

Dear All

A Memorable Day

Congratulations to all in Churches Together Around Tadley (CTAT) who made the Tadley Coronation Celebration Party on Sunday 7th May a resounding success, and a special thanks to Reverend Steve McKay for all his hard work which contributed to a remarkable event. Several hundred people were present across the day and our prayers for good weather were answered - it was scorchingly hot at times! The Ecumenical Service at 11:00am on The Green was well-attended, emphasising our Christian call to Service of all in our local community and praying that our King would be strengthened in his Service to the nations of the United Kingdom and of the Commonwealth.

As the party began at 12 noon, numbers gradually increased, with families and couples sitting and lounging on blankets across the area, enjoying picnics, the coffee, tea and cakes available alongside the cream teas and the live music. It was good to spend time with Councillor David Leeks, preparing to become Mayor of Basingstoke in a few days, for a second time, making a visit in his wheelchair to our event, amongst others in the area, including Silchester. Also to learn that Reverend Steve will be the Mayor's Chaplain. Wandering around, I met three new families to Tadley, a disabled couple enjoying a fine picnic in their wheelchairs, and various members of our local community. People expressed their appreciation of the event, and it was good to be 'on duty' in St Paul's Church for an hour to show people around, and direct many to the toilets! To put it mildly, by the end of the afternoon those involved were pleasantly exhausted - in time for the concert from Windsor!

Burghfield May Fayre and 24/7 Prayer

As parishioners at St Oswald's Church are aware from last week's Parish News, Together In Mission/Churches Together are organising the refreshments at the Burghfield May Fayre on 21st May and ask for help. Can you help on the actual day or bake a cake? St Mary's Church, Burghfield have kindly put together some sign-up sheets for us. These have been available in St Oswald's Church, so please sign by this weekend. Also, read carefully the sheet on cakes, in respect of the ingredients used. Reverend Glynn Lautenbach also has informed us that there will be an Ecumenical Service at 9:30am on Sunday 21st May, before the Fayre begins at 10:00am. Please contact her if you wish to be involved (rectorsmb@outlook.com or 0118 983 2115). Obviously, with the 9:00am Sunday Mass at Tadley, followed by the 11:00am Mass at St Oswald's Church, I am unable to take part.

Also, some of St Mary's Church have been discussing the possibility of holding a 24/7 Prayer Meeting for all the local community. It is hoped that this will run from 2:00pm on Friday 9th June to 2:00pm on Saturday 10th June at St Mary's Church, Burghfield. If any members of the St Oswald's community wish to be involved, a Doodle Poll is available with four possible dates and times for a planning meeting <https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/aOP0L5pb>. Over to you!

Eileen Kelly, RIP

The 11:00am Mass at St Oswald's Church on Sunday 21st May will be celebrated for the repose of Eileen's soul, the day of her Memorial Service in Mortimer.

Ascension Day

This is celebrated on Thursday 18th May and is a Holy Day of Obligation, on which Catholics are obliged to attend Mass unless there is a serious reason for not doing so. There will be an 11:00am Mass at St Oswald's Church and a 7:00pm Mass at St Michael's Church that day.

Come, Holy Spirit: Lead Us In Our Mission Journey!

The Solemnity of The Ascension of The Lord leads us into a time of prayer to The Holy Spirit over the following nine days, a time of Novena, until the Vigil Mass of Pentecost on Saturday 27th May. It is especially important that we keep this time of prayer in some form this year, as Bishop Philip has declared it a Year of The Holy Spirit, preparing ourselves to commit more deeply to the implications and demands of our Diocesan 10 Year Mission process. So, from Friday 19th May to Saturday 27th May make some time each day to pray that we shall all be guided by the Holy Spirit into a new understanding of Church in the coming years: open to change, prepared to work as One Body, ensuring that there will still be a strong witness to Christ in our Diocese, leading all into a deeper love of The Father by 2033.

Pray especially for the important meeting of clergy on 28th June, looking at the changes to come after our consultation process last year. Some themes are already developing as our present Pastoral Area parishes move towards becoming single parishes, with one parish priest covering all former parishes in an area to work as one grouping of communities, sharing priests. For example, our parishes of Basingstoke, Hook, Tadley and Burghfield Common are now designated as Basingstoke area, and our present Parish Finance Committees will be meeting at the end of May to look to working as one grouping in the future.

Life In The Spirit

Bishop Philip has announced that this year in the diocese is to be the Year of the Holy Spirit. Do you wonder about what the Holy Spirit is doing in your life? Have you made the time to really consider the issue? Why not come and join the Life in the Spirit course running after Pentecost! This will be held on Zoom from Thursday 1st June until Thursday 13th July from 7.30pm until 9pm. Get involved in Praise and Worship of the Lord. Listen to sound teaching on the Holy Spirit. Meet up with other members of the diocese - and beyond - to discuss what you believe. It is in articulating our thoughts that we really come to know what we do believe. Register for the course on <https://tinyurl.com/LiS-2023>. Hope to see you there!

Call To The Permanent Diaconate?

Have you ever wondered what it's all about but something has held you back from finding out more about it? Is there a little voice in your head, that can't be silenced? If that's YOU, why not 'Come & See' for yourself without committing to anything further? We'll be holding an information event on Saturday, 27th May, 2023 at The English Martyrs Church, Didcot from 9am - 2pm, where you'll get to hear first-hand, from those who are involved and what it's been like for them. You've got nothing to lose! If you'd like to attend, please call Pam on 07883 059529 to book a space and to help with catering requirements. If you can't make it on the day, but would like to know more, please contact Pam on 07883 059529 or email diaconate@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk<<mailto:diaconate@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk>>.

Wanting To Volunteer?

Caritas Portsmouth supports parishes and schools to become the 'church beyond walls' to help meet the needs in our local communities. Their volunteer team help make this happen, by running and supporting specific projects, promoting their work within the community and fundraising so they can get new projects off the ground. They would be delighted if you would join them. Visit their website for details (<https://caritas.org.uk/act/>) or email caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk<<mailto:caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk>>.

"Mission Possible" - Practical Ways of Proclaiming the Good News

On May 20th there is an opportunity to participate in a free mini-retreat that will help to inspire and equip us to be more effective in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. This meeting is hosted by "ADoRE" and includes Mass, Adoration, Praise and Worship and inspired Teaching on practical ways to evangelise. . Live meeting 9.30-3.30 at St Bede's Basingstoke RG24 9DX. Also ONLINE live-stream Adoration at 9.30 and Mass at 10am - go to www.stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk/live/ <https://40go7.r.a.d.sendibm1.com/mk/cl/f/oZPQm8g6wg0d7jlxwBiBITBVFWvDdXac0B0h4RCyr7p8ghN2CrLe0-2sQRZXy3rflXt1klgsIWjlYotrWsd-M6rZrojLd7MNX7B2YfYH4S7NmzagWl0wVH6Sw6I4I_XLasq_H36tiHwpJl7XJWhFpmK-byoVcAqkMOu3ktxafyadt2hneRbCHoGy1A-Qdyd9j40P5b5dtL4JlgsrPDtjDt00FDoXz5ug> and find "From St Bede's...LIVE" (no need to register). To join the rest of the meeting on Zoom (Praise at 11.10 and Talk at 11.45-12.45) you must register in advance at: bit.ly/ADOREMAY2023<https://40go7.r.a.d.sendibm1.com/mk/cl/f/pe7M0FuEDEcXvAIyZ15hvWR8WtBxDgcwFYcAtVYi0kwoUIjiyybBURGB2obAUG-ufLQyaM-sWo2KnQfOrgCbwAQuzDcHHNkylteWKFjaXQALf8xD51jyFh0SO66q-ByB24-bCS2AaH3ctB0TLC5m58cy8vaQD87AJvmYH-TrnkN05bIdxCqqjLv117b9q6_ug4aJmMJfSg> and you will be sent a link.

Finally, don't forget that the St Michael's Gardening Club meets this Saturday 10am-2pm and there will be Children's Liturgy at Sunday's 9:00am Mass at St Michael's Church.

Enjoy your weekend.

Fr Patrick