

Dear All,

On Thursday evening 18th April, I attended a meeting led by the Reverend Steve Mackay, one of our Churches Together Around Tadley (CTAT) Moderators, to begin preparations for our Tadley Arts Festival in October. This was a fruitful event, leading to a number of good ideas, which will be developed at the next meeting at St. Paul's Church on The Green at 7.30pm on Thursday 20th May. I shall not be able to attend, because of a previous engagement, but I hope many of you will make the effort to do so. We need a large group of volunteers from our churches (to help with curating art, music, sound, refreshments, stewarding & involving schools)!

The Festival will run from Friday 11th October to Sunday 13th October, with the possibility of a film night on Thursday 10th October. There will be a special Act of Worship on the Sunday morning, which I shall be attending as part of our Ecumenical Collaboration, so there will be no Burghfield Common Mass that Sunday.

The theme of the Festival is Creation, celebrating God's gift to us of the beauty of the world we live in, and of the music and art expressing our joy of it.

Both Tadley Town Council and Basingstoke & Deane Council will be supporting the event, especially as within it there will be a celebration of the civic service of Councillor David Leeks of Tadley, at present Mayor of Basingstoke for a second term. David, a member of St. Mary's Church, has shown notable commitments to the civic and religious life of Tadley and Basingstoke over the years. His present Mayoral Chaplain is the Reverend Steve.

#### **Not available**

I am not available on Tuesday 30th of April because of Parish commitments, including First Holy Communion Preparation at 4.00pm. On Monday, my day off, I may be having a tooth removed, so keep me in your prayers!

#### **This Weekend's Mass arrangements:**

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April: 6.00pm at St. Michael's Church  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April: 9.00am at St. Michael's Church  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April: 11.00am at St. Oswald's Church

#### **ADVANCE NOTICE – Upcoming weekday Masses:**

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

#### **TIME CHANGE - First Communion preparation**

Next preparation meeting for the candidates on Tuesday 30th April **WILL BE AT 4.00pm** instead of 4.30pm in the Parish Room.

#### **REMINDER - 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.

#### **REMINDER – Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC)**

A reminder for EMHCs commissioned before covid, or those who wish to become new EMHCs, this is your **LAST CALL** to enrol for the EMHC Day at St. Bede's Church Hall on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May from 9.30 am to 2.30 pm (including some light refreshments). Please enrol now via [liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) & kindly inform the Parish Office that you have done so. Following the Diocesan Day, there will be a Parish Meeting to progress matters & to check on any DBS requirements.

## **Message from the Diocese - Article in *The Tablet* re. Charity Commission**

Some of you may have read an article in *The Tablet* referring to an investigation by the Charity Commission. The article was misleading because it referred to the overall financial position of the diocese which includes all parishes, at the end of 2022 as reported in the last published audited accounts. The Charity Commission confirmed to *The Tablet* that they had opened a regulatory compliance case. This refers to a matter that was initially reported by the diocese to the Charity Commission. When any matter of significant concern is identified, not just financial it is usual to report the issue to the Charity Commission. They have now formally replied to the Diocesan Trustees and confirmed that they are assured at this stage that trustees are dealing with the subjects raised appropriately. They have, as is often the case, given some advice as part of their process. Our latest audited accounts for the year ending September 2023 due to be published shortly will report a small operating surplus, not least due to the hard work and engagement of many of our parishes, in the Closer to Christ campaign to support seminarians, priests in active ministry and in retirement. As you know a component of the funding from the campaign was also to support parishes in recovering from the adverse financial impact of the Covid pandemic. We are grateful for the generosity of the people who have contributed and to those of you who have supported this campaign.

## **Knights of St. Columba**

Roy Singh has written to thank those who donate via the Lucky Me draw. As a result, this month the Knights were able to support the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children and Aid to the Church in Need UK. The Knights of St Columba is open to any Catholic man aged 16 and over who wishes to actively support the Church. They usually meet at St Bede's Hall on the second Monday of each month from 7.45pm to 9.30pm and you would be warmly welcomed. If you are interested, please speak to Roy.

## **CAFOD**

- The people of Sudan need our help urgently. CAFOD are launching an [emergency appeal](#) for donations to get aid to them on the biggest scale we can muster. When violence broke out last year in Sudan between government and paramilitaries, most aid agencies evacuated. Now, humanitarian workers are struggling to get back into Sudan to help, meaning severe delays in getting aid to the people, and the challenges of getting into areas where fighting is still going on remain. Many borders are shut as the government say they need to keep weapons out. But the Church and our local partners are still there. Please, stand with them today.
- Along with the St Vincent de Paul Society, CAFOD are launching a new initiative called 'A Year of Encounter' that aims to get the Catholic community engaging with local candidates ahead of the election. The aim is to make sure those who want to represent us in the next Parliament hear loud and clear that their constituents want action on poverty, hunger and injustice. You are invited to participate in the following online training session to show how you can engage effectively with your local candidates:

Saturday 4 May from 11:00am to 1:00pm

[Training session: Using our Catholic voice at the next election \(cafod.org.uk\)](https://cafod.org.uk)

## **Caritas – Spring update**

- Caritas Plymouth has invited people in our Diocese interested in learning more about modern slavery, particularly in the care sector to an event they are holding in Poole on 30<sup>th</sup> April. There are some great speakers from the Medaille Trust and Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority. Event runs from 10:30-12:30 in the church hall of St Marys Catholic Church, 211A Wimborne Road, Poole, BH15 2EG. Please register beforehand at <https://forms.office.com/e/zUCKyENMNH>
- The latest issue of the Caritas Portsmouth newsletter is [here](#) – and there are articles on the Let's End Poverty Movement, our new parish biodiversity review tool and the Church Beyond Walls Workshop. Caritas Ambassador and Caritas Community Rep volunteering roles are also being introduced. <https://mailchi.mp/3bb303fb8b15/caritas-portsmouth-news>

- Thank you to everyone who has shown an interest in the Dementia Friend Information session on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 7.00pm. Link to sign up will be available as soon as the event is set up on Teams.
- Thinking ahead to Refugee Week (17<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> June), the focus of the online networking lunch event that week is how we can support refugees and asylum seekers in our parishes. It will be held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June. Again, link will be set up in due course.
- And finally, last call for sunflower seeds. Please let Caritas know if you want some – there is still time to plant! Competitions and information on how to grow can be found on the website <https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk/caritas-sunflowers/>. Caritas look forward to seeing lots of pictures!

### **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

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

**Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth**

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