

Dear all,

**Remembrance of times past**

In the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, November is a month in which the souls of the dead in Purgatory are kept in prayer. We are called to ask that, purified of those sins which remain with them at the time of death, they may speedily enter the Heavenly Jerusalem, to be Saints, praying for us when we die to join them.

The Catholic belief in Purgatory is not held by all Christians, and was rejected by many during the Protestant Reformation of the 16th Century. However, it is one of the oldest beliefs of the Church, following from the devotion of the ordinary members of Christ's Body and accepted by the teaching authority as a true devotion.

Essentially, it is a recognition of the fact that nothing imperfect can enter into the Presence of God and survive that awesome Majesty, yet acknowledging that our God is all merciful and wants us to be with him for eternity as brothers and sisters of Jesus, filled with the life of the Holy Spirit. In short, to share in the life of the Holy Trinity.

Most of us will probably leave this passing world with spiritual "baggage" - with faults and failings unresolved, with regrets and knowledge of the fact that we have not served God and our neighbours as Christ did so perfectly. Purgatory is that place of purification where we are made pure, about which the Church says little, but which the prayers of the Church on earth are heard on behalf of those desiring to be part of the Church in Heaven. That belief is magnificently proclaimed in *The Dream of Gerontius* by Saint John Henry Newman in the 19th Century, and made a musical gem by the Catholic composer Sir Edward Elgar.

In the United Kingdom, November is also a time of remembrance for our war dead, whatever their religious beliefs or no belief at all. As a Catholic community we pray for their souls, remembering that many of the freedoms we take for granted were preserved by them at great sacrifice. And we do not forget to pray for our enemies, as Christ prayed for those who crucified him – "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us".

On Remembrance Sunday, Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November, there will be only one Mass in the Parish at 10.00am. This will be the Mass for the Dead, which is allowed on this day, and which should be celebrated with appropriate dignity and solemnity. It will be celebrated in St. Michael's Church, and I shall be asking musicians from both communities to be involved. Hopefully we shall come together as one community for this special day. The Sunday evening Mass at 6.00pm will be celebrated as normal, but this will be the Mass of the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time. Both Masses fulfil the Sunday Obligation.

### **A busy week ahead**

I shall not be readily available most of next week. On Tuesday I shall be attending the Mass for Deceased Clergy at Portsmouth Cathedral, followed by the AGM of the John Henry King Fund, which supports sick and retired priests. On Wednesday the electricity meters in the Church and Presbytery are being replaced from 10.30am to 2.45pm, with some disruption. Most of Thursday afternoon I am at the Tadley Community Meeting, and on Friday there will be clearance of the drains of the Church and Presbytery. My thanks to Ben Rowden and Dan for their involvement in arranging this necessary work.

### **Weekend Mass arrangements:**

Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> November:	6.00pm at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> November:	9.00am at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> November:	11.00am at St. Oswald's Church

### **ATTENTION ST. OSWALD'S PARISHIONERS**

Despite the recent bad weather, the heating is working & continues to be monitored.

**Mass is therefore scheduled to go ahead as normal this Sunday.**

### **ADVANCE NOTICE: Next Weekend Mass arrangements:**

Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> November:	6.00pm at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> November:	10.00am at St. Michael's Church (Mass for the Dead)

### **REMINDER: Bamenda Sunday - 5<sup>th</sup> November**

As mentioned in last week's Newsletter, we shall be celebrating Bamenda Sunday in the Diocese on 5<sup>th</sup> November. The annual Bamenda Newsletter is attached.

A reminder that donations can be made via the parish second collection or online securely at:

<https://www.bamendaandportsmouth.com/donate.php> where gift aid and standing order forms can also be downloaded and bank details can be found for direct transfers. If you already have gift aided your donations to Bamenda, please complete and submit a new form to address the change of name to CDP Bamenda Commission. Thank you for your generosity!

### **Formation Day for Readers – St. Bede's - Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> November.**

Father John Lee, our Pastoral Area Coordinator, has provided details of this event as follows:

With the new translation of the Lectionary coming into effect in Advent 2024, this day will consist of reflecting on the theology of the Liturgy of the Word, the actual Lectionary itself, and practicalities of celebrating the Liturgy of the Word. Fr. Anthony Fyk, the Director of Liturgical Formation for the Diocese will give these reflections. The day will begin with Mass at 9.30am, will include a buffet lunch & will end by 4pm.

To book a place, please contact the Parish Office at St Bede's on 01256 465214 OR email:

[office@stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk](mailto:office@stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk)

I would like to encourage all current & prospective Readers in our Parish to attend this invaluable Formation Day. Please kindly let me know, via Dan, if you are able to attend. I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

### **Vocations Newsletter**

Please find the link to the November Vocation Newsletter below. PDF copy also attached.

<https://www.portsmouthvocations.org/so/a6Ok08lGN?languageTag=en>

### **Diocesan Vacancies**

Schools Estates Manager - Please note there is no closing date on this role.

Health and Safety Officer - Closing date of Friday 10 November 2023.

For these & other vacancies visit: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs/>

### **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/>

Enjoy your weekend,

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](mailto:tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through his Church**

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