

St Oswald's News

Many thanks to all who made the Easter Celebrations at St Oswald's Church so enjoyable following a long closure during Lent because of the boiler area being flooded. The Easter Sunday Mass was well attended and the stand for the Easter Candle finely decorated. A special thank you to Rich Wallis and his music supporters, Anne, Joe and Sylvia who have provided good liturgical music since Palm Sunday and before closure.

Rick Wallis - At last Sunday's Mass, Rick announced that he would soon be standing down from leading the music because of health problems. I am grateful to him for keeping me in touch about this possibility for some weeks and asking to speak at the end of Mass that day to appeal for musical support for the future. One member of the community has volunteered to join the group! Any more? It was exceptionally generous of Rick to respond immediately to my request, at short notice, learning that the boiler was in action, to organise music for the reopening of the building on Palm Sunday. As many of the community know, he celebrates his 70th Birthday with a party on 1st July at Coronation Hall, Woodley. All parishioners are invited, but he needs to know numbers as soon as possible. Contact him at rick.wallis@gmail.com<<mailto:rick.wallis@gmail.com>>. Thank you for the music, Rick!

Coffee Morning Returning - Last Sunday there was an enjoyable Coffee Morning in The Leonard Rooms, with hot cross buns, scones and jam and Mel's chocolate nut slices. Our thanks to Ellen Goodall for organising this. I was delighted to enjoy the buns and scones with coffee, having had nothing to eat since breakfast after 7:00am as usual each Sunday! Ellen is kindly going to arrange Coffee Mornings on a regular basis whenever she is at the Sunday Mass.

Easter Thanks

My thanks to all parishioners for their Easter Offering, to those who sent cards, for a number of gifts and for the involvement of members of both our communities in arranging a worthy celebration of The Lord's Resurrection.

Children's Liturgy

There will be Children's Liturgy at 9:00am Mass this Sunday, 23rd April, at St Michael's Church. Please note the next dates are: 14th May and 4th June.

St George's Day Mass

This Solemnity will be celebrated in St Michael's Church with Mass at 11:00am on Monday 24th April. It is transferred from Sunday 23rd April as the Easter Mass each Sunday takes precedence. Fr Patrick's day off is transferred to Tuesday that week, as he also has First Communion Preparation.

Forthcoming Funerals

Yve(y) Treadgold, RIP - Yve's Funeral Mass will be at Holy Ghost Church, Basingstoke, at 11:00am on Friday 28th April, which I will be celebrating. All are welcome to this Mass; some thought it was to be private.

Ron Foxley, RIP - Ron's Funeral Mass will be at St Michael's Church at 11:30am on Friday 5th May.

Obligatory Collection For Clergy Training Fund

This is taken at all Masses on the weekend of 29th/30th April. The Clergy Training Fund supports our seminarians currently in formation for the priesthood, for the duration of their six- or seven-year journey to ordination. Each seminarian participates in a comprehensive programme of formation

pastorally, intellectually, humanly and spiritually. These are the men who will baptise and catechise the coming generations, and care for us on our pilgrim way: our generosity today is a legacy to the Church of tomorrow.

New Safeguarding Minister for Tadley

I am delighted to announce that our Diocesan Safeguarding Office has confirmed the appointment of Christine Caren as Parish Safeguarding Minister in Tadley, effective from 7th March 2023. Christine replaces Kath Murtagh, who held the post for some time, and will be working with Ellen Goodall, responsible for Safeguarding in the Burghfield Common side of the Parish.

Hospital Policy Concerning Requests for Priests

Parishioners in both our communities should be aware that there are certain protocols to be observed if a patient in Basingstoke or Reading wishes to see a Catholic priest, or in any hospital. The patient or family members need to state, at the time of admission, that the person is a Catholic and wishes the hospital Chaplaincy Team to be informed that if a Catholic priest is visiting, or if the person is in need of The Sacrament of the Sick, the Catholic Chaplain(s) be made aware of this. It is the obligation of the unwell person or their family to ensure that this is noted clearly on admission.

It would also be useful to let me know if a parishioner is going into hospital, so that I am aware in respect of the Chaplaincy situation locally or elsewhere. Sometimes people say that they did not see a priest whilst in hospital, and this is probably because they had not followed the protocols. Hospital authorities are not authorised to ask the religious belief or not of a patient, so it is essential the Chaplaincy is formally notified by patient or their family of a religious need. Gone are the days when a priest could ask the nursing staff, whilst visiting wards, to let him know who were Catholics.

St Michael's Gardening Club

With finer weather hopefully on the way, the Gardening Club is due to restart. This runs from 10am - 2pm during Spring and Summer, usually on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. Volunteers bring their own tools, but there are some in the patio area shed. The next date is Saturday 13th May, all volunteers most welcome -no need to stay for the full session!

Day of Refreshment and Reflection

Taking place at Silchester Methodist Church's Retreat Centre on Wednesday 26th April on the theme: New Life 'The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly' John 10:10. For enquiries or to book please contact Angela Hiscock at angela.hiscock@btinternet.com or call 01256 850432. Day runs from 10:00am-3:00pm, refreshments provided, bring your own lunch. Cost: £10. Please look out for the brochure on this and other Silchester retreats at the back of our churches.

Coronation of King Charles III

Thanks To Sue Tull & Helping Hands - As all should know, Churches Together Around Tadley (CTAT) is organising a special event for our local Tadley community on Sunday 7th May to celebrate The Coronation of King Charles III. This will involve some considerable expense, and our local Christian Leaders appreciate the support so far. A few weeks ago Sue Tull of our Tadley community asked Rev Steve McKay (principal organiser) and myself if we were happy for her to ask Helping Hands, the local charity which has a shop in Franklin Avenue, for a grant towards this community event. We were more than happy! I am pleased to report that Helping Hands has given £250 towards the event, which Dane

Hall presented to Sue recently. Our thanks to Helping Hands - and to Sue for her initiative! I will be writing to Helping Hands on behalf of CTAT to thank them.

Mass Times on Sunday 7th May - Part of the day will be a special 11:00am Service that morning, in which I will be involved. This means that there will be no Mass that morning at St Oswald's Church, for which I apologise.

Coronation Party Meeting - Jo Mellor and I represented the Catholic community at a well-attended gathering at St Paul's Church on the Green on 19th April to finalise details for 7th May Party.

- * Volunteers to set-up various items will be needed that morning, between 8:00-10:00am, also for the stalls between 12 noon and 4:00pm and obviously to clear things away afterwards.

- * It was agreed that cakes prepared by our churches will be delivered on Saturday evening, 6th May, and early on Sunday morning at St Paul's Church. Details of ingredients must be provided for each one.

- * Tables will also need to be brought to St Paul's, preferably on Saturday evening. I committed our tables in the Parish Room to the Party, as there will be no Coffee Morning after the 9:00am Mass that Sunday. Hopefully volunteers from the parish will link up with me on this, as I shall be committed to the Saturday evening Mass, as well as the morning Mass on Sunday and then being in place for the 11:00am Service.

- * Leaflets are to be posted through letterboxes in various streets by volunteers over the next couple of weeks, and Jo Mellor and others began this process towards the end of a very well organised meeting lasting less than an hour. Ed Vassie of the Community Church has done splendid work in providing lists of streets to be ticked off by volunteers from our churches, and there are leaflets available in St Michael's Church from this weekend to spread news of the Party. Sue Tull, for example, has arranged for them to be available at Helping Hands shop.

I have invited Ed to speak at our 9:00am Mass this Sunday to outline things, and he will be joining those present at the Coffee Morning to answer any queries. He greatly appreciated the opportunity to do so, although he knows I shall be going to St Oswald's Church when the Mass ends. So, all hands on deck!

Urgent - Basingstoke Food Bank Operations Manager Recruitment

From the Foodbank: "We're looking to support the increasing demands on our day to day running activities of our head office, central warehouse and seven local Foodbank Centres. We are recruiting for an Operations Manager, which is a full-time, paid post to ensure our 100+ volunteers are supported, liaison with our donors is maintained, and the services we provide for our clients run smoothly. We are having to re-advertise this vacancy, as our recently appointed Operations Manager has had to step down because of unforeseen family health issues. We'll be looking for someone with excellent operational and administrative skills and the Christian faith, values and ethos which underpin all areas of our operation. If you would like a full job description and to find out how to apply, please contact Phil Thomas our Foodbank's Chair of Trustees by emailing a brief note to: 1126phil@gmail.com. Deadline for applications by Friday 12th May".

And So To Bed ... As Samuel Pepys (diarist of the reign of Charles II) Said!

Our next Parish News will be on 5th May, as we prepare for the Coronation of King Charles III. Our Bishops of England and Wales suggest that from Wednesday 3rd to Friday 5th May there should be a Triduum (three days) of Prayer by members of our Catholic communities to pray for the King as he assumes the fullness of his responsibilities. This can be done by making some time for personal prayer

on each of these days. On the weekend of 6th/7th May, the National Anthem will be sung at the end of each of our parish Masses and leaflets are to be sent to all our churches with relevant prayers.

Obviously, I look forward to seeing many of you on 7th May at the CTAT Service at 11:00am and the Coronation Community Celebration afterwards which is open to all as our outreach as Christians to others for this joyful event. I am grateful to those who will be volunteering to help from our Tadley community. Understandably, the Coronation is being celebrated on the Burghfield Common side of the parish as well and our best wishes to St Oswald parishioners who will be involved in the Mortimer or other events there.

Wishing you all a happy celebration of St George on Monday, praying especially for the forthcoming Coronation and for the Royal Family.

Fr Patrick