

Dear All

Sadly St Oswald's Church remains closed this weekend. We are hopeful that the boiler repair will be completed in the coming week and I will update you in next week's newsletter.

Father Jim Keenan, RIP

It was sad to hear of the death of Father Jim on Monday 6th March, following so quickly after the sudden death of Father James Carling, still in active ministry, on Friday 3rd March. I studied with Jim at St John's Seminary, Womersley, now sadly closed, where he was ahead of me in training for the priesthood. After I was ordained in December 1982, my first posting, in Southsea, near Portsmouth, was with his brother, Father John Keenan. So there has been a close connection with both in priesthood, and my time at Southsea was good. John died of a brain tumour some years ago.

Father Jim was Parish Priest in Tadley from 1994 – 2001 and when he retired he chose to remain in the area, in Burghfield Common. When I became Parish Priest in Tadley in 2008 Jim was always willing to supply if I needed to get away, as he did for many priests. His close friend, Father Padraig Faughnan, whom I know well as we were at school together, will be celebrating his Funeral Mass at 11:00am on Friday 24th March at St Joseph's Church, Newbury, where Jim supplied so often. Padraig was Parish Priest there for many years before his recent retirement because of ill-health. Bishop Philip intends to be present at the Mass.

Jim's death has impacted upon both our Parish communities. Those attending Saint Oswald's Church got to know him well, and before going into care at The Hollies, Burghfield, he would often attend the 11:00am Mass. So we keep his soul in our prayers, also remembering his friend Joanna, who kept an eye on his health over recent years. It was good that we were together with him a couple of weeks ago when I anointed him. May he rest in peace.

Mgr. Canon Martin Lee

Mary Lee's brother, Father Martin, is very unwell at the moment and is journeying to meet the Lord. He was known by a number of our Tadley parishioners as he supplied here when visiting Mary, and I knew him from my time at St John's Seminary. Keep both Martin and Mary in your prayers at this time, please.

Father Philip Harris

Father Philip is in Basingstoke Hospital at present with pneumonia, so there is no priest in the Hook Parish until his return to health. Father Peter Codd, whom many of you know and is retired, will be covering the weekend Masses there. Please keep Father Philip in your prayers, not forgetting Father Jean-Patrice Coulon, assistant priest at St Bede's Church, who is on sick-leave following a bad fall. In fact, keep all the clergy in our Pastoral Area in prayer – we are struggling!

Stations of The Cross and Mass

These are available to parishioners at St Michael's Church: Stations at 7:00pm and Mass at 7:30pm on Fridays:

10th March – Second Week of Lent Mass

17th March – Feast of St. Patrick

31st March – Fifth Week of Lent Mass

Pastoral Area Reconciliation Service

This will take place at St Bede's Church at 7:30pm on Thursday 23rd March.

#### Parish Confession Time

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered in the Parish Room at St Michael's Church on Saturday 25th March from 11:00am – 12:30pm.

#### Father Patrick Not Generally Available

On Thursday 16th March, I will be assisting with Confessions at St Anne's School, St Joseph's Parish, Basingstoke, and on Friday 17th March I will be attending the meeting of the Pastoral Area Clergy at St Bede's Church, Basingstoke.

#### CTAT Meetings

##### Coronation Community Celebration (7th May 2023)

Work for this important event requires many volunteers from our churches. Are you able to be at St Paul's Church on The Green at 7:00pm on Wednesday 22nd March to be part of this outreach of our churches to our local community? I will not be able to attend because of a meeting in London of the Secular Clergy Common Fund, which cares for sick and retired priests, of which I am the Portsmouth Administrator.

#### CTAT Forum

The Forum of our Churches Together Around Tadley takes place the next evening, Thursday 23rd March, at 7:00pm for 7:30pm at the Salvation Army Hall, Tadley. We shall be considering our Holy Week/Easter events and the Coronation Community Celebration feedback, amongst other activities, and I will be present as I am deeply engaged in many of these. All are welcome.

#### Forthcoming Funerals

Theresa Zajac, RIP: Funeral Mass at St Michael's Church, Tadley, at 12 noon on Saturday 15th April, followed by cremation at West Berkshire Crematorium.

Helen Warner, RIP: Funeral Mass at St Michael's Church, Tadley, at 11:00am on Tuesday 18th April. Cremation Service details to follow at a later date.

#### Clergy Assistance Fund

Our Second Collection at the weekend of 18th/19th March is for the Clergy Assistance Fund, which supports the invaluable work of the Department for Clergy Team, responsible for looking after the welfare, ongoing formation and personal support of our clergy, from the early days of ordination all the way into retirement. You can donate online at <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/clergy-assistance-fund-second-collection-2023>. This collection will close on 4th April.

#### Lent Reflections

Fr Chris Heaps, the parish of St James and St William of York and the Reading Carmelite Friars invite you to their series of Lent reflections. Journeying through the themes of the Gospel to discover a God that calls us, listens to us and desires us to be awakened this Lent. Each session runs from 11am - 12 Noon (with tea and coffee from 10:45am) at St James Catholic Church, Forbury Road, Reading RG1 3FD (six minutes' walk from Reading railway station). Themes are: Saturday 11th March: God uniting us, Saturday 18th March: God crying out to us, Saturday 25th March: God listening to us, Saturday 1st April: This is Our God.

#### Bishop's Lent Reflection

At 7.30 pm this evening, Thursday 9th March, Bishop will deliver his second online Lent Reflection. The reflections last about 30 minutes and are covering the topics of faith, hope and charity. You can sign-up on the Diocesan website

Finally, Thanks to Deacon Tony Darroch!

At last weekend's Masses Deacon Tony Darroch mentioned in his Homily that he was doing the Big Lent Walk to raise funds for CAFOD. If you would like to support his effort you are able to donate here: <https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/tony-darroch>. I take this opportunity to thank him for bringing the Blessed Sacrament to Theresa Zajac and Fr Jim Keenan during the last few weeks and regularly doing this each month for a number of our Tadley parishioners.

Kathryn is away tomorrow at the Diocesan Staff Day of Prayer and Reflection, so this Newsletter comes to you a day early. Please remember that the office will be closed from today until Tuesday afternoon.

With prayers and best wishes,

Father Patrick