

LAST NEWSLETTER BEFORE EASTER!!!.... NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE ON 12th APRIL!!!

Dear All,

PASTORAL & OFFICE ARRANGEMENTS – EASTER & BEYOND

Whilst I am returning to normal after my bout of illness last week, I am still very tired by the end of the day and know that I need to pace myself for Holy Week and Easter. Both fellow clergy and lay people have said that I need to slow down, so I am taking two weeks off after the Burghfield Common Mass on Easter Sunday. I shall be celebrating the Masses on the 2nd Sunday of Easter weekend (6th/7th April), but otherwise I am not available until the weekend of 13th/14th April.

Dan will also take holiday in the week after Easter, so he will be away & **the Parish Office will therefore be closed from Good Friday until Tuesday 9th April.**

Also, please keep Father John Lee, our Pastoral Area Coordinator, in your prayers. He, like myself, was not on top form at the meeting of Chairs of Finance and of Clergy on Tuesday 19th March, addressing the integration of Finance Committees and other aspects of The Ten Year Mission Plan, as we begin to move towards becoming one Parish covering Basingstoke, Hook, Tadley and Burghfield Common within a few years. Bishop Philip is expecting all Pastoral Areas of the Diocese to submit, by the end of March, a general outline of their progress to become single Parishes. So keep this important development of a new era of Church in your prayers over Easter. As matters evolve, there will be regular updates of our progress as a Pastoral Area. *Festina Lente*: Hasten Slowly! A fine Latin phrase for the coming years, expressing the wisdom of the past.

Finally, a sincere “Thank you” you to Abbot Paul Gunter of Douai Abbey for enabling me to celebrate the Funeral Mass of Dennis, the father of Kathryn Garden, with him on Wednesday 20th March in the Abbey Church. He asked me to read the Gospel and to say the parts of the Eucharistic Prayer assigned to priests concelebrating, including the Memento for the Dead. He also delivered a fine homily.

As I was returning to Tadley after the Mass, it was good first to join the community for Midday Prayer, and I appreciated greatly the welcome of monks I know and their concern about my health. Also to have a long chat with Dom Geoffrey Scott, the previous Abbot who was visiting. Although I did not get the chance to speak with Kathryn, it was good to meet with her husband Sean, who was organising things before the Mass. It was all well done!

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REMINDER FOR TONIGHT! - Pastoral Area Easter Reconciliation Service

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

REMINDER FOR THIS SUNDAY! - Palm Sunday

The palms will be blessed only before the 9:00 AM Tadley Mass, followed by the Solemn Procession into Church. Please be in the church grounds by 8:45 AM for the blessing. There will be the Simple Entrance at Saint Oswald's Church, with the blessed palms brought from Tadley. The Simple Entrance will also be celebrated at the 6:00 PM Saturday evening Mass this weekend, and blessed palms will be available during Holy Week for those attending and others requiring them.

Holy Week, the Sacred Triduum (including Easter Sunday)

- **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
A FEW PARISHIONERS HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO READ AT THE VIGIL – IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE MORE - PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE ASAP IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP.
- **Easter Sunday – 31st March:**
9:00 AM in Saint Michael's Church
11:00 AM in Saint Oswald's Church
FR. PATRICK WILL NEED A LIFT ON EASTER SUNDAY MORNING FROM ST. MICHAEL'S TO ST. OSWALD'S & BACK. AGAIN, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE ASAP IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP.

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!

Basingstoke Hospital Chaplaincy – Easter arrangements

Holy Communion will be taken to Catholic Patients in Basingstoke Hospital on Easter Sunday between 10:30 AM and 1:30 PM. Provided patients are registered as Catholics with the Hospital Chaplaincy Team, they will receive a visit.

If there are staff members scheduled to work that day who would like to receive Holy Communion please can they email Deacon Tony on adarroch@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk with their name and the ward they will be working on. Deadline for emails is 3pm on Good Friday.

Deacon Tony will bring Holy Communion to your ward in the hope that your availability allows you to receive, during that time.

Ecumenical Celebrations

- **Ecumenical Palm Sunday Procession - Sunday 24th 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 29th March:**
Saint Mary's Church, Tadley at 10:30 AM. Looking forward to seeing you there!
- **NEW!... Kingsclere Good Friday Service – Friday 29th March:**
The service will happen inside St. Mary's church this year, at 10:00 AM. **NOTE:** Rev. Pete Williams is appealing for volunteers to assist with readings & prayers. Please let the Parish Office know if you can help.
- **Churches Together in Burghfield and Mortimer, Walk of Witness – Friday 29th March:**
Start from the Mortimer Methodist Church car park at 8.00 AM.
- **Easter Day Dawn Service – Sunday 31st 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

Good Friday Collection

The Pontifical Good Friday Collection supports the Christian community in the Middle East. As we are all too acutely aware, this last year has been particularly challenging for this small community which seeks “to be the salt, light and leaven of the Gospel” in the region, often living in difficult circumstances. Here is the link to the Give As You Live page for this Good Friday:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/good-friday-collection-for-christians-in-the-holy-land>

Parish Easter Collection

Please kindly support your Parish Priest with whatever you are able to give this Easter. Offerings can be made via this link:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/tadley-st-michael-and-st-oswald-catholic-parish-easter-collection-2024>

Reading Passion Play 28th - 30th March 2024

Rise Theatre, a local professional Christian theatre company, are performing their PASSION PLAY in Forbury Gardens in central Reading on 28th (6pm), 29th (1.30pm) and 30th March (2pm). It is a free event. Wrap up warm (especially for the evening performance) & bring something suitable to sit on! The play includes a dramatic interpretation of the crucifixion so parental guidance is advised. See

www.risetheatre.co.uk/passionplay for more information. Please support this local initiative during the Easter weekend.

Sister Monica update

Gerry Penfold recently received a letter from Sister Monica in which she expresses her gratitude for our prayers and financial support. However, she also goes on to describe how the small community of Missionary Sisters for the Poorest of the Poor are experiencing a great deal more hardship due to dramatically increased costs. Their only income is our donations and the monthly standing orders that some of you very kindly set up over a year ago are a lifeline for both the sisters and the people they serve.

Their basic needs which now include an annual requirement to pay the government for residence permits, visas, etc (the sisters come from Nigeria). In addition, they are unable to find work to help cover their costs because even job applications require the payment of a fee equivalent to several months wages before they can even get an interview (and no guarantee this will lead to a job).

So the normal model of subsistence for MSPP communities whereby a small number find paid work while the others serve the poor full time is simply not working for them.

If you are able, it would be wonderful if you could set up a standing order for whatever you can afford (or increase your standing order for those already making monthly donations). Please contact Gerry or let the Parish Office know if you feel able to assist. If you're not able to help financially at this time, please keep Sr Monica and her community in your prayers.

IMPORTANT: Diocesan IT Advisory

Although this item is intended primarily for parishioners who are more closely associated with Parish & Diocesan business, I thought it wise to share with you all, since this type of scam could affect anyone in their everyday life:

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. It was only as a result of the vigilance of the Parish team at St Peter and the Winchester Martyrs in querying the originating email address that the offending emails were intercepted and the address blocked.

Diocesan Vacancies

Youth Ministry Worker, Maidenhead – Closing Date: Friday 29th March 2024

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 and a deeply spiritual Holy Week and joyous Celebration of The Resurrection of our Saviour.

Father Patrick.

Fr. Patrick Tansey

Parish Priest

St Michael's Church, Tadley

St Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

Tel: 0118 981 4572

Email: tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk