

Dear All,

Having returned from a break which I needed badly, and which was both restful and enjoyable, I am gradually dealing with the many Parish matters which now require attention - Tree surveys at both churches; the recent Quinquennial Reports at Saint Michael's Church and now one pending at Saint Oswald's Church; the developing Diocesan requirements, including new Financial and Health and Safety Policies, following the Clergy Meeting last Thursday. I am most grateful to Dan, our part-time administrator, for carrying much of this administrative burden, but as is constantly pointed out from our Portsmouth Office, ultimate responsibility for these matters rests with the Parish Priest.

It was good to finish the break by being able to attend the memorable Bamenda 50th Anniversary Celebration at our Cathedral on Saturday 7th July. Those of you who attended our two Sunday Masses last weekend will have heard me speak of this. Once again, our thanks to Mary Lee, Denis Murtagh and Catherine Knowles for their involvement in this as part of our Diocesan Bamenda Committee. Also to Ben Rowden for enabling me to be there.

This Saturday there will be another welcome break from the often overwhelming Parish administration workload, when I attend the Priestly Ordinations of Ambrose Chou and Tom Hiney in Portsmouth. Please keep them in your prayers as they enter a rapidly changing ministry, which will make great demands on them and other priests recently ordained, as the 10 Year Mission Plan unfolds. My thanks to Roy Singh for offering me a lift and for his work with the Knights of Saint Columba in our Pastoral Area.

I returned early for our Parish Summit meeting on 4th July in the Parish Room for those active parishioners who responded to the invitation. Our thanks to Ben Rowden, our parish representative at this international meeting in Harrogate, for enabling those present to discuss and explore the challenging times ahead. If things do not change - in respect of the involvement of many more people who are active worshipers in the life of the Catholic Church, to become disciples of our present age - present figures indicate that worldwide there will be no real Church by 2060! There were helpful ideas in respect of our Mission Plan to consider, and a recognition that Bishop Philip has seen the urgency of the need for our Parish communities to engage in change and forward thinking to avert potential collapse. The questions remains... Will we?

Finally, please keep in prayer the father of Fr. John Lee, our Pastoral Area Coordinator, who died at the beginning of the week. Patrick had been ill for some time. We also keep Cathy his wife in prayer. At our Clergy Meeting on Thursday, at which Fr. John was present, we prayed for him and all his family, especially for the soul of Patrick. Father Jean-Patrice, assistant at Saint Bede's Church, was also in our prayers as he recovers from a serious stroke.

This Weekend's Mass arrangements

Sunday 14th July: 9.00am at St. Michael's Church – **with Children's Liturgy**

Sunday 14th July: 11.00am at St. Oswald's Church

There will be no Saturday Vigil Mass at St. Michael's this weekend 13th July.

Note: Mandatory 2nd Collection at all this weekend's Masses for **Stella Maris**.

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Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) - "Sea Sunday" - 2nd Collection

Stella Maris (the Apostleship of the Sea) is the Catholic Church's maritime charity.

Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all of our lives but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. Sea Sunday is a day for people to come together to pray for seafarers and fishers, and thank them for the vital role they play in all of our lives.

Stella Maris chaplains and volunteers are working in ports up and down this country and across the world: but they cannot do it without your support. This Sea Sunday your gifts and prayers will help seafarers and fishers get the support they need.

If you are unable to be at Mass this weekend, you may also donate via the following link:

[Apostleship of the Sea \(Sea Sunday\) Second Collection 2024 | Give as you Live Donate](#)

Parish Canal Boat Trip - Sunday 21 July

The Canal Boat Trip fast approaches on the afternoon of Sunday 21 July from Newbury Wharf, RG14 5AS along the Kennet & Avon Canal. The boat for our exclusive use departs at 4 pm, so please meet at the Wharf at 3.45 pm. There are 2 steps up and then 5 “rather steep” steps down to access the boat, which has a licensed bar and a toilet onboard.

The trip usually lasts about 75 mins, but there can be delays if the canal is busy, so the company recommends allowing more time on your car park ticket to make sure you are covered, if the boat is delayed getting back.

We suggest we gather by the bandstand for a bring-your-own picnic in Victoria Park, Newbury from 1.30 pm - there are lawns there and Tadley Band is due to be playing between 3 - 5 pm. There are various play areas and games around the park, please see the map on the Council website:

<https://www.newbury.gov.uk/services/victoria-park/> **Note:** Parishioners wishing to join us just for the picnic and to enjoy Tadley Band playing in the park, would be most welcome to do so!

If you have not yet paid for your ticket (Adults £10, Children £5), please pay Pauline Penfold or Mary Lee. Any queries about the trip, please call Pauline on 07749 409920 or Mary on 07821 254100. We look forward to seeing you there!

“Mingle at St Michael’s”

The next “Mingle” session will take place on **Wednesday 17th July from 2pm - 4pm**, in the Parish Room at St. Michael’s. All very welcome! Come prepared for the usual array of delicious cakes and plenty of conversation and laughter!

Basingstoke Foodbank Appeal

The school summer holidays are almost upon us & the Foodbank has sent a message to all churches. Stocks are running low on certain items that are needed for the families they’ll be supporting through the hols. As a reminder, these are families who have been referred to the Foodbank by schools, who might be genuinely struggling to make ends meet when the kids are home for the summer hols.

Please kindly consider donating any of the following: *Feel free to pop items into our permanent crates in your church, or pop over to visit our warehouse at Tempus Business Units 63-64, Houndmills, Basingstoke, RG21 6XG weekdays.*

- TINNED FRUIT 🍊
- LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE 🥤
- DEODORANT 🚽
- MILK POWDER 🥛
- UHT MILK 🥛
- LOO ROLL 🧻
- HOT AND COLD DESSERTS 🍰
(E.G. JELLY, SPONGE PUDDING, ANGEL DELIGHT)
- SHAMPOO AND CONDITIONER 🧴

PARTICULARLY LOW STOCK LEVELS FOR:

- COFFEE ☕
- SAVOURY SPREADS 🍞 (MARMITE, PEANUT BUTTER, MEAT PASTE)
- SAVOURY SNACKS/CRISPS 🍟
- NAPPIES SIZE 5 AND ABOVE 🍼
- SQUASH 🍊

Lourdes Pilgrimage 22-26 July - Prayer Intentions:

Bishop Philip has made arrangements with the Lourdes Pilgrimage team to take with him prayers for those unable to attend pilgrimage in person. If you would like the Bishop to offer a prayer for your intention at the Grotto in Lourdes this July please email your petition in confidence to:

lourdespetition@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Caritas: "To Hope and Act with Creation"

Save the date! On **September 14th** Caritas and St Peters and the Winchester Martyrs are hosting a conference for the Season of Creation. John Paul de Quay is coming to speak on "How Faith should motivate us in caring for our Common Home", there will be updates in preparation for COP 29 and looking at practical actions we can take in our parishes to help reduce the impact of climate change. Everyone is welcome and more details will follow soon, but in the meantime, please hold the date in your diary.

Life & Right to Life Charities

Both of these pro-life charities have launched new fundraising appeals. Please consider supporting them if you are able to.

Life speaks of "real challenges, both in terms of faltering income generation levels and the scale of the social issues we need to address - these are difficult moments".

Right to Life reports "our Public Affairs team has conducted an analysis, based on several data sources, on the new intake of MPs. While complete data is not yet available, the initial analysis suggests that a significant number of these new MPs do not take a pro-life position on life issues such as abortion and assisted suicide". They go on to identify three major threats from: The assisted suicide lobby; Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) and their allies in biotech firms; The abortion lobby.

[Life - Pregnancy Matters™, Life Matters® % \(lifecycle.org.uk\)](http://lifecycle.org.uk)

[Right To Life UK: Pro-life Advocacy on Abortion & Euthanasia | Positive Change on Life Issues](http://righttolife.org.uk)

Diocesan Vacancies

For current 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 to you all & happy viewing of the England v Spain Euros Final on Sunday evening!

Father Patrick.

Fr. Patrick Tansey

Parish Priest

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Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through his Church

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

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