

***** Parish Office now CLOSED until Tuesday 29th August**

***** Next edition of Parish News: Friday 1st September**

Dear All,

I shall not be generally available after the Sunday Masses this weekend until next weekend. Whilst I have engagements in the week, I am hoping to get some rest after struggling with a nasty bug over the last few days. Also, with the office now closed until the end of August, please remember that I may not be able to immediately respond to telephone messages. Thank you for your understanding.

Mass arrangements – 5th & 6th August

Saturday 5 th August:	6.00pm at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 6 th August:	9.00am at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 6 th August:	11.00am at St. Oswald's Church

Masses during August

Weekend Masses continue as normal throughout August. Please also note these Feast Days:

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.

Bella Colaco, RIP

Bella died on Thursday 3rd August, so we keep her soul in our prayers. Funeral arrangements will be announced when these are agreed. Her family would be grateful for your prayers at this difficult time.

The Parish Barbecue: Sunday 3rd September 2023

I am grateful to Ellen Goodall of Burghfield Common community for suggesting the idea of a Parish BBQ, enabling us all to gather as one Parish Family as the coronavirus situation has eased considerably.

The Parish BBQ will take place on Sunday 3rd September and there will be only one Parish Mass that day at 10:30am in Saint Oswald 's Church. The Mass will be a celebration for the families of our First Communicants this year. My thanks to Marion Evans of our Tadley community for organising this so that our Burghfield Common community is able to welcome them, the June First Communion Mass having been in Tadley. In the past, those engaged in our Parish Communion preparation developed the custom of those who had made their First Communion being seen in both our Churches, so it is good to re-establish this after the pandemic.

The Saturday evening Vigil Mass at 6:00pm on 2nd September in St. Michael's Church will be celebrated as normal, thereby provision being made for those unable to attend the Sunday Mass at St. Oswald's.

It will also be an opportunity for us to thank Kathryn Garden for her outstanding commitment to the Parish, developing the role of Part-time Administrator and continuing to give time to our Parish for some months when Administrator at Douai Abbey until the appointment of Dan. Also, there will be time to welcome Dan officially as our new Part-time Administrator.

So, I hope you will be putting the date in your diaries this weekend. We shall need a few parishioners from Tadley to assist Ellen and her group in Burghfield Common with the cooking on the afternoon, so I look forward to being contacted by Tadley parishioners about this as soon as possible by telephone, as the office is now closed for August.

Ellen writes:

All parishioners, family and friends are welcome. Cost £10 with children free.

For catering purposes, names and money must be given by 30th of August at the latest.

Any additional help would be appreciated.

Please contact Ellen via her email: fitz52@hotmail.co.uk

Closer to Christ Campaign

This weekend I have been asked to launch the Parish Phase of the Campaign at all Masses. Over the last few weeks, Matt Bloomer, employed by the Diocese to oversee the Campaign in our Diocesan Parishes, has been working with me to speak with individual groups at three sessions which has taken up some considerable time. As a result, almost 70% of our target of £60,000 has been achieved in pledges, which is outstanding and has overwhelmed me. Now the Campaign is being opened across the Parish generally but more about this in our weekend Masses.

Tadley Holiday Club thanks

I was able to spend some time at the Tadley Holiday Club on Thursday morning 3rd August, which I enjoyed greatly. Almost 60 young people were involved, with considerable support from Churches Together Around Tadley volunteers. The Club's mixture of group activities involving craft, sports and Bible input certainly seemed to engage the youngsters, who were full of energy. It was good to catch up with CTAT members, enjoy a cup of coffee and cake alongside groups in Tadley Common Methodist Church and finally visit Saint Mary's Church for a sports event. Our thanks to Stewart Madden, the leader of our local Salvation Army network also covering the Army work in Newbury, for organising the club and all who supported him. It would have been good to remain longer rather than having to return to the Parish Office!

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)

Called and Gifted - Save the Date!

Each of us is created uniquely by God, in our time and place, for a purpose. When we understand and allow ourselves to be aligned with that purpose we are energised and fulfilled; and God's love and provision is able to flow more freely exactly where it is needed, through our spiritual gifts (charisms). Called and Gifted is the discernment process that helps us unlock our story, understand our gifts (charisms) and discover our unique mission.

The Called and Gifted process has been run successfully in many Parishes in our Diocese and is being run in our Pastoral Area this Autumn, starting with a workshop on **Saturday 21 October at St Bede's, Basingstoke**. Are you ready to discover your spiritual gifts? If so, please save the date in your diary and look out for more details soon about how to register. In the meantime, for more information about the Called and Gifted process, please see <https://www.calledandgifted.org.uk/> or contact Gerry Penfold (gerry.penfold@yahoo.co.uk)

The Illegal Immigration Bill

Serious concern is being expressed in Christian and Human Rights organisations about this Bill, which was recently passed by Parliament in spite of considerable opposition within the House of Lords.

On 14th March, the Department for International Affairs of the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales published *Love the Stranger: A Catholic Response to Migrants and Refugees*, outlining important principles to be considered. Last week's Parish News published the statement of Bishop Terence Drainey of Caritas Social Action Network, urging Catholics to engage in the debate.

Of particular concern is the fact that, in spite of the intervention of former Prime Minister Theresa May, modern anti-slavery protections were not secured and there are also elements of the detention of children unresolved. Questions are being raised about a breach of the UN Refugee Convention, to which the United Kingdom is a signatory since its establishment. Also, about the lack of safe routes being established for those legitimately seeking asylum, to say nothing of the need to overhaul an asylum request system which is not working effectively, leaving a growing backlog of cases and increasing public expenditure. One should never forget that the dignity of the human person is central to any response concerning migrants and refugees, whilst respecting the right of a state to control its borders. For further information, or if you wish to write a letter to your MP, which is more effective than a brief e-mail not outlining in some detail your concerns, please use the following link: <https://www.csan.org.uk/news/csan-statement-on-the-illegal-migration-bill/>

Divine Mercy Retreat

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Divine Mercy Retreat at St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth, on Saturday 19th August 2023 from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm

The event will include teachings on the Message of Divine Mercy, Mass, Hour of Mercy with Stations of the Cross, Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus.
Call Millie on 020 8998 0925 for more information.

ADoRE "mini retreat" - *RELEASE THE OPPRESSED – the charism of Deliverance in Evangelisation*

An increasing number of people today are becoming afflicted by evil spirits, thanks to the decline of Christian beliefs and morality, and the growth of interest in New Age, the occult, paganism, etc. Such people may be blocked from hearing and receiving the Good News of the Gospel message until they are freed from the influence of the evil spirits.

On August 26th there is an opportunity to participate in a free mini-retreat morning on Zoom that will explain more about praying for deliverance and its role in helping us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Guest speaker is the dynamic Catholic evangelist Ros Powell, a regular speaker at major Catholic charismatic conferences, who has a powerful ministry of prophecy, healing and deliverance. Please register for the Zoom meeting in advance at: bit.ly/ADOREAUG2023

Season of Creation

The Caritas *Season of Creation* runs from 1st September to 4th October, the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi. The theme for the season is 'Let Justice and Peace Flow' from the Prophet Amos (5:24)

The need for action on climate change is ever more urgent. This year we are seeing extreme heat levels in parts of Europe and the US, fires raging across multiple countries and the world average temperature records have been broken multiple times last month. The Season of Creation offers a time for us to contemplate our need to change and how we might do this in our parishes and schools. For ideas, resources & events: <https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk/season-of-creation/>

Diocese job vacancy

Finance & Property Officer at Jersey Parish – Closing Date: 25th August 2023

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

Enjoy your weekend & for those going away on holiday, safe & enjoyable travels.

Father Patrick Tansey **Parish Priest**

St Michael's Church, Tadley

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Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through his Church

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