

This Weekend's Mass arrangements:

Saturday 2nd March: 6.00pm at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 3rd March: 9.00am at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 3rd March: 11.00am at St. Oswald's Church

Weekday Mass arrangements:

Friday 8th March: 7.30pm at St. Michael's Church
(Preceded by Stations of the Cross at 7.00pm)

Dear All,

We continue our Lenten concern for those suffering in our own country at this time, namely the death of unborn children and the women suffering from the medical side effects of direct abortion. Once again the cards from Right to Life UK are available in our churches for you to sign and send to your MP as soon as possible.

This is particularly important at the present moment, as an amendment to reduce the time limit of direct abortion from 24 weeks to 22 weeks is to be voted on soon. As the card you are asked to send points out, the British Association of Perinatal Medicine enables doctors to save premature babies from 22 weeks. Research indicates that a significant number of babies at 22 weeks onwards can now survive outside the womb, while others are being aborted, potentially in the same hospital.

At the same time, another amendment is to be voted on allowing abortion up to the moment of birth, which is already permitted for unborn children with disabilities, even minor ones. This amendment would completely decriminalise abortion, so we need to act now to prevent it.

Also available this weekend are cards from the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC), calling for an end to do-it-yourself abortions at home without any need for medical supervision. This is not only detrimental to the life of the unborn child, but very often to the mothers who suffer complications and have to receive emergency treatment as a result. A large number of doctors are concerned that DIY abortions are allowing coercive and abusive pressure on mothers from some parents, partners and traffickers.

This card should be signed in the church building and I shall return those signed to SPUC to be delivered to the Health Secretary

As Saint Vincent de Paul, the Apostle of Charity, who responded to the needs that he saw before him in his priestly ministry in 17th Century France, including abandoned children, asked himself, whilst confronting these needs: What would Christ do? A good question to ask ourselves this Lent on the above matters which are on our doorstep.

Ian Sumner RIP

The Funeral Service for Ian will be held in Saint Oswald's church at 12 noon on Friday 22nd March, followed by burial in Mortimer. Our condolences once again to Maryanne Sumner and her family members as we keep Ian's soul in our prayers.

First Holy Communion preparation

This takes place in Saint Michael's Parish Room at 4:30 PM on Tuesday 5th March.

Obligatory Collection - Next Weekend: Clergy Assistance Fund

Please note that this collection will be taken at all Masses throughout the Diocese next weekend 9th/10th March.

Not available

I am generally not available on Thursday 7th March spending the afternoon at Bishop Challoner School for Lenten Reconciliation (Confession) after addressing Parish Office matters in the morning.

On Wednesday 13th March I'm away all day as Portsmouth Administrator for the Secular Clergy Common Fund for our meeting in London with HSBC. The Fund assists our sick and retired clergy, and its history dates back to the 18th Century. It now covers the Archdioceses of Westminster and Southwark, and the Dioceses of Arundel and Brighton, Brentwood and Portsmouth, although independent of these as they were not in existence at the time the Fund was first set up. Please keep the Administrators in your prayers as they administer this essential provision for many of our priests, including care of two of our Catholic cemeteries in London.

West Berks Foodbank – Thank you!

I'm delighted to inform you that we received the following message from the West Berks Foodbank:

Our sincere thanks for the regular monthly donations of goods from St. Oswald's Church during 2023. Your regular donations enable us to keep supporting those in food crisis, numbers of which continue to rise across the country. New figures released in November by the Trussell Trust (who support a wide network of food banks across the UK) reveal that 1.5 million emergency food parcels were provided to people between April and September 2023 by food banks in the charity's UK-wide network. This is the most parcels that the network has ever distributed at this point in the year and represents a 16% increase from the same period in 2022.

The work of the foodbanks therefore continues to be vital. The support which West Berks Foodbank is able to provide our clients is only made possible by our amazing team of 140 volunteers, including volunteers in the warehouse helping to receive the many donations, log and store the goods, and enable efficient packing & distribution of supplies and food parcels. We have re-opened the majority of our distribution centres throughout West Berkshire, where clients can once again meet volunteers face-to-face and receive vital food provisions. In addition, we provide a delivery service across the area for those who are unable to get to the distribution centres. The West Berkshire Foodbank has a long history of

service provision underpinned by processes, governance and a well-defined delivery model based on addressing needs through professional referrals. The Foodbank offers more than just food, with a Listening Team who call clients and support them to deal with the issues that have led to food poverty. They aim to help clients work with other agencies and charities giving them a way forward out of financial crisis. Our aim is to not only address short term needs but also to provide support, detect abuse and aim to provide a path out of hardship for those who seek out our service.

Every donation we receive enables us to help more people who are in food crisis and to move towards a Hunger Free Future. We are so very grateful for the regular support that the church has shown the Foodbank, it really is appreciated.

Please find attached to this Newsletter a certificate showing the total donations during 2023 in terms of how many people you have helped through your generosity.

St. Oswald's grounds maintenance

I am delighted to announce that we have secured the services of Community Payback to manage the grounds maintenance at the St. Oswald's church site. Community Payback is unpaid work which the courts can add to a Community or Suspended Sentence Order. It is managed and delivered by the Probation Service. This is a visible punishment which tangibly brings a social benefit and also allows the public to see justice being done. Community Payback also provides opportunities for individuals to learn new skills and increase the employability of offenders.

The first work visit took place on Wednesday this week & we anticipate 3 to 4 subsequent weekly visits to fully address outstanding issues. Thereafter, the visits will become monthly in order to maintain the grounds appropriately throughout the year.

Many thanks indeed to Ellen Goodall, Barry & Peg Rockhill, Anne Howlett for their enthusiastic assistance in cooperating with the Supervisor of the Community Payback Team to ensure that things run smoothly on each visit. They have also commented on how much better the grounds look, even after just one visit!

Thanks also to Dan for his diligent work in liaising with Community Payback management & our Diocesan Estates Department to make this all happen.

CTAT – Bring & Share Lunch TOMORROW!

For those who volunteer in different areas with children and youth, CTAT invites you to a "Bring & Share" lunch this Saturday 2nd March 12.30pm – 1.30pm at the Immanuel Centre, Main Road, Tadley, RG26 3BP. Spend some time hearing about the different ways people are supporting, share stories, faith and food. If you would like to and are available to join, please let Sam Dunn know on samd@bccnet.org.uk.

CTAT – Tadley Holiday Club 2024

If you would like to volunteer at the Tadley Holiday Club 2024, please can you let Janet Gross know by emailing janetgross2301@gmail.com

Would you like to be a Youth Ministry Leader in the Lake District?

Castlerigg Manor (Diocese of Lancaster Retreat Centre) are looking for a Programme Leader to join their youth ministry team. The work involves working on retreats in the heart of the Lake District, and occasionally working on outreach visits around the area. The post is residential and comes with a salary package in the range of £26-28k, made up of paid salary, accommodation, food etc. Would suit somebody with youth ministry experience perhaps recently graduated. Interested – jack@castleriggmanor.co.uk

Diocesan Vacancies

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

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/>

Happy Feast of St. David today (Friday 1st March) and a good weekend!

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

2023



2023

THANK YOU!

This certificate of appreciation is presented to

St. Oswald's, Burghfield

in acknowledgment of your kind regular donations to
the West Berks Foodbank throughout 2023,
an amazing annual total of

533.3 kg of food & essentials

Your generosity has provided **1,120** meals
helping to feed a family of 4 for **93** days.

West Berks Foodbank supports people in food crisis, additionally providing essential items such as toiletries, sanitary products, baby food and pet food, only possible because of the kindness of others.

