and recently in the Diocesan e-news, takes place at St. Bede's Church on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May from 9.00am-2.30pm.

Please ensure that you have signed up for this day via [liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) and please let the Parish Office know that you have done so.

Following the Diocesan Day, there will be a Parish Meeting to progress matters and check on any DBS requirements.

### **Sister Monica**

Gerry Penfold would like to pass on his sincere thanks to all those who responded to his appeal on behalf of Sr. Monica. By setting up new standing orders, increasing existing ones, or make a one-off donations, you have provided a lifeline for Sr. Monica and her small group of sisters. Thank you so much and please do keep them in your prayers, knowing that they are praying for us every day.

If anyone has been thinking about a donation or standing order but hasn't got around to it yet, please do let Gerry know. Every penny goes to the sisters.

### **IMPORTANT: Diocesan IT Advisory**

Many thanks indeed to Bill Reilly for alerting us to a spam email which was circulating a few weeks ago, purporting to be from Father Patrick. This incident serves to further emphasise the importance of the following Diocesan IT communication which featured in our Newsletter a few weeks ago:

#### **So called 'Spear Phishing' emails on the rise**

All Diocesan IT users are urged to be especially alert to a new generation of more sophisticated phishing email tactic, called 'Spear Phishing' If you receive an email from a bank that you've never used before, then it's very likely that you will recognize it's a phishing email and hit delete. But if the email comes from your own bank, you are much more likely to fall for the scam. The scammers add authenticity by names and content which will be familiar to their audience.

***In the latest round of emails sent to a number of IT users across the Diocese the attackers used the name of a Priest in active ministry in the signature block, together with our registered charity number to make the emails appear legitimate.***

Please remember that any emails from Father Patrick will only come from the Parish Office email address [tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) . IF IN DOUBT, CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE BEFORE OPENING THE EMAIL!

### **CTAT Men's Breakfast returns!**

All adult male members of our Tadley community are invited to a meeting at Tadley URC Immanuel Centre on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm. This will plan the return of the Men's Breakfast, which ran successfully before the pandemic, so please support it if you can. In the past a first class cooked breakfast was provided, with a speaker on a particular topic, religious or otherwise, and it provided a good opportunity for Christian men to meet on a regular basis.

### **Marriage Care volunteers needed!**

Marriage Care is a Catholic organisation specialising in relationship support. They are looking for Marriage Preparation Course Facilitators to prepare couples for the Sacrament of Marriage (full training is provided for this role), Qualified Relationship Counsellors to support couples in distress and Trustees to provide governance and strategic direction for the organisation. For more information please visit:

[www.marriagecare.org.uk](http://www.marriagecare.org.uk) or e-mail: [volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk)

### **Burghfield Common May Fayre volunteers needed!**

Cafe B and local churches are organising the refreshment tent at the May Fayre this year on 12th May 2024. As usual they would love for church members to be involved to help raise funds for the local community via the Burghfield Residents Association annual May Fayre. Looking for cake bakers and volunteers for that day. Any St. Oswald's parishioners willing to help? Please contact: Emma Shumsky on 07931 305996 or via [emma.shumsky@gmail.com](mailto:emma.shumsky@gmail.com)

### **Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes**

Bishop Philip warmly invites us all to join him & fellow pilgrims for the annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. This year's pilgrimage is from Monday 22nd – Friday 26th July 2024.

Departing from London Gatwick Airport on Monday 22nd July. Accommodation will be close to the Sanctuary at the four-star Hotel La Solitude which enjoys panoramic views of the upper town and the Pyrenees. The hotel boasts en-suite rooms with tea and coffee-making facilities and a comfortable restaurant with a varied and plentiful menu. The itinerary which takes full advantage of all that Lourdes has to offer, which includes participation in all the usual Pilgrimage activities.

If you would like to know more about the Pilgrimage to Lourdes this year email:

[lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or [click here](#) for a booking form.

**Calling the young People of our Diocese:** Just finished your A-levels? Or about to finish Uni for the Summer...? Why not give something back by joining our Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes? You could help by assisting some of our pilgrims by pushing wheelchairs, offering a steadying arm and a warm smile! Youth pilgrims are an essential part of this Pilgrimage, and they tell us each year of the amazing time they have had, returning many times to serve our pilgrims. Watch the promotional video by clicking [here](#) & scrolling to the bottom of the page to give you a flavour of what it is like to take part. If you would like to know more, contact: [lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) - Funding is potentially available to assist with costs.

### **West Berkshire Foodbank**

The Foodbank has written to us to provide an overview of 2023 across their Region & to say, once again, how overwhelmed they were with your generosity at Harvest and Christmas last year. In September 2023, the concern was that the stock levels were gradually falling, particularly after the Summer Hungry Holidays scheme. The response to the Harvest Appeal was amazing & the Reverse Advent calendar and 12 Days of Christmas were also very well supported so that the year ended with a very healthy stock level indeed at the warehouse.

With your help, last year the Foodbank distributed over 140 tonnes of stock to:

- ❖ individuals and families facing difficulties in West Berkshire through the voucher system;
- ❖ support other organisations, like Loose Ends, Home Start, the Soup Kitchen to name a few;
- ❖ support Breakfast Clubs in schools;
- ❖ run the Hungry Holidays Scheme.

Through the voucher system alone, over 8,000 people were helped, 40% of these were children. Cash donations also enabled clients struggling with energy costs to be supplied with heated throws as well as cheaper to run slow cookers & Air Friers. However, stock levels have fallen at the start of 2024. With the BBC News reporting that the UK has seen the biggest rise in absolute poverty for 30 years (12 million in 2022-2023), the help provided by Foodbanks is sadly very necessary. With your help, the Foodbank will be able to continue to support those in crisis and help them to find a way out of their problems. To ensure donations are most useful, a shopping list of urgently needed items can always be found on the website at: [Donate food | West Berks Foodbank](#)

### **ADoRE spiritual mini-retreat – 27<sup>th</sup> April – I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT ON ALL**

Many people mistakenly think that Joel's prophecy of the Holy Spirit, with accompanying charisms, applies only to the Apostles and other special Saints; but Vatican 2 clarified that the Holy Spirit "distributes special graces among the faithful of every rank" for the building up of the Church (*CCC 951 quoting Lumen Gentium 12*).

This is an opportunity to participate in a free mini-retreat that will explain in more depth how the gifts of the Holy Spirit are made available to all baptised people and it is our privilege and responsibility to use them ("to each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." - 1 Cor. 12:7).

**ADoRE spiritual mini-retreat** 27th April "I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT ON ALL." Including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring guest speaker **Kristina Cooper**. Please register for the 9.30-1.00 Zoom meeting in advance at [bit.ly/ADOREAPR2024](https://bit.ly/ADOREAPR2024) or attend in person 9.30-3.30 at St. Bede's Church, Basingstoke. More information at [www.altonrenewal.com](http://www.altonrenewal.com)

### **Diocesan Vacancies**

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

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

### **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/>

Best wishes,

Father Patrick.

### **Fr. Patrick Tansey Parish Priest**

St Michael's Church, Tadley

St Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

Tel: 0118 981 4572

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**Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through his Church**

**Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth**

**A registered charity number 1199568**

**Registered office: Diocesan Office, St Edmund House, Bishop Crispian Way, Portsmouth PO1 3QA**

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