

Dear All,

This Newsletter will cover the next three weeks. I shall be unavailable after the weekend Masses of 23rd / 24th September until the weekend of 30th September, on Retreat for most of that time at Douai Abbey. Not having had a Retreat since before the Pandemic, nor any time for proper reflection during that period, I know it is time to stop and be still with God.

The Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday 19th September, to enable Dan to attend a Funeral Mass. In fact, he has some considerable time owing, having worked more hours than necessary to keep up with the heavy workload. During the coming week I shall also be trying to clear things before the Retreat, alongside various engagements.

On Friday afternoon, 22nd September, I shall be interring Helen Warner's ashes at a family service in Basingstoke. On Sunday 24th September our 9:00 AM Mass at Tadley will be offered for the repose of her soul, with her brother Geoff present. Our prayers are with him and Helen's family as we bring an end to this sad time in our parish life, recognising with gratitude her devoted service in Christ.

Mass arrangements:

Saturday 16 th September:	6.00pm at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 17 th September:	9.00am at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 17 th September:	11.00am at St. Oswald's Church

Coronavirus update:

People have expressed concern to me that a new variant is spreading, with a growing transmission rate, rising hospital cases, and an earlier roll-out of vaccinations for those entitled, including myself.

Whilst this spread is apparently not as serious as before, it is important that people continue to sanitise whilst attending church and have a right to request to be socially distanced if necessary. In particular, as we enter into the Autumn/Winter period, we should be concerned for others as well as ourselves, and not come to church with relevant symptoms associated with the virus, nor with the "Flu"! Whilst people are not obliged to wear masks in church, you may continue to do so if you wish. **There will be no return to the chalice at Holy Communion until further notice.**

Tadley Welcomers needed!

It is especially important that we have Welcomers present at all our weekend Masses at this time, arriving about twenty minutes before the celebrations, so as to advise sanitising on entry & answering any queries. Our thanks to those in both our communities who organise the Rotas.

Insofar as Tadley is concerned, Bill & Joy Reilly inform us that there is a lack of Welcomers from October on the Saturday evening Mass Rota. Any volunteers to fill the gaps, please contact Bill & Joy.

Toilet at St. Oswald's - Reminder:

As mentioned last week, the toilet inside the church is not currently available for use. Instead, the toilets in the Leonard Rooms are available.

Closer to Christ: Thanksgiving weekend:

Once again, a sincere “thank you!” to all who have enabled us to exceed the Parish target of £60,000, providing support for clergy during active ministry and in retirement and the training of seminarians over the next three to five years. Also, for enabling the Parish to receive a substantial amount over the same time period to address its rising costs.

This weekend the Campaign comes to closure with the time of Thanksgiving in our Masses. During the homily, cards will be given out to update our records and to ensure that all have had an opportunity to contribute if they wish to do so. My thanks to those who have agreed to assist me with this during our Masses and to all who have helped make the campaign a resounding success in whatever ways: be at prayer, pledging or supporting me in various ways.

Evangelii Gaudium Sunday

This Sunday, 17th September, is designated in England & Wales as *Evangelii Gaudium* Sunday. The day supports the work carried out by the Mission Directorate on behalf of the Bishops’ Conference. A key focus of work for the next few years is responding to Pope Francis’ calling of a Jubilee Year in 2025 with the theme *Pilgrims of Hope*. The Holy Father has invited the whole Church to prepare for the Jubilee in the two years prior through:

- Reflecting on the four Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council in 2023.
- Deepening our prayer life, with a special focus on the Lord’s Prayer, in 2024.

Home Mission Sunday – Second Collection:

Somewhat linked to *Evangelii Gaudium*, there is a second collection at all Masses this weekend for the promotion of the Church in England and Wales.

National Mass count statistics:

The first of the four autumn Mass counts is taken at all Masses this coming weekend.

Bishop’s Letter & *You Will Be My Witness*

The text of the Bishop’s Letter read out at Masses last weekend is available to read in this week’s edition of the Diocesan e-news, which you can access via:

<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/communications/news/enews/>

In addition, it includes an electronic copy of the Ten-Year Mission Plan - *You Will Be My Witness*

The Solemnity of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael:

This is a Solemnity (everything except a Holy Day of Obligation) in our Parish, as the Tadley church is named after Saint Michael the Archangel. It falls on Friday 29th September this year, so it is not a day of abstinence from meat in remembrance of the Lord’s death as it is a major celebration.

There will be Mass in Saint Michael’s church at 7:00 PM as I should have returned from retreat earlier that day.

Anne Palmer, RIP:

I received the sad news that Anne Palmer, wife of Bill Palmer, of our Kingsclere community, died after a short illness on Wednesday 13th September. Our sincere condolences to Bill, to Clare their daughter and to all close to them. Please remember Anne’s soul in your prayers. All being well, the Funeral Mass will be in Saint Michael’s church, once the necessary arrangements have been made. May she rest in peace.

October, the month of the Holy Rosary: A time of prayer:

The Feast of our Lady of the Rosary was instituted by Pope Saint Pius V in a time of war. In the late 16th Century, the advance of the Ottoman Turks across Europe was causing grave concern, even causing some to believe that Rome would fall, as did Constantinople, the centre of Orthodox Christianity, in 1453.

Pope Pius brought together a powerful Catholic naval force, led by Spain, which confronted the Turkish fleet at Lepanto, off the coast of Greece, and won a decisive victory on 7th October 1571. However, many in Catholic Europe attributed the victory not to arms alone, but to the fervent prayer of the Rosary for an end to invasion and for peace.

At a recent meeting with the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Bishops in Rome, Pope Francis was requested that this October the Rosary be prayed across the Universal Church for Ukraine. Our Pope has agreed to this, and that it be a time of prayer for “peace and reconciliation” in Ukraine.

Parishioners may be interested in the poem, “Lepanto”, written by G.K. Chesterton (1874 – 1936), the author of the Father Brown stories. It is regarded as one of the finest English poems, complex but stirring, with a fine acknowledgement of the author of Don Quixote, the Spaniard Miguel de Cervantes, as it closes. Cervantes lost the use of his left hand in the battle. “For the better good of the right”, he quipped!

CTAT volunteers required:

The Churches Together Around Tadley Forum on Thursday 14th September had a real “buzz” about it, with a large attendance. I was able to meet the Reverend John Banks, the new Methodist Minister in Tadley & Mortimer (Parishioners will recall that I missed his Welcoming Service because of our Parish BBQ at St. Oswald’s Church at the beginning of this month) and also, to have a long conversation with the Reverend Chris Knight of St. Mary’s Church Tadley. All new arrivals as Church Leaders. It was good to have Ben Rowden present with Mary Lee as our new Catholic representative. The following is an appeal for volunteers for forthcoming events:

- 3Cs Café:
2nd & 4th Thursday of every month from 2.30pm – 4.30pm at Tadley Common Methodist Church. This provides an opportunity for those wishing to meet because of the need for company, or because of bereavement or other concerns. A small group of Methodists & Community Church members are constantly covering the Thursdays & would appreciate support in providing first class hospitality.
Contact Barabara on 0118 9816792
- Blazing Lights Party:
Sam, our Youth Worker, who is doing terrific work in our Tadley Schools, would value support for the Party on Friday 27th October from 5.00pm – 6.30pm at The Point, Tadley, for Year 3 – Year 6 youngsters. An alternative to the normal Halloween at this time of year.
Poster in St. Michael’s Church for more details.
- CTAT Christmas Event:
A different LIVING NATIVITY on 20th December from 5.00pm – 7.00pm.
Contact Father Patrick.
- Christmas Angels:
Need help across Tadley and surrounding area to herald the Birth of the Lord!
More details later.

Inter-Religious Dialogue Conference:

Our recently formed Diocesan Inter-religious Dialogue Team, set up at the request of Bishop Philip, will be holding a conference. Anyone with an interest in the Catholic Church's relationship with non-Christian faiths is invited to attend. St. Bede's Church, Basingstoke, on Saturday, 4th November, from 10am to 3.30pm. More details in the Diocesan e-news (see below). Bookings via this link:

[Portsmouth Diocese Inter-religious Day Tickets, Sat 4 Nov 2023 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Pilgrimage to Knock:

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is hosting a Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock, Co Mayo from November 9 to 14 to Pray for the Holy Souls, run by the Marian Fathers. Package includes: Return flights by Aer Lingus from Heathrow Airport, half board, 5 nights, accommodation in en-suite twin rooms, hand-luggage (10 kgs), all transfers and Airport Development fee. The Retreat will include daily Mass and Hour of Mercy and retreats at Glendalough and Kylemore Abbey. Cost £800. All Welcome. Please call Millie on 07957594646 for more information

Portsmouth Diocese news items:

This week's edition of the Diocesan e-news contains many interesting articles:

[e-News - Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth, \(portsmouthdiocese.org.uk\)](#)

Catholic Bishops Conference of England & Wales news items:

This week's CBCEW news similarly contains many interesting articles, including:

- Pope Francis: Christians are called to embrace fraternity:
"I wanted to manifest, also visually, that believers are called to be brothers and bridge-builders, and no longer enemies or war-makers,"

Last week's news included:

- 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'.

Access these articles and more via:

[News and Media - Catholic Bishops' Conference \(cbcew.org.uk\)](#)

Diocese job vacancies:

- Parish Administrator at parish of Bracknell and St Margaret Clitherow - Closing Date: Friday 22 Sept
- Education Administrator with CASO - Closing Date: Friday 22 Sept
- Finance Officer at Guernsey Parish – Closing Date: Friday 29 September

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

Enjoy your weekend,

Father Patrick Tansey

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Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through his Church

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