

24th September 2023 (25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME) - PARISH UPDATE

Dear All,

As was stated last weekend, there would be no Newsletter for three weeks. But, nevertheless, there are a few items which need to be highlighted, which is why there is a short update this weekend. Dan & I have both been unwell during the last few days with heavy, debilitating colds & Dan has been covering things with me while at home, for which we should all be most grateful. Strictly speaking, we should have closed down! Today, Friday 22nd September, we are in the Office for the first time this week.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

1. There will be no Mass this Sunday at St. Oswald's Church:

This is because I am still not feeling on top form. I appreciate greatly the understanding of those at Burghfield Common for agreeing with my decision. The Saturday evening & Sunday morning Masses at Tadley are as normal.

2. Special Appeal to all St. Oswald's Parishioners:

Due to issues with the BT internet service provider, some parishioners with BT email addresses may not currently be receiving our Newsletter emails (Microsoft have identified the issue & Diocesan IT is awaiting further updates from them). **Please therefore kindly check with the fellow parishioners who you personally know, to ensure they are aware that there is no Mass this Sunday.**

3. I will be away on Retreat next week:

All being well, from the end of Sunday morning to the afternoon of Friday 29th September, I am not available. I plan to return from the Douai Abbey Retreat to celebrate the Mass of Saint Michael & the Archangels at 7.00pm in Saint Michael's Church as advertised last weekend.

4. Office responsiveness next week:

Dan will have an immense backlog to deal with after having been out for most of the week, so please do not expect quick responses from the Office, unless there is an emergency. Remember, there will be no Newsletter next weekend. He will only issue a brief update should there be any significant important items to highlight, which have not already been covered.

Closer To Christ Campaign – UPDATE:

Thank you so much for your generosity! Last weekend was a great success for the ***Closer to Christ*** Campaign in our parish. I'm delighted to tell you that based on the cards filled out by parishioners at Mass, our parish stands to receive an additional **£5,000!**

To allow us to draw a line under the campaign we need to make sure that all pledges have been recorded properly. If you completed a small card at Mass recently, you will have received a pledge form for completion in the post or via email this week. I ask that you return the form at your earliest convenience to either the parish office, to me after Mass or directly through the post. While you may not wish to start your pledge immediately, I do ask that you return your form, indicating a start date and method of payment that is convenient to you. Our hope is that parishioners will consider what they can as every pledge counts and all gifts will bring us closer to our shared goal.

I know there are some families out there who are still considering their pledge and I would be delighted to receive your support. While we are guaranteed to receive one third of our initial target of £60,000, our parish will receive 50% of everything raised over this and so we have much to

benefit from. We hope to receive the majority of pledges within the next two weeks so that we can see exactly how much has been raised. I will give you a further update in a few weeks' time. Thank you for your support and please pray for the continued success of the ***Closer to Christ*** Campaign in our parish.

"Called & Gifted" Programme

This weekend at all Masses, there will be short talks about the Called and Gifted discernment process which starts in our Pastoral Area with a Live Teaching Day on Saturday 21st October at St Bede's Church from 9.00am. The first stage is a teaching day where you learn about charisms. The second stage is a private, one to one discussion called a discernment conversation with a trained member of the Called & Gifted Team. The third stage is a period of personal discernment where you prayerfully reflect on a charism and explore how it may be present in your life. You will also receive a Complete Resource Workbook; six month's online access to the videos created by Sherry Weddell and her team at the Catherine of Siena Institute and six months access to the online inventory plus your results. There is a small charge of £40 to parishioners to help cover the cost of all three stages. To register please email: calledandgifted@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or contact our Parish representatives, Roy Singh or Gerry Penfold.

New pastoral course – "When You Pray"

You know prayer is important but still find it challenging. Perhaps it's hard to find time, or you're unsure what to do when you pray. Or maybe you feel discouraged by your perceived weaknesses and your inability to overcome them. If you have any of these feelings, you are not alone. Many of the Saints struggled in prayer. They were like us. But each time they fell, they got up again and learned to rely more on God's grace. What God did in the lives of countless Saints, He wants to do in the lives of ordinary people like us. And that's what this study is about: the journey of prayer God wants to take us on. This 7-week course will run on Monday's from 7:30 to 9pm starting on Monday 25th September via Zoom. To register follow this link:

[When You Pray - Course Registration](#)

Caritas Portsmouth Newsletter:

Gerry Penfold has kindly made us aware that Caritas Portsmouth has launched its own Quarterly Newsletter. Please see the link below for their latest news items (you will also see a link at the bottom of the webpage for signing up to the Newsletter).

[NEWS & EVENTS - Caritas Portsmouth](#)

Portsmouth Diocese news items:

[e-News - Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth, \(portsmouthdiocese.org.uk\)](#)

Catholic Bishops Conference of England & Wales news items:

[News and Media - Catholic Bishops' Conference \(cbcew.org.uk\)](#)

Both Dan & I should appreciate your prayers for a continuing recovery &, for myself, a good Retreat.

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

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

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk