

Dear All,

A memorable barbecue afternoon!

Last Sunday around 60 parishioners gathered at Saint Oswald's church for our special 10.30am Mass, followed by our Parish barbecue. The liturgical music for the welcoming of our First Communicants by the Burghfield Common community was exceptionally fine in its praise of God. Our thanks to Rick Wallis and his group, ably assisted by Anne Reilly and members of the Tadley music group, for their efforts.

It was also an opportunity to thank Kathryn Garden for her work as part-time Administrator in the Parish, and it was good that her husband Sean was with her for the presentation of her card & gift from the Parish. Also that Dan Wisniewski, her successor, was able to introduce himself with his wife, Jolanta, and sons Adam and Dominic, present.

There was a surprise at the end of the Mass when Jo Howlett, on behalf of the Saint Oswald's Music Group, gave Rick a special memento for 50 years of commitment to religious music. Well deserved! The barbecue took place on a brilliantly sunny afternoon, with those present relaxing in the spacious grounds and our young children playing in the Leonard Rooms. Chris Coelho from our Tadley community, assisted by others, cooked splendidly tasting burgers, sausages (including Polish ones!) with salads and vegetables available also, not to mention some splendid desserts.

I know Ellen Goodall, who suggested and pulled together the barbecue, would like to thank all from our communities who made this afternoon a real "family" gathering, including all who assisted in the clearing up, and a special thanks to Bill Reilly for managing to open the shed lock so chairs and tables could be returned there!

Mass arrangements (back to normal):

Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> September:	6.00pm at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> September:	9.00am at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> September:	11.00am at St. Oswald's Church

**TOILET AT ST. OSWALD'S:**

The toilet inside the church is currently out of use. Parishioners will need to use the toilets in the Leonard Rooms for the foreseeable future, which will be available on Sundays. It has been necessary to isolate the hot water cylinder in the Preparation Room near the rear exit of the church. This means there is no hot water available in the toilet & it now also transpires that the cold tap has "seized" & will need replacing, meaning that there is no water available for hand washing.

Congratulations to Pat Welsh and Sister Monica!:

Our Saturday 6.00pm Mass this weekend is being celebrated for Pat Welsh for a significant birthday, and for her deceased husband Edmund. We welcome her and family to the Maqss, as announced in last week's Newsletter.

Gerry Penfold kindly let me know that Sister Monica celebrates 50 years of life on 10<sup>th</sup> September, this Sunday. She writes:

*"My own birthday is coming up on the 10th September and it's special one for me. I will be 50 years on the 10th September, 2023 by God's grace. Please my dearest Gerry remember me in your prayers. Kindly ask Fr. Patrick and all St. Michael Parishioners to say a special prayer for me on that special day of mine. As I pray for all of you too. Thank you. Xxx"*

Many of you will remember Sister Monica from the Sion Community Mission in Tadley and the surrounding areas in February/March 2013. Following this she returned to pastoral work in Africa, and was supported by parishioners, which Gerry has continued. She is now in Ghana. The 9.00am Mass this Sunday will be celebrated for her intentions.

Children's liturgy:

This takes place at our Tadley 9.00am Mass this weekend.

Pastoral Letter:

This is read at all our Masses this weekend.

Gardening Group:

Just a reminder that the group will be gardening this weekend at St. Michael's from 10.00am to approximately 2.00pm. New volunteers are always welcome... the more the merrier!

Closer to Christ Campaign:

The Thanksgiving Weekend for our successful completion of the Campaign will take place on 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> of September, with announcements at all our Masses. Thank you to all who continue to pledge in various ways. We are well over £73,000 pounds!

Obligatory collection:

The Home Missions collection is taken at all Masses next weekend, 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> September, to support Mission in England and Wales as part of the Missionary Church in our own part of the world.

CTAT Forum:

This takes place next Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm (tea & coffee) for 7.30pm. It will be held at the Salvation Army Hall. All are welcome to attend to engage in our forthcoming events. As Church Leaders we are fully stretched, and events will depend upon the availability of volunteers.

Blazing Lights:

This is a Churches Together Around Tadley supported event for local young people in Year 3 – Year 6. It will be held on October 27<sup>th</sup> at The Point, Tadley, RG26 4HN and volunteers are needed. Poster on display in St. Michael's entry porch.

If you are interested in attending, please sign-up on [www.ctat.org.uk/blazinglights](http://www.ctat.org.uk/blazinglights)

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Sam on [samd@bccnet.org.uk](mailto:samd@bccnet.org.uk)

Confirmation of 2023/2024:

You will recall that at our St. Oswald's Mass last Sunday I mentioned that we shall be starting our Parish Confirmation preparation for any young parishioners who will be in Year 9 or above this month. This is run in conjunction with St. Joseph's Parish, Basingstoke and apologies for the late notice for the following information which we received only in the middle of this week. Please speak to me first if you intend to register for the programme which runs from 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023 to June 2024.

**All asking to register must do so by 30<sup>th</sup> September via St. Joseph's Office after speaking to me.**

Thanks Mary! Welcome Roy!:

Mary Lee has let me know that she will now be stepping down as Confirmation Co-ordinator for our Parish. It has been one of the many roles, both Parish and Diocesan, that she has been involved in

during the last past years, despite illness. She deserves our thanks for her outstanding commitments to the work of the Church.

Roy Singh, who has been involved with her in the co-operation with the Confirmation Team at St. Joseph's church, will now take over as Co-ordinator, but we need another catechist to work with him. Any volunteer(s)?

Our thanks also to Rory for his involvement in the life of our Local Church, including the Knights of Saint Columba to leading the Liturgical music at our 6.00pm Saturday evening Masses. This is more than appreciated.

#### Called & Gifted:

Fr John Lee & Fr Patrick invite you to join the Called and Gifted programme and Live Teaching day on **Saturday 21 October at St Bedes Church from 9.00am.**

The first stage is a teaching day where you learn about charisms – the day actually covers over 20 charisms! Some are what you might expect e.g. Wisdom, Prophecy and Healing; some are rather more down to earth like Administration, Service and Encouragement; and others are more creative like Music, Writing and Craftmanship.

The second stage is a private, one to one discussion called a discernment conversation with a trained member of the Called & Gifted Team, to help you explore in more depth which charisms you may have.

The third stage is a period of personal discernment where you prayerfully reflect on a charism and explore how it may be present in your life. This third stage includes the opportunity to come together in small groups in the Parish to discuss your experience of specific charisms and how they might be working for the benefit of others.

You all will also receive a Complete Resource Workbook that guides you through the process of discernment; six month's online access to the videos created by Sherry Weddell and her team at the Catherine of Siena Institute (the authors of the C&G process) and six months access to the online inventory and your results.

To register please email [calledandgifted@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:calledandgifted@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or reach out to your parish called and gifted representative .

At the present moment, Fr Patrick is liaising with our Pastoral Area co-ordinator Fr John Lee in respect of financial support to subsidise the cost of the programme for parishioners.

#### Autumn Mass Counts:

The first of four is taken next weekend, for our national statistics.

#### World Day of Migrants and Refugees:

The 109th World Day of Migrants and Refugees is celebrated on 24 September 2023 - the last Sunday of the month. The Holy Father has chosen the theme 'Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay'. To read Pope Francis' full message & details on how to join a webinar to discuss this theme please see: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wdmr/>

#### Winter Night Shelter:

The winter shelter programme is starting again on 1<sup>st</sup> December for 13 weeks to provide comfort, safety and support to people homeless who are sleeping rough on the street in Basingstoke.

The shelter will provide a warm and safe place for people overnight from 7.00pm to 7.30am next morning. Guests will receive a nourishing evening meal and a bed to sleep. The shelter closes each morning at 7.30am, after breakfast.

There are many opportunities to be involved, whether it be directly involved in the shelter or on the side lines supporting the service with laundry, cooking meals at home or helping move beds & bedding from/to different venues.

Information sessions are being held at:

- Hope Church (previously Sarum Hill Centre, RG21 8SR) at 7.30pm on Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> Sept or Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Oct
- Christ Church (RG24 8LT) 10.00am Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Oct.

Training sessions will be planned to last for about 1 and a half hours and will include an opportunity to ask questions and to sign up as a volunteer. Note: For the sessions at Hope Church, car parking will be available next door in the Trinity Methodist car park.

You can find more information on Facebook by searching “Night Light Winter Shelter”.

#### West Berkshire Food Harvest:

The West Berkshire Food Bank has emailed us with the following update, together with an appeal for continued support:

“Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for all your support over the last year. We really appreciate everything you continue to do so we can ensure to make the greatest possible difference to the people experiencing hardship in West Berkshire. Your continued support of West Berks Foodbank, by collecting much needed food items, has ensured we can provide help and support to individuals in our community who are in crisis. We are so grateful of your partnership and continual generosity. This summer, through the Hungry Holidays scheme, an amazing 551 adults and 939 children were supported, over and above those supported through the normal channels! In July, we sent you an urgent email appealing for help as we became aware of the number of families being identified as needing support. Your response was incredible – the donations received in July were ~40% higher than usual and in August 15%. However, £2,000 had to be spent to supplement these and still more food was sent out than was received. We would like to ask; will you continue to partner with us this Harvest to help make a difference in West Berkshire?”

Please kindly take a look at the poster identifying ways to help on display in St. Oswald’s Church.

#### Online Formation Sessions:

Please find below information about forthcoming webinars being hosted by the Liturgy Formation Team. They are specifically designed for parish readers & Father Patrick expects all readers & those who may wish to read in the future to engage in this Formation as far as is possible, but all parishioners are welcome to attend. The sessions will run from 4<sup>th</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> November – all Wednesday evenings – from 7 to 8 pm on Teams.

This Formation will be especially necessary as we move towards a new Lectionary in 2024. Being a Reader is a ministry of service to the Word of God & these sessions will allow it to shine forth, not only for adults, but also for Youth Readers & those involved in Liturgies for Children:

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October: Introduction to the Sacred Scriptures

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October: Liturgy – The theology of the Liturgy of the Word

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October: 2023 - Youth Readers and Liturgy for Children

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October: 2023 Practicalities - How to proclaim the Word of God in church

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November: 2023 Introduction to Lectio Divina - Praying with the Sacred Scriptures

Everyone is strongly encouraged to avail themselves of this opportunity. For further information & details on how to join the sessions, please email the Parish Office:

[tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Adore online event:

THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING THAT GOD IS "ON OUR SIDE"

How many Catholics are stuck in a cycle of guilt and weak faith? How many feel that God cannot possibly love them because they are sinners and incapable of changing their behaviour?

Jesus, in his mission statement at the start of his ministry, proclaimed a time of 'Jubilee' - God's favour. He showed that God is on our side: He loves us unconditionally and is willing to forgive us and help us do His will. What is our response? And how can we fulfil our mission to pass on His love, forgiveness and joy by sharing the good news of God's Kingdom with all we meet?

On September 23rd there is an opportunity to participate in a free mini-retreat that will explain more about this aspect of the Good News that Jesus brings to us. Guest speaker is Geoff Poulter, former Director of the Catholic Bible School, an inspiring speaker and experienced trainer in Spiritual Renewal.

*ADORE spiritual mini-retreat 23rd September 10.00-3.30 live at Church of St Joan of Arc, Farnham, Surrey GU9 8DJ. Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prayer and inspiring guest speaker Geoff Poulter. Praise and Talk also live-streamed on Zoom. Full details and registration for either at [bit.ly/ADORESEP2023](https://bit.ly/ADORESEP2023)*

Ethnic Mass – San Lorenzo Ruiz (First Filipino-Chinese Saint):

Father Claro Conde, Parish Priest at Blessed Hugh of Faringdon, has emailed us to inform of a Mass in honour of San Lorenzo Ruiz (First Filipino-Chinese Saint) on 23<sup>rd</sup> September at St. John's Cathedral, Portsmouth. Please see the spectacular poster on display at both churches.

Caritas Sponsored Walk:

On September 24th Jenny Lelean, Head of Caritas will be walking 25.5 miles of the Test Way in Hampshire to raise funds to support our own Caritas Diocese of Portsmouth. Donations will go to support some of the most vulnerable people who live in our communities across the diocese, including people struggling with the rising costs of living, poverty, homelessness, social isolation, and refugees. You can donate by visiting their JustGiving page. Thank you.

Details: <https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk/>

Diocese job vacancies:

- Part-time PA to Vicar for Clergy and Administrator for Clergy Support Team – Closing Date: Friday 15 Sept
- Parish Administrator at parish of Bracknell and St Margaret Clitherow - Closing Date: Friday 22 Sept
- Education Administrator with CASO - Closing Date: Friday 22 Sept

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

Enjoy your weekend as the sun continues to shine!

**Father 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**

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