

Dear All,

The Month of The Sacred Heart of Jesus

On Friday 7th June we celebrate the Solemnity of The Sacred Heart of Jesus and there is Mass in Saint Michael's Church at 11:00 AM. It is not a day of abstinence from meat, being everything except a Holy Day of Obligation. The month of June itself is a time of devotion to The Sacred Heart, so where did this particular devotion spring from?

It owes its modern development to events in 17th Century France, during the Jansenist heresy which wrought considerable damage in the Church into our modern age. Cornelius Jansen, Bishop of Ypres during the early 17th Century, developed the doctrine that when God first created human beings he made them good, but after Original Sin, fallen human nature could no longer do any good on its own. God's grace was, as a result, given only to the elect few for whom Jesus died. To be part of this group of the elect a sign was that one had an unhealthy fear of God, lacking peace with God and a fear of receiving the Eucharist in particular. His followers taught that the ordinary Catholic is unable to keep some of the Commandments and is virtually always unable to receive Holy Communion worthily. In effect, it was a form of extreme Catholic Calvinism, whereby Jesus had died only for a chosen group over the ages, not for all who truly seek His forgiveness and mercy. It spread rapidly amongst some prominent clergy and religious and lay people in the upper classes.

Between 1673 and 1675, an unknown French nun named Margaret Mary Alacoque experienced four visions of Jesus, concerning devotion to his Sacred Heart, symbolising a burning love for saints and sinners. She was charged to promote this devotion, which was completely contrary to Jansenism, and was particularly embraced by those who struggle at times to follow Christ, but know He loves us more deeply than we can imagine and wants us to be with him for eternity! Margaret Mary was later declared a Saint.

"Thank you" Roy

As we began to come out of the pandemic, returning to regular weekend Masses, Roy Singh of our Tadley community kindly volunteered to lead the singing of hymns and sometimes the psalm of the day at our Saturday 6.00 PM Mass.

This was an excellent way of celebrating a resumption of communal worship following the coronavirus restrictions. Although there had been no liturgical singing at the 6:00 PM Mass in the past, parishioners greatly appreciated the opportunity to sing the praise of God. My thanks to the 6:00 PM congregation for engaging so well in this development, and to Roy for all he has done to promote it.

Sadly, Roy told me that after Pentecost weekend he would no longer be able to continue leading the singing on a regular basis. I understand his reasons and told him not to worry about not being able to do so.

He is deeply involved in the Knights of Saint Columba in our Pastoral Area and has assisted over the years with preparation of youngsters from our Parish for Confirmation, working as part of the Saint Joseph's, Basingstoke, team. Recently he has become involved with the Children's Liturgy at Saint Bede's Church. He is also working as a pharmacist. Rightly, Roy feels that he needs to ensure that he gives more time to his family life, especially at weekends. Should he be at a 6:00 PM Saturday Mass he will, if possible, lead the singing from time to time. It would be good if a parishioner, not already fully engaged in Parish activities, was prepared to organise the return of regular singing at this Mass. Over to you!

50% Cap on admissions to faith schools

The Government has opened a consultation on lifting the cap that for the last 14 years has limited the number of Catholic children that can be admitted into any new Catholic school. Please open the link and respond to the consultation (only name and email address are required). Responses are crucial if Catholic families throughout the country are not to continue to be deprived of a Catholic education. Please click on this link: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/lifting-the-faith-schools-cap/>

General Election

With the General Election happening on 4th July 2024, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales have created a webpage about the issues important to Catholics. There is more information here: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/election24/>

This Weekend's Mass arrangements:

Saturday 1st June: 6.00pm at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 2nd June: 9.00am at St. Michael's Church – **Children's Liturgy!**
Sunday 2nd June: 11.00am at St. Oswald's Church

Weekday Mass:

Friday 7th June: 11.00am at St. Michael's Church
Solemnity of The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Pastoral Letter:

A copy of Bishop Philip's Letter read at all Masses last weekend is attached to this Newsletter.

First Communion preparation

Next preparation meeting for the candidates is Tuesday 4th June at 4.30pm in the Parish Room.

REMINDER!!!

First Communion Mass takes place at St. Michael's Church at 10.00am on Sunday 16th June. There will be **NO MASS at St. Oswald's Church that Sunday** to facilitate an unhurried celebration. Please note Father Patick will not be available on Saturday morning, 15th June, due to Reconciliation for our candidates & First Communion practice at St. Michael's Church.

----- + -----

REMINDER: Tadley Treacle Fair – This Sunday 2nd June!

There will be a CTAT stand, so please do stop by.

REMINDER: Please bring donations to the Tadley Masses this weekend!

Donations of **bags of sweets & bottles of wine** to be left in the porch please. These will be used as prizes in games at stalls run by our Archangels Social Group at the **Tadley Fete on the Green, organised by St. Pauls' Church** which happens **next Saturday 8th June** to raise money for St Michael's Hospice.

Please do come to support us at the Fete on the Green, RG26 3PB, where there will also be a bouncy castle, live music, food, arts & crafts, games, lots of stalls and lots of fun! Middy to 4 pm on Saturday 8 June. Free entry. Full details of the Fete on the poster displayed in St. Michael's Church.

REMINDER: "Mingle at St Michael's" – Wednesday 5th June!

The Archangels Social Group is launching "Mingle at St Michael's", an afternoon cafe in the Parish Room from 2 - 4 pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, **starting on 5th June**. Please join us for a warm welcome and the chance to meet up midweek for a chat over a tea or coffee and a piece of cake! Please see posters at both our Churches.

REMINDER: Calling Parish bakers!

On **Sunday 9th June in the Parish Room after 9.00am Mass**, there will be a Cake Sale for Christian Aid as our parish contribution to the recent Christian Aid Week. There will also be some gift items for sale, including religious items. **Please bring cake donations to the Parish Room before 9 am Mass, together with a note of ingredients in case of allergens.** Thank you!

REMINDER: Parish Canal Boat Trip - Sunday 21st July – ONLY 5 PLACES REMAINING!!!

The Archangels Social Group is organising a Parish Canal Boat Trip on the afternoon of **Sunday 21st July** from Newbury Wharf, RG14 5AS along the Kennet & Avon Canal. We have hired a boat for our exclusive use to depart at 4 pm, so we will meet at the Wharf at 3.45 pm.

There are 2 steps up and then 5 “rather steep” steps down to access the boat, which has a licensed bar and a toilet onboard. The trip usually lasts about 75 mins, but there can be delays if the canal is busy. Cost: Adults £10, Children £5. We suggest we gather for a bring-your-own picnic in Victoria Park, Newbury beforehand!

To book, please call Pauline Penfold on 07749 409920 or Mary Lee on 07821 254100 or email Mary at mlee@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk We hope you will join us!

CTAT Men's Breakfast – 22nd June

Open to all. Just come along! A cooked breakfast & the company of other men.

10am on 22nd June & then the 4th Saturday of the month, Immanuel Centre, Tadley URC, Malthouse Lane, Tadley, RG26 3NY.

BACCA Summer Fete

The Basingstoke African Caribbean Catholic Association will be holding their Annual Summer Fete on **Saturday 22nd June, 12.00 Noon – 6.00pm**, at St. Bede's School Field, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX.

Adults £10, Children (2-7) £5, Children (Under 2) Free, Family Ticket (2 Adults & up to 4 Children) £30. All money raised will support St. Bede's Parish projects.

Steve Legg “Tricks and Laughs” Show, BBQ & Live music – 13th July

CTAT invites us to this event on **Saturday 13th July, 6.00pm – 9.00pm**, Pamber Heath Memorial Hall.

Adults £10, Children £5, all ages welcome.

Book here: <https://bccs.churchsuite.com/events/ydyomqub> or call 07932247363

Profits to support youth and children's work.

Money Management for All

Following the success of the sessions organised last year, Holy Ghost parish is delighted to tell you that once again we have partnered with Christians Against Poverty [CAP] to deliver one of their 'Money coaching' programmes in St Bede's church hall on June 20th & 27th and July 4th & 11th.

Delivered by local churches in partnership, money coaching is a free service designed to empower you with the knowledge, skills, tools and confidence to better manage your finances. Anyone can benefit - from those who've been using a budget for years to those struggling to get to grips with their spending. We'll hear from specialists in saving and spending wisely, to credit and debt professionals; you'll receive guidance that's second to none.

Places on the forthcoming course are very limited, so please book your space asap.

The sessions will begin at 7pm with a light meal, ending at 9pm. For more information please contact Deacon Tony or Pam on either adarroch@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 07883 059 529. But to book a place, please go to this link to book direct: [Get to grips with your finances | CAP UK](#)

We hope to see you there!

“Strength to Strength” course

Do you want to start or sustain a fruitful daily prayer life? The Pastoral Evangelisation Team will be offering a new course focused on prayer. Join us for a six-session series designed to give practical help to those wishing to pray more in their daily lives. In the six sessions we will be exploring the following each week:

Week 1 – 24 June 2024 - Pray for the day

Week 2 – 1 July 2024 - Food for thought

Week 3 - 8 July 2024 - The life of Prayer

Week 4 - 15 July 2024 - Pray before you speak

Week 5 - 22 July 2024 - Lord teach us to pray

Week 6 – 29 July 2024 - Give us this day

The course starts on **Monday 24th June @ 7.30pm – 9.00pm**. If you are interested in joining and learning how to sustain a fruitful prayer life, learn tips and best practices with some shared learnings with friends, then do join us! Register your interest by emailing The Pastoral Evangelisation Team via:

jkent@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

REMINDER - Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Bishop Philip warmly invites us all to join him & fellow pilgrims for the annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. This year's pilgrimage is from **Monday 22nd – Friday 26th July 2024**.

Departing from London Gatwick Airport on Monday 22nd July. Accommodation will be close to the Sanctuary at the four-star Hotel La Solitude which enjoys panoramic views of the upper town and the Pyrenees. The hotel boasts en-suite rooms with tea and coffee-making facilities and a comfortable restaurant with a varied and plentiful menu. The itinerary which takes full advantage of all that Lourdes has to offer, which includes participation in all the usual Pilgrimage activities.

If you would like to know more about the Pilgrimage to Lourdes this year email:

lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or [click here](#) for a booking form.

Calling the young People of our Diocese: Why not join our Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes? You could help by assisting some of our pilgrims by pushing wheelchairs, offering a steadying arm and a warm smile! Youth pilgrims are an essential part of this Pilgrimage. Watch the promotional video by clicking [here](#) & scrolling to the bottom of the page to give you a flavour of what it is like to take part. If you would like to know more, contact: lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk - Funding potentially available to assist with costs.

Diocesan Vacancies

For current vacancies visit: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/people/careers/>

Further reading

Portsmouth Diocese news items:

<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/communications/news/enews/>

Catholic Bishops Conference of England & Wales news items:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/news-and-media/>

Caritas Portsmouth Newsletter:

<https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk/news-events/>

Best wishes to you all & Happy Corpus Christi (Body of Christ)!, Father Patrick.

Fr. 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



PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE BISHOP
 appointed to be read
 in all churches and chapels of the Diocese of Portsmouth
 on Sunday 26th May 2024, the Most Holy Trinity.

PRAY EVERY DAY

Dearest Brothers and Sisters,

Today is the awesome feastday of the Most Holy Trinity, when we praise, thank and adore the one true God in the Mystery of His Godhead, a Trinity of persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.¹ He is our Creator; He is our Redeemer; He is our Sanctifier, because He is love; He is mercy; He is relationship. And all that He has created, visible and invisible, is stamped with His Trinitarian image. The whole universe, from the macro- to the micro-, from distant galaxies down to the tiniest atom, is marked by relationship and interdependence. So too, you and me. We are made in the image of the Trinity. Like God, we are made for love.² Love alone makes us happy; we live to love, and love to be loved.³

I write this Pastoral Letter today to encourage you in the first of our Six Holy Habits: prayer, to spend five minutes or more each day in prayer, whenever and wherever you find best, ideally using the Gospel reading of the day.⁴ It's interesting how we live in an era when yoga, mindfulness and meditation is popular. This only demonstrates what Catholics have known for centuries: that for our psychological health and wellbeing, prayer is essential. Like hydration to the body, so is prayer to the soul. It is natural for humans to pray, yet we need to pray not just to achieve *karma* but to develop a personal relationship with God. Everyone can pray, Saint Francis de Sales wrote, "as long as they are capable of love. Only the devil is incapable of prayer," he added, "because he is incapable of love."⁵ Research shows that one reason many Catholics lapse or never practise their faith, is because they do not have - or do not even believe they can have - a real, life-changing friendship with God.⁶ Think of marriage or a friendship: how long would it last if we never spoke to each other, not even to ask 'How are you?' This is one reason we promote in the Diocese the *Called and Gifted Programme*.⁷ It helps people develop a closer friendship with God and a sense of being individually chosen by Jesus Christ to be His disciple.

I have a question for you: When you pray to God, to Which Person of the Blessed Trinity do you pray: the Father, the Son or the Holy Spirit? Though God is One, we have a different relationship with each Person. It's this that makes prayer an exciting adventure. True, distractions come along; we can feel dry; we might struggle to find the right words, which is why using the Gospels and a prayer book is helpful. But let us take solace in the Holy Spirit, Who "helps us in our weakness," expressing our pleas when we cannot seem to "pray properly."⁸ Remember too there is only one prayer: the prayer of Jesus offered to the Father by the Holy Spirit.⁹ Think of an old radio-set and how you had to tune it in, to get the station. This is why when we begin a time of prayer, we should ask the Holy Spirit to align us with Christ and to unite us with the Father. Another help is to visit the Blessed Sacrament, to keep a period of silent contemplation, to say the Rosary, to recite the Liturgy of the Hours and to take part in the greatest prayer of all, the Mass. I also love speaking to God in my own words at various points during the day. So, let me ask you: When do you normally pray? How do you get on? Have you tried different types of prayer? What about group prayer?

At this period in the Cathedral, I am celebrating many Confirmation Masses and in the homily, I often speak to the young about a neglected doctrine of our Catholic Faith, the 'indwelling of the Holy Spirit:' that through Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist, if we are in a state of grace, God Himself lives within us. As St. Paul put it: "The Spirit of God has made His home in you."¹⁰ This is what Jesus promised: "If anyone loves me he will keep my word and my Father will love him and we shall come to him and make our home in him."¹¹ It was this beautiful teaching that inspired St. Elizabeth of the Trinity to pray every day "Lord, make me your heaven, your beloved dwelling, the place of your rest."¹² Many people wrongly think of God as Up-There or a Light at the end of life's long tunnel. No, God is within. He is living my life within me, sharing my experiences, sensing my feelings, my all. This truth can bring great consolation. I can speak with God anytime. Wherever I go, I am a living tabernacle of His presence. This is why I should have a profound respect for other Christians, clergy and faithful, and indeed, a love for all people, whatever their beliefs, for in them, in a way known only to Him, the Holy Spirit is at work.¹³

"Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations" says Jesus in today's Gospel. "And know that I am with you always, yes, to the end of time".¹⁴ Our mission-plan, *You Will be My Witnesses*, is about deepening faith, becoming more missionary and prudently managing our resources.¹⁵ As I have said often, it is easy to change the structures, and structural change is part of the plan. But *You Will be My Witnesses* is really about the hardest change of all: changing ourselves and making our parish and school communities more outward-facing, more missionary, and more focused on service of the needy. The basis of all this is spiritual renewal, deepening our prayer-life, renewing our faith and putting the Person of Jesus Christ at the centre. This is why we need to start with ourselves. We need to acknowledge that we could be holier. We need to repent and change our habits, rather than looking over our shoulders at others: "If only they would do that..."¹⁶ My prayer-life, my spirituality, my friendship with God, within Christ's Body the Church, is paramount. So let me ask you: Could you find more time for prayer? Do you need help in prayer? Will you spend some time each day in prayer, using the Gospel of the day?

Thank you for listening. May the Blessed Mother, St. Edmund and your favourite saints obtain for you from the loving Heart of Jesus everything you desire.

In Corde Iesu
+Philip
Bishop of Portsmouth

¹ The Preface of the Mass puts it so well: *unus es Deus, unus es Dominus, non in unius singularitate personae sed in unius Trinitatae substantiae*: 'You are one God, one Lord not in the unity of a single person but in a Trinity of one substance' *The Roman Missal. English Translation according to the Third Typical Edition* (London, CTS: 2010) 535

² "We are made for goodness. We are made for love. We are made for friendliness. We are made for togetherness. We are made for all of the beautiful things that you and I know. We are made to tell the world that there are no outsiders. All are welcome: black, white, red, yellow, rich, poor, educated, not educated, male, female, gay, straight, all, all, all. We all belong to this family, this human family, God's family" Archbishop Desmond Tutu *Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation*: <https://www.facebook.com/DesmondTutuPF> (May 2024)

³ See Pope Benedict XVI 'Angelus. Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, St. Peter's Square, Sunday, 7 June 2009': www.vatican.va (May 2024)

⁴ One of the things I find very impressive in our Diocese of Portsmouth is meeting many members of our clergy and also many members of our laity who spend a substantial amount of time each day in prayer.

⁵ Cited by Sr. Susan Marie 'More on Prayer' (Mar 28, 2022): <https://visitationspirit.org> (May 2024)

⁶ See S. Weddell *Forming Intentional Disciples* (Huntingdon, Our Sunday Visitor: 2012) 15-47

⁷ For more on this, see <https://www.calledandgifted.org.uk> (May 2024)

⁸ As St. Paul says: "The Spirit too helps us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit Himself expresses our pleas in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts, knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God" (Rom 8: 26-27)

⁹ "There is no other way of Christian prayer than Christ. Whether our prayer is communal or personal, vocal or interior, it has access to the Father only if we pray "in the name" of Jesus. The sacred humanity of Jesus is therefore the way by which the Holy Spirit teaches us to pray to God our Father" (CCC 2664)

¹⁰ Rom 8: 9

¹¹ John 14: 23

¹² Elizabeth of the Trinity *I have Found God. Complete Works Volume I. General Introduction and Major Spiritual Writings* transl. Sr. Aletheia Kane OCD (Washington, ICS Publications: 1984) 183.

¹³ "Since all human beings are in fact called to one and the same destiny, which is divine, we must hold that the Holy Spirit offers to all the possibility of being associated, in a way known to God, with the Paschal Mystery" John Paul II *Dominum et Vivificantem* (London, CTS: 1986) n. 53.

¹⁴ Mt 28: 19-20

¹⁵ See www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/our-mission/planning/ten-year-plan/ (May 2024)

¹⁶ Pope Francis puts it well: "There is a real risk of *complacency*, the attitude that says: 'We have always done it this way' (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 33) and it is better not to change. That expression – "We have always done it that way" – is poison for the life of the Church. Those who think this way, perhaps without even realising it, make the mistake of not taking seriously the times in which we are living. The danger, in the end, is to apply old solutions to new problems. A patch of rough cloth that ends up creating a worse tear (cf. *Mt9:16*)." Pope Francis *Address Of His Holiness Pope Francis For The Opening Of The Synod (Saturday, 9 October 2022)*: www.vatican.va (May 2024)