

## **2<sup>nd</sup> July 2023 (13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A)    PARISH NEWS**

Dear All,

### Mass arrangements – 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> July

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July 6.00pm at St. Michael's Church

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 9.00am at St. Michael's Church

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 11.00am at St. Oswald's Church

### Celebrating Priesthood

Thanks to all who assured me of prayer & best wishes for a good break. Also to those who remembered my birthday on 11<sup>th</sup> June & gave me cards & gifts.

I enjoyed the break, especially time with my brother Michael & his wife Teresa in Wiltshire. They live just outside Warminster, where there is the Catholic Church of St. George. During my visits I have got to know Father Martin, the Parish Priest, & on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June, he celebrated 25 years of Priesthood, having been in business before becoming a Priest. Also celebrating with him were two former Anglican clergy who became Catholic clergy, Fathers Raymond & Malcolm (respectively 25 years & 15 years Catholic Ministers). Both are retired & the gifts of their Anglican ministry which they brought to their Catholic ministry were recognised at the Mass that evening.

When Father Martin learned that I was visiting, he very graciously insisted that I join the large number of priests from the Clifton Diocese & elsewhere who were to concelebrate in Saint George's Church.

The Mass was presided over by the Bishop Declan Lang, a former priest of our Diocese of Portsmouth, with whom I had time to chat. Keep him in prayer, as he has Parkinson's Disease, but continues his episcopal duties. Also present was our former Bishop of Portsmouth, Crispian Hollis, & it was good to speak with him also, alongside other priests I did not know but were very welcoming.

The reception afterwards took place on a brilliant summer evening, with fine food & good wine, enabling me to meet parishioners & especially Father Martin's sister & husband from Ireland. To him & to Fathers Raymond & Malcolm: *Ad Multos Annos!* (To Many Years!).

### A Fine Celebration

On Monday evening, 26<sup>th</sup> June, I attended the installation of the Reverend Steve McKay as Rector of the Anglican Benefice of Tadley, Pamber Heath & Silchester at Saint Paul's Church on The Green. This was led by the Right Reverend David Williams, Bishop of Basingstoke & attended by Councillor David Leeks, the Mayor of Basingstoke & a large number of visiting Anglican clergy & Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs).

It was a beautiful evening weatherwise & the Service was prayerful & the music first class. My thanks to the Reverend Steve for asking me to join the Procession as a visiting clergyman & to be seated in the sanctuary of the church for the ceremony. I was delighted to meet again the Reverend Anthony Peabody, with whom I had worked ecumenically in the Burghfield Common area before the advent of coronavirus & to chat with the Reverends Bob Young & Cathy Penn, who have been helping Steve as members of the local Anglican team, both retired.

Bob, although remaining active in Silchester, will now have more time in retirement as the Reverend Karen West was Licensed that same evening as Associate Minister & Resident Vicar in Silchester. It was good to speak with her. Also with Chris Knight, who will be ordained to the Anglican ministry this

coming Sunday at Winchester Cathedral & is to be Assistant Curate at Saint Mary's Church, up the road from St. Michael's Church. Good also to meet up with Peter Hughes & his wife Jan from Silchester. As expected, Peter was taking the photographs!

The reception afterwards was very good & enabled me to speak with Councillor David & Emma his wife. David attends St. Mary's Church & was a close friend of Helen Warner, our Treasurer, who died so suddenly at the beginning of this year. The Community Church was represented by Pastor Pete Hay & his wife Marion & it was nice to catch up with them & Greg Whittick, former Pastor of the local Community Church.

A truly ecumenical evening!

#### First Holy Communion Memories

It was a joy to witness four of our young people making their First Holy Communion a few weeks ago on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June at St. Michael's Church. Many thanks to all involved & for the gifts from parents of the youngsters.



#### Bee update at St. Oswald's.

Following detailed review, the Diocesan Estates Department have advised us to leave the bees alone. The location at the top of the rear wall of the Church means that they are remote from the public areas of the Church & Leonard Rooms & their point of entry to the hive is not through the church, which means that it is highly unlikely for them to wander into other areas. To that point, we have had no reports of bees inside the church or Leonard Rooms since the colony arrived. They will remain active until the September timeframe & the good news is that they will be helping the environment through their pollinating activities.

Nevertheless, we all need to remain vigilant in case the situation changes. Therefore, for your own safety & that of others, please kindly continue to adhere to the following risk management procedure:

1. If you suffer from a bee allergy, any other type of allergy, or consider yourself, or someone in your care, to be a vulnerable person, you will need to make your own decision as to whether you feel comfortable attending Mass.
2. Enter/exit the church promptly, only via the main door.
3. Immediately notify Father Patrick & the congregation if you become aware of bees inside the church (especially at the back & the toilet areas), in the car park or other public areas such as the path & entry area to the Leonard Rooms

4. We will only have the main door open for ventilation (since the back door is much closer to the nest site) & therefore need a volunteer to sit near the main door to keep an eye out for any potential intruders. Please kindly notify Father Patrick on the day if you are able to assist with this.

#### Closer to Christ Campaign

Many thanks to those who have already notified the office of their attendance at one of the meetings at St. Michael's. If you haven't already done so, there will be sign-up sheets at the back of the Churches this weekend. As a reminder, there are two sessions to choose from:

Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> July at 6.00pm      Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> July at 11.00am

Alternatively, please email [tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or call the office on 0118 981 4572

#### Tadley Remembers – CTAT

The annual Churches Together Around Tadley memorial service takes place on Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 3pm at Tadley Cemetery. All are welcome to join in prayer and/or memory of their deceased relatives/friends.

#### Knights of St Columba National Relics Tour 2023 - coming to this Pastoral Area

On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July the relics of St Columba, St Margaret and St Andrew will be coming to the St Bedes Church, Basingstoke, along with the Fraternal Cross & the St Columba Cross. This is part of a National Tour of the Relics and we are very honoured to be able to have them in our Pastoral Area to allow Parishioners to venerate them before & after the 12 noon Mass at St. Bede's Church (from approx. 10.30am to 3pm). We thank Fr. John Lee for allowing us to bring these relics to St. Bedes Church.

After Basingstoke, the relics will then progress down through Hampshire via Eastleigh, Southampton, Park Gate, I.O.W., & then Poole & Glastonbury. They will come to St John's Cathedral Portsmouth on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July and depart the Cathedral after the 6pm Mass on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>. They will be at OLHC Church, North Camp, for the 9.30am Mass on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> before being passed to the Knights in the Westminster Diocese.

Our thanks to Roy Singh in our Parish for his involvement as Grand Knight in Basingstoke.

#### Stella Maris (Sea Sunday) - 9<sup>th</sup> July

Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all of our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. In the last year, more crews have been abandoned by their employers than ever before. Many are still being denied the right to leave their ships for even a short break away from the relentless noise and pressure onboard. Many are reporting more stress and poorer mental health. Sea Sunday is next Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July. It is when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Your support will make a big difference to seafarers and fishers in need. You can donate in church, or by visiting [www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate](http://www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate), or by texting 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris (formerly called Apostleship of the Sea) to continue its important work.

#### Hungry Holidays Scheme

Schools in West Berkshire have been contacted to ask them to nominate anyone in their school community who they know will seriously struggle over the summer holiday weeks. The HSS will be delivering to the schools a one-off bulk supply of essential food items before the end of the summer

term for them to distribute directly to these struggling families. The number of nominated people is 1,447!!!

We have received an urgent plea for support to enable the HSS to meet this need as well as the regular demand for help. If you are able, please consider buying an item for the foodbank when you do your weekly shop to put in the Foodbank basket at the supermarket or at the church or other collection points. Items currently needed can be found via: <https://westberks.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

Parishioners at St. Oswald's Church may leave items in the Church, but these should not be past their sell by date, nor be fresh or frozen foods.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2023: Monday 17th July - Friday 21st July.

Further to the previous Newsletter items regarding the Pilgrimage, we now have an appeal for young pilgrims to be "Rollers", that is to say people who are willing to enable the full participation of pilgrims by pushing wheelchairs, lending a supportive arm & helping the less mobile retrieve their food at mealtimes.

Youth pilgrim places cost £699, though there is the potential to offset this by 50% and the Diocese is very willing to help prospective pilgrims with fundraising for their trip.

The Diocese doesn't want to be in the position of turning anyone with mobility issues away from the chance to go to Lourdes, so please contact via: [lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or telephoning 07780 221686 if interested.

Happy reading & all best wishes for a good weekend.

## **Father Patrick Tansey**

### **Parish Priest**

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