

23st July 2023 (16th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A) PARISH NEWS

Dear All,

Mass arrangements – 22nd & 23rd July

Saturday 22nd July: 6.00pm at St. Michael's Church

Sunday 23rd July: 9.00am at St. Michael's Church

Sunday 23rd July: 11.00am at St. Oswald's Church

Mass Times – 25th July (Feast of Saint James the Apostle)

10.00am at St. Michael's Church

ADVANCE NOTICE – Parish Office arrangements in August

Dan, our Parish Administrator, will be taking his family on a much-needed holiday this Summer. His last day in the Office will be Friday 4th August & his first day back will be Tuesday 29th August.

During his absence, in case of an emergencies, please call me on 0118 981 4572

If I do not answer, please leave a message & I will return your call as soon as I am able.

Note: emails will only be checked sporadically, no more than twice per week.

For other matters which need to be addressed in August or September, please kindly communicate them to Dan as soon as possible next week, so that they can be catered for prior to his absence.

Only if the Pope commands!

Parishioners may recall that we have prayed for the church in Nicaragua and for the Bishop Rolando Alvarez of Matagalpa recently. The situation in Nicaragua is causing international concern, although, as is the case with our sister Archdiocese of Bamenda and its problems, there is sadly a dearth of reportage. Bishop Alvarez, alongside others, has been openly critical of the abuse of human rights by the dictatorship of Daniel Ortega and the Sandinista regime. He refused earlier this year to board a flight carrying 222 dissidents, including four priests, deported to the United States which gave them refuge. As a result, without trial, in February he was sentenced to 26 years in prison for "conspiracy, spreading fake news, obstructing and disobeying the authorities" (The Tablet, 15/07/23). He had told a brother Bishop that he would not leave his people unless the Pope ordered him to do so.

The Vatican and the Nicaraguan regime negotiated his release on 4th of July, although diplomatic relations with the Vatican had been suspended in March. However, he refused once again to leave the country as he had done nothing wrong. He was returned to prison the next day.

The European Parliament has condemned his detention, and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights called for his release in June. On 7th of July 80 prominent Catholics from Spain and Latin America, in support of the suffering of the Nicaraguan church, mentioned him specifically. Below are some details of the statement published by Bishop Declan Lang on behalf of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales:

"Following the news that Bishop Álvarez has been returned to prison, let us renew our prayers for his safety and freedom.

Bishop Álvarez's imprisonment is a manifestly unjust response to his tireless and courageous work upholding human dignity. We are deeply grateful to everyone across the world who is endeavouring to secure his release.

We pray too for all the people of Nicaragua, especially those in the Church who are being targeted because of their service to others or their commitment to justice and peace."

CLOSER TO CHRIST CAMPAIGN. THANK YOU!

On Thursday evening this week we had the first of our two open meetings at Saint Michael's Church for parishioners to learn about the campaign as it begins to develop in our Parish.

Matt Bloomer, who has been employed by the Diocese to promote the Campaign, met with me before people came, to update me on progress. He has been in the Parish a number of times, meeting with our Parish Finance Committee and with myself and some parishioners. I was taken aback when he told me that five of our households have pledged over the next three to five years to contribute £28,000 to the support of active and retired priests and the training of seminarians for the priesthood. This means that almost half of the £60,000 target we are asked to raise has been reached. So a sincere thank you for this generosity!

The meeting on Thursday went well with several interesting questions being raised, one of which is being brought back by Matt to our Diocesan Head of Finance. There is another public meeting on Tuesday 25th of July at 11:00 am in Saint Michaels church, after the 10:00 am Mass for the Feast of Saint James. I hope that parishioners will be present for Mass and then the meeting if they were unable to attend the last one. There is a sheet for signing in our churches to indicate that you will be attending this meeting. Then as August begins, the campaign gathers momentum for all parishioners who wish to be involved.

Please also take a look at the latest weekly Closer to Christ Campaign Newsletter attached to the email containing this Parish Newsletter. See if you can spot some familiar faces in one of the photos!

Called and Gifted - Save the Date!

Each of us is created uniquely by God, in our time and place, for a purpose. When we understand and allow ourselves to be aligned with that purpose we are energised and fulfilled; and God's love and provision is able to flow more freely exactly where it is needed, through our spiritual gifts (charisms). Called and Gifted is the discernment process that helps us unlock our story, understand our gifts (charisms) and discover our unique mission.

The Called and Gifted process has been run successfully in many Parishes in our Diocese and is being run in our Pastoral Area this Autumn, starting with a workshop on **Saturday 21 October at St Bede's, Basingstoke**. Are you ready to discover your spiritual gifts? If so, please save the date in your diary and look out for more details soon about how to register. In the meantime, for more information about the Called and Gifted process, please see <https://www.calledandgifted.org.uk/> or contact Gerry Penfold (gerry.penfold@yahoo.co.uk)

HOLIDAY CLUBS ARE HERE!

Please keep in prayer the success of our CTAT Holiday Clubs. The Silchester Club runs from 25th to 27th July and the Tadley Club from 31st July to 4th August. Thanks to all involved especially from our Catholic community.

Marriage and Family Life – Upcoming Workshops

MFL are offering these opportunities for married couples this Autumn & would love to see you:

Married Couples' Workshop:

St John's Cathedral Hall - **Saturday 30th September 2023. 9:30am-4pm.**

RSVP: marriagefamilylife@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk, by 30th August 2023, to register.

Cost £20/couple. Donations welcome.

Loving for Life Retreat (Make time and space for your marriage this Autumn):

Milner Room, St Peter's Winchester - **Friday October 27th 2023- Sunday October 29th.**

RSVP: marriagefamilylife@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk, by 30th September 2023.

Cost £160 /couple. Donations welcome.

Diocese job vacancies

IT Technician – Closing Date: Monday 31 July 2023

Parish Administrator at Fleet and Church Crookham – Closing Date: Monday 31 July 2023

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

Enjoy your weekend.

Father Patrick Tansey

Parish Priest

St Michael's Church, Tadley

St Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

Tel: 0118 981 4572

Email: tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through his Church

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

A registered charity number 1199568

Registered office: Diocesan Office, St Edmund House, Bishop Crispian Way, Portsmouth PO1 3QA

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk