

19th November 2023 (33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME) PARISH NEWS

Dear all,

Next weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King, which brings us towards the end of our present Church Year. The following weekend we enter into a new Church Year with the First Sunday of Advent (2nd/3rd December) & our preparation for the Nativity of the Lord, or Christmas (the Mass of Christ). Now is the time to start preparing for the celebration of Christ's coming amongst us to save us from sin & also for His Second Coming at the end of time to judge us &, hopefully, to find us worthy of sharing His Father's Kingdom for eternity. Whilst Advent is a time of joy, of looking forward to what is to come, it is also a semi-penitential period, calling us to enter into the meaning of the two Comings of our Saviour in prayer, reflection & love of neighbour. If this is done well, we are ready for the Mass of Christ, for Christmas.

Weekend Mass arrangements:

Saturday 18 th November:	6.00pm at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 19 th November:	9.00am at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 19 th November:	11.00am at St. Oswald's Church

Children's Liturgy

Will take place at the 9.00am Sunday Mass at St. Michael's Church.

Recent Collections:

CAFOD Harvest Day: £504.50 (includes amounts also donated by cheque & card reader)

Bamenda: £387.00

Foreign Missions: £143.00

Many thanks to you all for your incredible generosity.

Diocesan update – Astute Learning for staff & volunteers

The Diocese of Portsmouth has committed itself to providing staff and volunteers with the highest quality training and development opportunities. To meet this need, it has partnered with Astute Learning and the Catholic Insurance Service to deliver online training programs that are tailored specifically to the needs of the diocese.

Dan, as our Parish Administrator, has been enrolled into the initial suite of 10 training modules, with a requirement to complete them all by February 2024, covering various subjects from Data Privacy to Manual Handling.

For all those who volunteer for the Parish in various ways, please be aware that there will be a requirement for you to complete Astute Learning modules which are relevant to your role. Dan will be contacting you in due course to get you signed up & started, once he's had a chance to get to grips with the system.

IMPORTANT UPDATE: Winter Night Shelter Project, Basingstoke

We've just been informed of the following unfortunate news regarding this Project, which was previously advertised in our Newsletter:

As a result of running out of time to master some unresolved issues, the team behind the Winter Shelter Project have reluctantly come to the decision to cancel this year's program. This is a real shame for the rough sleepers who appreciate the help, support and friendship we give them and the members of our community who so readily give their time to volunteer.

Basingstoke Foodbank – Call for volunteers

On the positive side, the Foodbank informs us that they have 2 big events to support people in the community who may struggle through Christmas:

- **3-day TESCO Chineham Christmas Collection** event on the 30th Nov, 1st Dec and 2nd Dec. If you + a friend would like to offer a 2 hour slot, we'll book you on - just email Mike Leaming with your day/time choice : mandjleaming@btinternet.com
- Packing of **Christmas Hampers in Festival Place opposite the Apple shop** again from 1st December to 23rd Dec Mondays to Saturdays - please email hampers@basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk for information, or look at our link: <https://basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/hampers/> You'll need to choose a morning or afternoon 4 hour slot (free parking in Festival Place for volunteers) Do invite a friend or family or work colleague to join you.

REMINDER: “Engaging the Disengaged” - How to accompany the non-religious person in daily life

Previously advertised back in July, this seminar occurs **next week on Tuesday 21st November**.

The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth in partnership with the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales is delighted to offer this online seminar exploring strategies for all Catholics to fulfil their mission to bring people closer to Christ.

The keynote address will be given by internationally acclaimed and bestselling author Sherry Anne Weddell from the Catherine of Siena Institute. Sherry has developed numerous unique formation resources that are used around the world and trained and helps lead an international team who have worked directly with over 130,000 lay, religious, and ordained Catholics in hundreds of parishes in 150 (arch)dioceses on 5 continents. Her book *Forming Intentional Disciples* has sold in excess of 150,000 copies.

Tickets are priced at £10 per person and can be purchased by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/engaging-the-disengaged-how-to-accompany-non-religious-persons-tickets-646139539757>

World Youth Sunday (and Funday)

World Youth Sunday is coming up later this month on Sunday 26th November, Feast of Christ the King, a day on which Pope Francis invites the global Church to celebrate and pray for young people. In Lisbon this year, Pope Francis told young people that “Jesus’ door is always open: Come and See!” This has inspired the theme for World Youth Day celebrations in England and Wales for 2023, and there are several World Youth Day resources available here:

<https://worldyouthsunday.org/wyd2023>.

CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your generosity & prayers.

Diocesan Vacancies

Schools Estates Manager - Please note there is no closing date on this role.

IT Technician, Portsmouth – Closing date 5th January 2024

Interim Finance Assistant, St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs – Closing date 4th December 2023

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

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/>

Enjoy your weekend,

Father Patrick.

Fr. Patrick Tansey

Parish Priest

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Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through his Church

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

A registered charity number 1199568

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