

Dear All

St Oswald's Church on Easter Sunday

St Oswald's Church was delightfully prepared for the Celebration of The Resurrection, following closure during most of Lent because of the flooding of the boiler area. I particularly liked the decoration of the Easter Candle and it was obvious that people had put in a lot of effort to thank the Lord for being able to reopen on Palm Sunday. Thank you to them all.
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New Part-Time Administrator

Following a successful interview on Thursday 27th April in the Parish Room, Daniel Wisniewski has accepted the post of part-time Administrator for Tadley and Burghfield Common, effective from 24th May. He replaces Kathryn Garden, who deserves our thanks for continuing to work reduced hours, alongside being full-time Administrator at Douai Abbey, to ensure that important parish and diocesan matters have been covered for several months. She has also developed the role of part-time Secretary into that of an Administrator as we develop the 10 Year Plan and its demands, for which the Diocese is very grateful. She will be greatly missed.

Daniel is married with two children and worships at St Bernadette's Church, Pangbourne, which comes under the Douai Abbey Parish. It will take him some time to become embedded in the new role, and during May, and for some time after, the Parish Office will not be as accessible as in the past, as the hours of work will be reduced in line with a pay increase, advocated by the Diocese. Kathryn and I shall be clearing a big backlog of work. Office hours will probably have to be adapted, but more of all this next month. My thanks to Karena Fulford, Head of Human Resources, who travelled to Tadley from Portsmouth to lead the interview, to Barry Rockhill of Burghfield Common and a member of our Finance Committee, and to Kathryn, who joined me in detailing the changing aspects of the new post. I look forward to working with Daniel and I am certain that you will make him welcome.

Synod: Laymen and Laywomen eligible to vote at General Assembly

The October 2023 General Assembly in the Vatican on the theme of synodality is set to change, since a sizeable group of "non-bishop" members will also take part. These 70 individuals will include lay people appointed directly by the Pope, 50 percent of whom shall be women and among whom shall be included several young people. All 70 will enjoy voting rights at the Assembly, which will consist of around 370 voting members.

This information has been circulated by our Bishops' Conference of England and Wales as the Synod Process continues to gather momentum. The Vatican has made it clear that "this is not a revolution but an important change" introduced by Pope Francis recently. The title 'Synod of Bishops' remains in place, and no current regulations have been repealed, because the 2018 Constitution for the Synod already provided for the presence of "non-bishops". These "non-bishops" will represent "various groupings of the faithful of the people of God (priests, consecrated women, deacons, lay faithful)".

It is obvious that Pope Francis wants the Synodal Process to include, as far as possible, all facets of the Universal Church, including the right to vote on issues which concern them as well as the Bishops themselves. As was commented at the conclusion of the presentation of changes "the Church will be more complete, and it will be a joy to have her represented in her entirety in Rome" at the October meeting. I suggest that this very much fits in to my Homily for Good Shepherd Sunday in respect of the 10 Year Mission Plan for our Diocese, during which I spoke of the need for us to reclaim the

importance of Baptism as the centre of all vocations and ministries in the Church. This recognises the call to all the baptised to be involved in the development of our Christian witness, whether Bishop, Priest, Permanent Deacon, Religious or Laity, working together as one body in Christ. In truth, the Church is more complete in its entirety when all members are participating as the Gathered Church under Christ, recognising the particular call of Our Saviour for each one of us to spread the Good News in the way He wills. As Bishop Philip says, "We are not Lone Rangers"!

Not Available and Office Closed

I shall not be available on Monday 8th May (Bank Holiday), Tuesday 9th May (day off this coming week) and Wednesday 10th May (Safeguarding Training in Basingstoke). The Office is closed on Monday and Tuesday, reopening from 2:30pm to 5:00pm on Wednesday.

CTAT Ecumenical Celebration for The Coronation

Remember that Churches Together Around Tadley has its Service at 11:00am on Sunday 7th May before the start of the Coronation Party outside St Paul's Church on The Green at 12 noon. This will be our opportunity as local Christians to pray for King Charles III and for our local community in Tadley. As we celebrate with King Charles, may we recognise the face of Christ in those we meet and pray that they may see the King of Kings - the living Jesus - in us.

Help Needed For Burghfield May Fayre

Together in Mission/Churches Together are organising the refreshment at the Burghfield May Fayre on 21st May and they need your help. Can you help on the actual day or bake a cake? St Mary's, Burghfield have kindly put together some sign-up sheets for us. On the day they do need around six volunteers per hour, so if anyone can help that would be lovely. It should be a really great day. The sign-up sheets are available in St Oswald's Church, so please sign as soon as possible, remembering that there is no Mass there this weekend. Also, read carefully the sheet on cakes, in respect of the ingredients used.

St Michael's Gardening Club

Just to remind those of you who would like to join us, we will be getting together on Saturday 13th May from 10am to 2pm, so any time that you can help would be really appreciated. All welcome!

Children's Liturgy

There will be Children's Liturgy at 9:00am Mass next Sunday, 14th May, at St Michael's Church.

The Solemnity of The Ascension of The Lord

This is celebrated on Thursday 18th May and is a Holy Day of Obligation, on which Catholics are obliged to attend Mass unless there is a serious reason for not doing so. There will be an 11:00am Mass at St Oswald's Church and a 7:00pm Mass at St Michael's Church that day.

Obligatory Collection for Catholic Communications Network - This is taken at all Masses on the weekend of 20th/21st May.

Vacancy - Cemetery Manager

The Administrators of the Secular Clergy Common Fund are looking to appoint a Cemetery Manager to assist them in the operational management of its two cemeteries, St Mary's Cemetery NW10 5NU and St Patrick's Cemetery E11 4HL. The job is full-time, permanent. Salary: £45,000 - £50,000 depending on experience. For an informal discussion contact Angela Rowe sesecretary@secularclergy.org.uk or call 07968 310 643.

To apply please send your CV and personal statement via email to secretary@secularclergy.org.uk<<mailto:secretary@secularclergy.org.uk>>.

As some parishioners know, I am the Portsmouth Administrator of this Fund, which assists sick and retired priests of the Dioceses of Arundel and Brighton, Brentwood, Portsmouth, Southwark and Westminster. Should any parishioner be interested in the vacancy, I am more than happy for them to speak with me. The Fund is independent of the dioceses it covers and its roots date back to the 18th century, when priests had to support themselves.

Finally, please remember that there is no Mass at St Oswald's Church this Sunday, as indicated by the notice I have put on the door. Looking forward to seeing many of you at the CTAT Celebration and if you are attending many of the local ones in our Parish Area best wishes for an enjoyable celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III.

Fr Patrick