

Dear All,

Again, my thanks to those parishioners who have expressed their personal concern to me in respect of my chest troubles over the last couple of weeks. I had an asthma review last Tuesday, followed by a consultation with my doctor, and this has resulted in new medication to prevent bad attacks. Although feeling much better, I am still very tired by the end of the day, especially struggling with the recent heat and humidity. So I shall be pacing myself over the next week to ensure the recovery is complete and apologise for any inconvenience to parishioners. **On Tuesday afternoon, 6th August, I shall not be available** as my doctor has arranged an appointment for a check on my right shoulder, on which I had a bad fall during the pandemic. This has been troubling me recently, even to the point of making it difficult to drive. Also, please keep Dan in your prayers, as he has not been well recently with a nasty viral infection and was unable to work last Tuesday. Please note that **the Office will be closed on Wednesday, 7th August**, since Dan will be working from home due to holiday childcare duty.

Holiday Club Delight!

On Thursday afternoon I engaged with our Churches Together Around Tadley Holiday Club, which has been running from Monday in Tadley Common Methodist Church and Saint Mary's Anglican Church. It finishes on Friday.

It was a delight to get away from the Office and Parish maintenance issues for three hours to experience the outstanding outreach of CTAT to our local young people under eleven years of age. Over 60 have attended this week, supported by over 30 volunteers from our churches, including several youth workers. It was good to see Hayley Bennett and her visiting cousin assisting and adult volunteers Mary Lee and Sue Tull from our Tadley church community. Also to meet the Rev. Karen West from the Silchester Anglican community and Pastor Pete and his wife from the Community Church alongside Sam, our local CTAT youth worker, and Hannah, youth worker from the Salvation Army. Not forgetting the many familiar faces and lay people from our fellow Christian churches.

The youngsters were clearly enjoying the sports, crafts and other activities available, and whilst myself and many of the adults were tired by the end of the afternoon, it was great to see the young people dancing and singing with gusto at the closing event for the day. The theme for the Thursday was Perseverance, linked to the missionary activities of St. Paul!

The main event on Friday will be the shipwreck of St. Paul off the coast of Malta. Although offered the role of the Roman Governor of the island, I had to say that I was not free to accept!

We owe all involved immense thanks for once again displaying that our local Christian outreach with The Holiday Club is bringing joy so many in our local community, Christian or not.

Christian Aid says "Thank you!"

Jo Mellor received an email from Christian Aid thanking the Parish for the £140.00 proceeds from the cake sale held at St. Michael's recently. Please see the poster on the St. Michael's notice board. Well done to all concerned!

This Weekend's Mass arrangements

Saturday 3rd August: 6.00pm at St. Michael's Church, Tadley

Sunday 4th August: 9.00am at St. Michael's Church, Tadley

Sunday 4th August: 11.00am at St. Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

****REMINDER: Tea/Coffee after Mass at St. Oswald's this Sunday****

“Mingle at St Michael’s”

The next “Mingle” session will take place on **Wednesday 7th August from 2pm - 4pm**, in the Parish Room at St. Michael’s. All very welcome! Come prepared for the usual array of delicious cakes and plenty of conversation and laughter!

UPDATE: Parish Walk &/or Tea & Cake - Sunday 18 August

Further to the item in last week’s Newsletter, regarding the Parish Walk organised by the Archangels Social Group, please find hereunder some more details:

- We will meet at Silchester village playground car park at 2pm .
- We will walk to St. Mary the Virgin Church down The Drove passing the old museum .
- It’s about 1and 1/4 miles so will take about 30 minutes , going past the old museum and down The Drove .
- This is a flat walk with no stiles.
- There will be tea and cake to buy there and we can sit and chat.
- Then we’ll retrace our steps back to the carpark the same way unless some want to go back a different way alongside the outer wall on a green narrower undulating path - which is about 1/4 mile longer route back .

NOTE: Non walkers are welcome to meet us at the church and can park there.,

Please let Pauline Penfold (07749 409920) or Mary Lee (07821 254100) know if you are interested so we know roughly how many to expect.

MESSAGE FROM FR JOHN LEE (Pastoral Area Co-ordinator) - THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2025 AND BEYOND:

Parishes have been notified of a change that Bishop Philip Egan is introducing to the celebration of Confirmation from 2025 onwards. The Sacrament of Confirmation in the Pastoral Areas will be celebrated once every two years. The venue for Confirmation will alternate between the Cathedral and a large church in the Pastoral Area. The next year Confirmation will be celebrated for Basingstoke Pastoral Area - Holy Ghost & St Bede's; St Joseph's; Sacred Heart, Hook & St Michael's, Tadley - will be 2026. The Sacrament of Confirmation that year will be celebrated at St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth. In light of this change, new Confirmation programmes won't begin in September as they normally would. Details of the next Pastoral Area Confirmation programmes will follow in due course.

Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC):

Petition cards on two-child Universal Credit limit

SPUC has made available Petition Cards in respect of the two-child benefit cap which has received publicity recently in Parliamentary debate. Many politicians and social commentators agree that it is a major contribution to child poverty in the UK.

SPUC believes that poverty is a major driver of abortion in our country, and the British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS) admits that that the two-child benefit cap is a significant factor in the decision of many women to consider abortion.

BPAS research in 2020 states:

“Among women who were aware of the two-child limit and likely to be affected (women in receipt of universal credit or tax credits), 57% said that the policy was important in their decision-making around whether or not to continue with a pregnancy”.

The Petition Cards call for an “end of the Government’s cruel two-child benefit cap, and will be sent to Sir Keir Starmer, Prime Minister.

NOTE: The cards will be available in our churches next week.

FINAL REMINDER - Basingstoke Foodbank Appeal

Stocks are running low on items that are needed for the families they'll be supporting through the hols.

Please kindly consider donating any of the following: *Feel free to pop items into our permanent crates in your church, or pop over to visit our warehouse at Tempus Business Units 63-64, Houndmills, Basingstoke, RG21 6XG weekdays.*

- TINNED FRUIT 🍓
- LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE 🍹
- DEODORANT 🚽
- MILK POWDER 🥛
- UHT MILK 🥛
- LOO ROLL 🧻
- HOT AND COLD DESSERTS 🍰
(E.G. JELLY, SPONGE PUDDING, ANGEL DELIGHT)
- SHAMPOO AND CONDITIONER 🧴

PARTICULARLY LOW STOCK LEVELS FOR:

- COFFEE ☕
- SAVOURY SPREADS 🍞 (MARMITE, PEANUT BUTTER, MEAT PASTE)
- SAVOURY SNACKS/CRISPS 🍟
- NAPPIES SIZE 5 AND ABOVE 🍼
- SQUASH 🍊

ADoRE spiritual mini-retreat – 31st August – BEARING THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

We surely all long to bear the fruit of the Spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. But we so often fail because we strive to be fruitful in our own strength, instead of recognising that we can only be fruitful "as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved..." (Colossians 3:12)

On August 31st there is an opportunity to participate in a free mini-retreat morning that will explore in more depth how we need to ask the Holy Spirit to transform our thinking in this area. This meeting on Zoom.

ADoRE spiritual mini-retreat 31st August 10.00-1.00 "BEAR THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT – our transformed lives will help other people." Including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring guest speaker Maria Heath. Please register for the Zoom meeting in advance at bit.ly/ADOREAUG2024 More information at www.altonrenewal.com

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,

Father Patrick.

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A registered charity number 1199568

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

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