

Dear All

#### Maureen Dudgeon Smith (Mo) Asks For Your Prayers

I am very grateful to Sarah Davis of our Kingsclere community for alerting me to Mo's request for prayers during her present illness and ensuring that the request went out last Sunday and Mo was remembered in our Assumption Day Masses. I received Mo into Full Communion with the Catholic Church at Easter 2021, following her long-time faithful membership of the Anglican Church, at a memorable Easter Vigil in St Michael's Church during an easing of the coronavirus pandemic.

On Wednesday 9th August Mo was rushed into hospital with heart trouble and kidney failure. Leukaemia was also diagnosed. Her kidneys are now working but she awaits the results of various tests. Keep her in your prayers, please.

#### Malcolm Brown, RIP

I was saddened to be told by Margaret Thompson that Malcolm had died suddenly just before the last weekend. He had not been well for some time with a heart condition. He had been thinking about becoming a Catholic for some considerable time and I had several interesting talks with him. May he rest in peace. Our condolences to Margaret and to Hazel at this difficult time.

Please also keep in your prayers the souls of Michael, the brother of Kath Murtagh, and Hilary, the daughter of Helen McGivern, who both died within the last few days. Also Bella Colaço, whose Funeral Service takes place at West Berkshire Crematorium on Wednesday 23rd August, followed by Mass and burial in Ireland at a later date.

Thursday 24th August - St Bartholomew, Apostle: The feast will be celebrated in Saint Michael's Church at 11:00 am.

#### Closer to Christ Update

Please find attached the recent details of the campaign as it affects our Parish Area. At the time of arrival, the update states that pledges amounting to £53,425 have been returned. This means that almost 90% of the Parish target of £60,000 has been achieved. My sincere thanks to the 15 families who have brought us this far. A remarkable response by them. The update replaces that of last week on our Parish noticeboards in both churches for the information of all.

#### Parish Barbeque - Please Book Now!

Ellen Goodall asks that you book as soon as possible for our Parish Barbeque on Sunday 3rd September after 10:30am Mass at St Oswald's Church. All tickets must be booked, with monies tendered, by Wednesday 30th August to enable the purchase of food. This is a special occasion for our First Communicants of 2023 and an opportunity to thank Kathryn Garden for her support of the Parish as our part-time Administrator until the appointment of Dan to this post. It will also be an opportunity to meet him.

Ellen writes, "All parishioners, family and friends are welcome. Cost £10 and children free. For catering purposes, names and money must be given by 30th of August at the latest. Any help would be appreciated. Please contact Ellen via her email:

[fitz52@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fitz52@hotmail.co.uk)<<mailto:fitz52@hotmail.co.uk>>. Our thanks to Michael Lekule, one of our First Communicants, for the fine poster advertising the Barbeque, which is attached. Should there be too few people to make the Barbeque viable, a replacement celebration will follow the Mass, which will be the only one in the Parish that Sunday morning. So it is up to you!

And finally, no doubt many Catholics are rearranging their Sunday so as to watch The Lionesses battle with Spain in Australia at 11:00am English time, having made provision to attend Mass to

celebrate The Lord's Resurrection as necessary. As the Carthaginian Martyrs caught at Mass during a Roman persecution said to their captors, "This is what we do on The Lord's Day", even if it meant their death! I shall be celebrating the 11:00am Burghfield Common Mass, continuing the venerable tradition of the Church that Mass is the central act of each Sunday, so will catch up with the results later.

Whether you are able to watch the Final or not, Happy Day of Resurrection! Our thanks to Kathryn for preparing another Parish News in Dan's absence!

Fr Patrick