

Dear All,

Mass arrangements – 29th & 30th July

Saturday 29 th July:	6.00pm at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 30 th July:	9.00am at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 30 th July:	11.00am at St. Oswald's Church

Masses during August

Please remember our last Parish News before the closure of the Parish office for most of August is on Friday 4th August. The office reopens on Tuesday 29th August. Whilst the weekend Masses continue as normal, please note the following:

Sunday 6th August - The Transfiguration of the Lord:

This major Feast is celebrated on the weekend of 5th/6th August. Readers are reminded that the Liturgy of this Feast replaces the 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time. The Readings are of Year A in the Lectionary: Daniel and St. Peter's Second letter and Psalm 96.

Tuesday 15th August - The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary:

This is a Holy Day of Obligation, when all Catholics are obliged to attend Mass unless there is a serious reason for not doing so. The Mass times that day will be as follows:

11:00 am - Saint Oswald's Church

7:00 pm - Saint Michael's Church

Thursday 24th August - St Bartholomew, Apostle:

The feast will be celebrated in Saint Michael's Church at 11:00 am.

IMPORTANT NOTE: During the August period I shall not be generally available, trying to catch up on a backlog of work and having had to rearrange a planned break because of the *Closer to Christ Campaign* which continues to the end of the month.

Closer to Christ Campaign thanks

Our Parish meetings on 20th and 25th of July had good attendances, similar in size to the other Parishes taking part. There were some very pertinent questions asked at both, in respect of transparency and accountability, and I am grateful for the straightforward, polite way in which they were addressed to myself and Matt Bloomer, who is organising the campaign for the diocese.

Things will now gather momentum, with most parishioners being made aware of the nature and reason of the Campaign and inviting them to be involved and to make pledges over the next three to five years if possible (which can be cancelled at any time should personal circumstances change).

It is important to note that contributions to the Offertory and Special Collections in the Parish should continue as normal. It is therefore requested, if individual parishioners/families consider it possible to make a pledge to the Campaign (after due consideration of personal circumstances

during these difficult financial times for all), that these should not be at a level which could result in a reduction to the usual Parish collections.

I have decided not to see any of the pledges made, these being personal to those making them in whatever form. However, I take this opportunity to thank those who have pledged so generously so far and to those who have assured me they will be pledging once they have taken some time for consideration of their financial situations.

March For Life UK

The most important freedom is the right to life from conception to natural death; a right which the Catholic Church sees as God-given. For a nation to be truly free, that right must be carefully upheld and promoted, else other rights pertaining to the human being are eroded for personal convenience or political expediency.

The March For Life UK is held on 2nd September 2023 in London at 1:30pm, ending in Parliament Square at 4:30pm. Full details on the posters in our churches.

Illegal Migration Bill

Bishop Terence Drainey, Chair of Caritas Social Action Network, has urged Catholics to make their voices heard on the Illegal Migration Bill that will now become law. Together with the Charity's CEO, Raymond Friel OBE, he made the following statement on Thursday, 18 July:

We at Caritas Social Action Network are deeply concerned that the Illegal Migration Bill will now become law after a series of votes in the House of Lords did not succeed in securing modern slavery protections or limits to the detention of children.

In our previous statement, in March 2023, we urged the Catholic community to speak out against this "cruel and unworkable Bill which is an affront to human dignity and a breach of our responsibilities to the global common good and our obligations under international law."

Earlier this year, the Department for International Affairs of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales published '[Love the Stranger](#)', a Catholic response to refugees and migrants.

CTAT Holiday Club

Remember to keep in your prayers the heavily subscribed CTAT Tadley Holiday Club, which begins on Monday 31st July and runs daily until the end of the week, and those from our Christian communities engaged in helping to bring Christ to local young people via the Club. This week's Silchester Club is in our Parish Prayers.

Invitation to join our Parish Evangelisation Groups

Some months ago, Bishop Philip encouraged everyone in our Diocese to develop 'Six Holy Habits'. We would like to draw your attention to the sixth one '**to join a small group for fellowship, prayer and formation, sharing with others what God is doing in our lives**'. Would you like the opportunity to do that?

If you are interested in joining a small group, there are already two 'Parish Evangelisation Cells' (PEC's) in our parish and you are warmly welcomed and encouraged to give one of the groups a try without making any commitment. Why not try a 'taster session'?

Please don't be put off by the title as they are very relaxed evenings, everyone is free to be themselves. It's an opportunity for us all to deepen our faith and grow in knowledge of God as we journey together. It's so much easier with the support of others, none of us have got it made, we are all learning from each other.

The PEC's have a break during August but will restart in September. The weekly meetings begin at 7.30pm and finish around 9pm followed by refreshments for those who wish to stay and chat.

For the Tuesday PEC, please contact: Gerry Penfold (0118 981 1247) or Mary Lee (0118 981 3221)

For the Wednesday PEC, please contact: Bill and Joy Reilly (0118 981 3784) or Geoff Poulter (01256 541 052)

Basingstoke Foodbank

Please help struggling families whose children will not be receiving school meals during the summer break. The Basingstoke Foodbank reports they are short of the following items:

- INSTANT MASHED POTATO
- TINNED MEAT (HOT, E.G. CHILLI, HOT DOGS, STEWING STEAK)
- CRISPS AND SAVOURY SNACKS
- TINNED FRUIT
- HOT AND COLD DESSERTS (NOT RICE PUDDING PLEASE)
- JAM AND OTHER SWEET SPREADS
- SWEETS, CHOCOLATE AND OTHER SWEET TREATS
- CUSTARD
- POWDERED MILK
- LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE
- LADIES AND GENTS DEODORANT
- HAIR CONDITIONER
- CLEANING SPRAYS AND SURFACE CLEANER
- TOILETS ROLLS
- WASHING UP LIQUID
- REUSABLE SHOPPING BAGS
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Please leave any items in the Basingstoke Foodbank boxes located in the porch area of St. Michaels' Church and they will be taken to the Center. Many thanks indeed for your donations.

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/>

Pilgrimages

Finally, it was a delight to receive a personal e-mail from Saint Peter's Pilgrimage organiser, Mo Lynn, during the week. Bill and Joy Riley of our Tadley community arranged a memorable pilgrimage to the Holy Land in October 2019 - which Mo's sister, Suu, directed splendidly - and which I was Chaplain to. Certainly, it was a spiritual uplift, which by God's grace, prepared me unknowingly for the coronavirus pandemic which hit the UK in March 2020.

Mo asked if I would be prepared to advertise their forthcoming pilgrimages as the company strives to recover from that pandemic. At the time of writing this Newsletter, there were still spaces available on all three. Please find details of these attached to the same e-mail as this edition of the Parish Newsletter.

Enjoy your weekend.

Father Patrick Tansey **Parish Priest**

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Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through his Church

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

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