

Dear All

Once again I have to announce that Saint Oswald's Church remains closed as we await the arrival of a replacement part for the boiler system. Pray that the building will be open for Easter.

But there is good news! On Saturday 25th March, Edward Hauschild will be ordained priest in Portsmouth Cathedral by Bishop Philip. Please keep him in prayer as he enters into difficult times as priest in our diocese. There is no doubt that the shortage of clergy in active ministry is beginning to impact, alongside the deaths of retired priests on whom we all rely for support when clergy are unwell or taking necessary breaks. Please remember Father Philip Harris who is unwell in Basingstoke Hospital, meaning there is no permanent priest in Hook at present. Also Father Jean-Patrice Coulon, still recovering from a serious foot injury, which means Father John Lee is without an assistant for the St Bede's area of Basingstoke. Not forgetting the people of Alton, still coming to terms with the sudden death of Father James Carling, still in active ministry at the time, meaning they are without a permanent priest also.

I am unable to attend Edward's ordination, but have congratulated his mother, Heather Hauschild, who is Chief Operating Officer for our diocese and deeply engaged in the development of the 10 Year Mission Plan.

Father Jim Keenan, RIP

His Funeral Mass is at St Joseph's Church, Newbury, at 11:00am on Friday 24th March. Please note that I am not available that day for parish matters excepting an emergency.

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 the following Fridays:

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 Wednesday 22nd March I am in London for a meeting of the Secular Clergy Common Fund as Portsmouth Administrator. Often called The Big M, it is a body which covers the Archdioceses of Westminster, Southwark, Arundel & Brighton, Brentwood and Portsmouth, but is independent of these. It provides considerable financial support to sick and retired priests who are members of it, as well as being responsible for two Catholic cemeteries in London. The organisation has its roots in the 18th Century, when secular priests had to provide for themselves in sickness and retirement. Please keep this important work in your prayers.

Clergy Assistance Fund

This Obligatory Diocesan Collection, as advertised in our last Parish News, is taken at all Masses this weekend.

### Holy Week and Easter Service Times

On the weekend of 1st/2nd April we begin Holy Week with Palm Sunday leading into The Easter Triduum, the most sacred time in our Church Year, which brings us into the Celebration of The Resurrection of The Lord.

#### Palm Sunday:

6:00pm Vigil Mass - Saturday 1st April - St Michael's Church, Tadley

9:00am Mass - Sunday 2nd April - St Michael's Church, Tadley

11:00am Mass - Sunday 2nd April - St Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common, if open.

#### Chrism Mass:

This is celebrated at Portsmouth Cathedral at 11:00am on Tuesday 4th April and is open to all who wish to attend. Priests and deacons renew their Ordination commitments and the Sacred Oils are blessed for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Anointing of the Sick. I will not be available in the parish that day.

#### The Sacred Triduum

All are encouraged to attend this as one single liturgical celebration:

Maundy Thursday - 6th April: Evening Mass of The Lord's Supper at 7:30pm, followed by Watching before the Blessed Sacrament at St Michael's Church, Tadley, until 10:30pm.

Good Friday - 7th April: Celebration of The Lord's Passion at 3:00pm in St Michael's Church, Tadley. This is a day of Fast and Abstinence.

The Easter Vigil - 8th April: The lighting of the Easter Candle leading into the First Mass of Easter at 9:00pm at St Michael's Church, Tadley.

#### Easter Day - Sunday 9th April

9:00am Mass - St Michael's Church, Tadley

11:00am Mass - St Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

There are no other Masses in the Parish that Sunday and Father Patrick will be taking a break until the Funeral Mass for Theresa Zajac at 12 noon on Saturday 15th April in St Michael's Church, Tadley.

#### CTAT Good Friday Service

This will take place at St Mary's Church at 10:30am on Friday 7th April. I hope to see many of you there.

#### CTAT Meetings:

Coronation Community Celebration (7th May)

Are you able to attend this meeting at St Paul's Church on the Green at 7:00pm on Wednesday 22nd March to be part of our outreach as churches to our local community? We need volunteers for it to be a success.

#### CTAT Forum

The Forum of our Churches Together Around Tadley takes place the next evening, Thursday 23rd March at 7:00 for 7:30pm at the Salvation Army Hall, Tadley. All are welcome to support us in finalising our Holy Week/Easter events and addressing feedback from the Coronation Community Celebration, to say nothing of the other forthcoming things organised by our local Christian churches.

#### CTAT Raising Kids In a Changing World

A day conference for parents, grandparents, youth workers and children's workers, taking place on 25th March in Basingstoke. More details can be found here<<https://ctat.churchsuite.com/events/jaernwlu>> or [ctat.org.uk/growth](http://ctat.org.uk/growth)

#### Vacancies at Portsmouth Diocese

The roles for Head of Fundraising, Head of Communications and Accounts Technician are still being advertised, with a closing date of 31st March. For more information, please go to [portsmouthdiocese/current-vacancies](https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/current-vacancies)<<https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/current-vacancies>>.

#### Homes for Ukraine Matching Service

Caritas Social Action Network are matching Ukrainian people displaced by the brutal war in their country with people in the Catholic community willing to host them for six months. If you have room in your home and in your heart to consider welcoming a stranger displaced by war, then they'd love to hear from you. Please visit <https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk/> for more information. Poster and leaflets are in St Michael's Church porch.

#### The Immigration Bill

Those who attended our weekend Masses in Tadley last weekend will recall that in my homily on Jesus' remarkable encounter with the Samaritan Woman I spoke of her becoming His first Missionary Disciple, as is the view of Scripture commentators. In spite of being an outsider and heretic in the general Jewish thought of the time, with a somewhat dubious sexual history, she is sent to bring the message of Christ as Saviour of the World to the people of Samaria.

I concluded by saying that each Christian is called to look at the society in which he/she lives through the eyes of Christ. Does that society reflect in its attitudes towards others a concern for justice and equality and a respect for all human beings? And I asked if we are concerned about the present issues involved in the present Immigration Bill going through Parliament, whilst not pretending that I had any straightforward answer at present.

Our Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has provided a briefing document on issues we should consider as Catholics, which document can be accessed from [cbcew.org.uk/love-the-stranger](http://cbcew.org.uk/love-the-stranger)<<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/love-the-stranger/>>. Hopefully this will help you in your prayer and reflection on this important area affecting the lives of ourselves and those outside our country, forming a Christian response.

#### Clocks Change Next Weekend

Don't forget to put your clocks forward one hour when you go to bed next Saturday, 25th March.

Finally, to all the mums, Happy Mothering Sunday! Breakfast in bed and a day without cares, I hope!

Fr Patrick