

**NORTH WEST**

**HAMPSHIRE**

**PASTORAL AREA**

**Serving the Parishes of**

**ANDOVER, BASINGSTOKE, HOOK,  
TADLEY AND BURGHFIELD COMMON**



**St Michael's Parish, Tadley,  
Kingsclere,  
and St Oswald's Church,  
Burghfield Common**

**St Michael's Church**  
Bishopswood Road, Tadley  
RG26 4HG

**St Oswald's Church**  
Abbey Park, Burghfield Common,  
RG7 3HQ

**Parish Priest:**  
Rev Fr Patrick Tansey  
0118 981 4572

**Safeguarding Officers:**  
Mrs Kath Murtagh (Tadley)  
0118 981 4658  
Mrs Ellen Goodall (Burghfield Common)  
0118 983 3332

**Parish Secretary:**  
Mrs Barbara Davis  
Email: [tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)  
Website: [www.stmandsto.org.uk](http://www.stmandsto.org.uk)

**Covenant to the People**

If you would like help from the Covenant to the People scheme, please call Bill Reilly on (0118) 9813784 during May.

**NEWSLETTER**

**10th May—16th May 2020 AD**

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

A PUBLICATION OF PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE TRUST REGISTERED CHARITY NO 246871

**ASCENSION DAY PREPARATION**

**A Reflection:**

"Apparently it was not until after His Resurrection, and especially after His Ascension, when the Holy Ghost descended, that the Apostles understood who had been with them.... God's presence is not discerned at the time when it is upon us, but afterwards, when we look back upon what is gone and over.... These things understood not his disciples at the first, but when Jesus was glorified... (John 12 vs 16) - St John Henry Newman (from his Anglican Sermons)

Normally a Holy day of Obligation, this year The Ascension of Our Lord to prepare a place for us alongside His Father in Heaven, and to send The Holy Spirit upon the Early Church, falls on Thursday 21st May. Although unable to attend Mass at present, this day should be kept with special prayer as well as festal celebration by Catholics.

Following Ascension Day many Catholics keep The Novena of Prayer to the Holy Spirit in the nine days leading to Pentecost. This is now closely linked to the Ecumenical "Thy Kingdom Come", which also continues from Ascension to Pentecost. Please see the reference to this in CTAT Conference Call report further in the Newsletter.

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**PARISH CONDOLENCES**

Father Patrick expresses these to the family of Margaret Spano, known as "Rita", who died suddenly on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May before Father Patrick was able to give her Absolution and The Sacrament of the Sick in accordance with Diocesan and medical protocols. Her family would appreciate parishioners keeping her soul in their prayers and was grateful to Father Patrick for joining them to say The Prayers for the Dead. He appreciates their consideration and kindness towards him at this difficult time.

"Rita's" funeral will be on 21<sup>st</sup> May (Ascension Day) at 1.30 pm at Tadley Cemetery. ONLY 10 PERSONS PERMITTED AT GRAVE-SIDE, as determined by the Family.

## A NEW, WHOLE, WAY OF PUTTING SOCIETY TOGETHER AGAIN

There is increasing debate about when "lockdown" will end, and, before it ceases completely, what industries, services and schools will be allowed to restart and under what regulations they will do so. This is not merely a concern for the United Kingdom, but also for many other countries. The whole process of addressing this matter is fraught with problems and worries - Japan and Singapore, having apparently halted Coronavirus, now have thousands of new cases and are having to reintroduce new measures. Understanding of the virus grows every week, presenting more problems to governments and Medical Authorities. Nothing will ever be the same again - domestic abuse has risen dramatically across Europe, mental health issues are emerging in the UK associated with "lockdown", home schooling, having failed to address the problem that not all families are online and some are unable to afford this technology, means that many children are now educationally disadvantaged.

The Christian Church is no different from other groups wrestling with the new challenges, and Father Patrick has been reflecting upon this over the last few weeks - when he finds time! Like many continuing to work through "lockdown", he is finding that he is probably working more than he did before and finding it difficult to relax at times.

People may now be looking somewhat puzzled and ask: 'Why?' Well, here is a brief outline of some of the things he has been dealing with mainly during the last week:

The considerable amount of important information coming from the Diocese, much of which needs to go on the Parish Website. Because systems are struggling to cope with increased volume, sometimes our part-time secretary, Barbara, and Father Patrick give up until these return to normal. In fact, the Diocese is changing our email system next week, as a result of the ensuing problems and exacerbated difficulties for those working from home. He has already completed one survey from The Bishops' Conference concerning EVANGELISATION, and another remains on the desk for when time is found to consider it properly. Dealing with Parish and outside e-mails continue, and there are twice daily Telephone Conferences with Barbara when she is

not visiting the Parish Office in accordance with Diocesan Regulations for necessary work. Social distancing applies!

Telephone Ministry has become an important part of his life, speaking with those who may need spiritual support. Leading up to Holy Week and Easter he spent considerable time helping a person with CORONAVIRUS on the telephone; in the coming days he will be speaking with a family to help arrange a funeral without personal contact between all involved; the hourly discussion each week with CTAT Clergy is important - and ordinary Parish telephone conversations go on.

Some parishioners are aware that he is the Portsmouth Administrator of The Secular Clergy Common Fund, a Charity independent of our bishops which helps not only Portsmouth priests who are sick or retired, but many in the Archdioceses of Westminster and Southwark, and the Dioceses of Brentwood and Arundel and Brighton. The death of our lay Secretary, Michael O'Shea, KSG, following a massive heart attack, has resulted in e-mail and telephone contact with the Administrators to appoint a new Secretary and to ensure that during this difficult time grants are made to our members on time. On 14<sup>th</sup> May we have an important telephone Conference with our HSBC Advisors.

The celebration of Mass by oneself demands proper spiritual preparation, and Father Patrick feels this preparation needs to be given more time in these days of pandemic. This also applies to The Daily Office of Readings, Morning, Midday, and Evening Prayer and also to Night Prayer. The time to pray the Office with less rush, as with Mass, has been a beneficial aspect of the "lockdown". However, it needs quality time.

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## EXIT STRATEGIES !

### (A) PARISH OFFICE

Although things will never be the same again, a return to some sense of normality is required, slowly but surely. Over the last few weeks Father Patrick and Barbara have been working virtually non-stop some days, which has left them often "shattered" by the end of a day. This is not sustainable nor should it be "normal" practice.

The office will be closed for the Bank Holiday Friday, and after this Bank Holiday week-end, the Parish Office, as was the case before "lockdown", is closed from Friday afternoons to Monday mornings. One day a week will be a "day

off", in accordance with normal practice, and Father Patrick and Barbara will not be available, or at the week-ends, for Office matters. The "day off" this coming week will be Tuesday.

Obviously, until the pandemic is brought to a halt of some form, Father Patrick will continue to address matters via messages being left on the answering system, but only emergencies on his day off. He will endeavour to deal with these as necessary, but apologises if he does not reply immediately or until the end of the day.

Please also be advised that with the adoption of a new email system during the night of May 12th, there may be delays in emails being received or sent out on the days following the installation.

## (B) EVANGELISATION STRATEGY TEAM—EST

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May, Father Patrick had a long telephone conversation on how The Evangelisation Strategy Team needs to address the new Church that is emerging from the pandemic, and how we implement the developing challenges to our local communities in our part of the world. He has asked Gerry Penfold to speak with the other members - Gina Poulter, Andy Hunneman and Rick Wallis as to how we should address these. As Rick rightly comment:

*"We are headed for some tough times, and some difficult decisions.....But the Spirit is alive .....Like the UK government, we need an exit strategy for the pandemic. How are we going to harness and build on the imperative for change that it provides? Or will we simply go quietly into the night, and leave it to others to build the Kingdom?"*

So as we approach Pentecost on 31<sup>st</sup> May, pray each day to The Holy Spirit that our local Church communities and our Diocese develop a proper exit strategy. And pray especially for Father Patrick and the members of our Evangelisation Strategy Team.

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## CAFOD APPEAL AND CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Details of the recent CAFOD Appeal went out for our parishioners last week-end thanks to Barbara working on Saturday once again. The week 10 -16 May is the beginning of CHRISTIAN AID WEEK, which our Tadley churches and Burghfield Common engage with each year.

Tina Van Ewyk, our Tadley representative for CHRISTIAN AID, had intended there be an event after the 9.15 am Mass this coming Sunday, and requests that people do not forget the Week with all public events and Masses being cancelled.

Father Patrick regularly listens to the first class religious affairs programme on BBC Radio 4 each Sunday at 7.10 am. Last Sunday a representative of CAFOD and one from CHRISTIAN AID together addressed the serious problem facing continuing Christian involvement in providing Overseas Aid because of the pandemic. Whilst they agreed that first "charity begins at home" and the need to support worthy charities in the UK at this time, and that a growing number of people are no longer able to support any charity, we should not take our eyes off the needs of those less blessed with medical and other resources. One worrying outcome of the Coronavirus pandemic is that both Governments and individuals will now face difficult decisions on which charities to support.

Below are details of how you may support CAFOD or CHRISTIAN AID in their present appeals, according to

*CAFOD : Those wishing to donate to do so securely online at [www.cafod.org.uk/coronavirus](http://www.cafod.org.uk/coronavirus) or call 08085 85 88 85*

CHRISTIAN AID DETAILS on their website [www.christianaid.org.uk/ChristianAid](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/ChristianAid) or by ringing Christian Aid on 020 7523 2269

## WELL DONE MARY!

Mary Gush is one of our parishioners at St Oswald's Church, deeply committed to the development of the community there and a member of The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, one of our finest worldwide Catholic charitable organisations. Like many individuals throughout the UK, she has engaged in assisting those in need. At Father Patrick's request, she writes:

*The 2.6 Challenge was run as an alternative to the deferred London Marathon (not that I was ever going to do that!!!) which was originally to take place on 26<sup>th</sup> April. Charities were asking people to dream up any kind of challenge involving the numbers 2 and 6 to raise money.*

support and education to deaf babies and pre-schoolers and their families. It teaches little ones with hearing impairment to listen and speak and they have helped my little grandson and all of us so much.

My Challenge: cycling 26 laps of Wokefield Hotel and Conference Centre drive (which is almost a mile long) wearing a different hat for each lap. The hats idea was just to add a bit of fun but also helped me keep count of the laps!

Friends and family were very generous and I was delighted to make £628 for The Elizabeth Foundation. Charities are suffering so much this year because all the usual events have been cancelled or deferred.

WELL DONE MARY!



*Maybe one of the 26 hats worn by Mary!! Father Patrick disclaims all responsibility for this insert and caption!!!!*

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### CTAT CONFERENCE CALL (6th May 2020)

The Reverend Richard Harlow, The Reverend Kay Blackwell, Pastor Greg Whittick and Father Patrick engaged in the call this week. The Reverend Gill Sakarkini was unable to do so because of a ministerial commitment and the Reverend Ruth Midcalf is still dealing with matters following her mother's recent Funeral Service.

The following issues were considered:

#### 1) BEREAVEMENT:

This area of the local clergy engaging with those requiring support following the death of loved ones is proving difficult. Only "support" can be given because of legal requirements and insurance liability making a distinction between this and counselling. Our National Catholic Safeguarding Authority was concerned what volunteers and church groups being fully aware of the protocols and regulations around similar issues at the beginning of the "lockdown". Although this engaged Fr Patrick considerably in the first few weeks, it was good that Safeguarding was addressed so quickly by our Catholic Church and information was made available by our News-

letter and Website locally.

There is an urgency, however, to address this area, because there is a developing area of Grief, and many of the established agencies are struggling to cope with it. It was decided that we look at some of the courses church groups are trying to develop for the future, especially for those who are not online.

### 2 THE HUB

There are an average of 20 to 30 telephone calls a day asking for help locally, in respect of shopping and collection of prescriptions and concern for neighbours mostly. Secondly, it appears that there is a development of an apparent attempt by some to play the system in respect of food parcels, which has to be monitored carefully.

### 3 CTAT NEWSLETTER

The development of this by Paul Gross following the last Conference Call has encountered some difficulties because of the need to clarify issues to be reported in respect of our ongoing changing situation. However, this should be available soon.

### 4 FACE MASKS

Details of the making of these should be in the CTAT Newsletter. Again, the need to specify clearly the medical value of these; the arrangement of collection of those made by volunteers in a hygienic manner; the question of liability - all need to be clarified.

### 5 THY KINGDOM COME

The ecumenical preparation for Pentecost from Ascension Day was discussed, and the possibility of providing something online locally by CTAT was considered. This will be decided at our next Conference Call.

The Call was concluded by Prayer led by The Reverend Kay Blackwell, finishing as Father Patrick's doorbell rang!  
Back to social distancing!

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### SILCHESTER MAGAZINE - AND HAPPY 70<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY PETER!

An important part of our Parish Area is Silchester and we are grateful to Peter Hughes for being our link there, especially in ecumenical matters. The Silchester Magazine is a very good publication, which Peter ensures Father Patrick receives every month. The recent edition is now on our website, so please feel free to learn more about one part of our diverse church area, stretching from near Newbury and Tadley over to Burghfield Common near Reading. As one of our priests has named it:

Tansey's Empire! It is good to retain one's sense of humour at all times!

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### OUR DEAR CHANNEL ISLANDS

Winston Churchill used these words about the liberation of these islands, the largest of which are Guernsey and Jersey, which remained loyal to the British Crown following the loss of the French lands by King John in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century. They are part of our Portsmouth Diocese and Father Patrick served on Guernsey for three years. The Islands were not liberated from German occupation until 9<sup>th</sup> March 1945, and they keep LIBERATION DAY every year on that date. Fr Patrick will be celebrating with them on Saturday.

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### PARISH THANKS...

On behalf of the Parish, Father Patrick is grateful to all those who are continuing to contribute financially to the upkeep of our two churches at this difficult time.

Responses to his query about the format of the Newsletter in respect of the pandemic are coming in steadily, which is greatly appreciated. His thanks to all who have responded so far.

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