

Mass arrangements:

Saturday 7 th October:	6.00pm at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 8 th October:	9.00am at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 8 th October:	11.00am at St. Oswald's Church

Dear All,

This weekend we keep Prisoners' Sunday, especially remembering the work of PACT (Prison Advice and Care Trust), which is an important Social Justice outreach of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. It celebrates 125 years of support for prisoners and their often innocent families, seeking to reintegrate offenders back into their communities and to bring Christ's compassion into our creaking and often failing prison system.

Last year the organisation answered 40,000 calls on the Prisoner Families Helpline, an increase of 13,700 from the previous year. Its welfare fund awarded 289 grants, which supported 120 children of those in prison, and its staff and volunteers supported over 100,000 prison visits. We often forget that families may have to travel considerable distances to see loved ones in prisons, often experiencing concern and anxiety over children visiting with them.

I shall be saying more on this issue of Christian engagement this weekend, and should you wish to support PACT there are Gift Aid envelopes alongside the CAFOD ones in our churches.

Closer to Christ Campaign

Matt Bloomer has informed me that £90,543 has been pledged over the next three to five years, surpassing well the parish goal of £60,000. My thanks to each and every one of you for this magnificent response. Some families are still considering a pledge, and may commit if they decide to do so in the next couple of weeks. However, the Campaign is now officially closed in our Parish.

We are guaranteed to receive a third of the initial £60,000 for the Parish, plus 50% of all raised after that. So thank you for this support of our Parish. To all who have added prayers for the success of the campaign, please continue to pray for it throughout our Diocese.

Anne Palmer RIP

Anne's Funeral Service has been transferred to Saint Francis de Sales Church, Wash Common, Newbury, to facilitate transmission overseas, and the date changed to 17th October. The time remains as 11.00am. Please contact Howe and Sons on 01635 298303 for further details. I will not be able to attend because of another engagement. Please keep Anne's soul in your prayers, for which the family have thanked me, and also her good husband Bill at this difficult time.

CAFOD Harvest Family Fast Day & Laudate Deum

The voluntary collection for CAFOD, the result of our financial and spiritual sacrifices on Friday 6th October, is taken at all Masses this weekend.

CAFOD are also hosting an [online event](#) on Thursday 12 October at 7.00pm to reflect on *Laudate Deum*, Pope Francis' new Exhortation on the environment, a [follow up](#) to his encyclical, *Laudato Si'*. Click on the inserted links for more details. https://www.bigmarker.com/cafod/Laudato-Si?utm_bmc_source=Vol

<https://cafod.org.uk/pray/laudate-deum-explained>

Accommodation for visiting Mill Hill Father

On the weekend of 28th/29th October there will be a special Missio appeal in the Parish, promoting the work of this important missionary organisation of the Catholic Church. The Mill Hill priest who will speak has kindly offered to cover the weekend Masses, enabling me to take a break which I had originally planned in August, but which had to be postponed because of the Closer to Christ Campaign. He will need overnight accommodation, as the guest room in the Presbytery is still being used by me due to essential repairs to the main bedroom being delayed.

Please let the Office know as soon as possible if you are able to help with this and, if necessary, lunch be provided by some parishioner after the 11.00am St. Oswald's Mass that same weekend. If there is no possibility of the above being provided by 20th October, I will look to hotel accommodation being arranged.

CTAT volunteers needed! – Reminder

As mentioned in last week's brief Parish Update:

BLAZING LIGHTS PARTY at The Point in Tadley – Friday 27 Oct – 5.00 - 6.30 pm

Calling children in Y3-Y6: The blazing lights party is a positive alternative to a halloween party, so no halloween costumes please, but wear something as bright as possible instead! There will be dancing, crafts, games and lots of fun. There will be flashing lights, so please consider whether this event is suitable for your child, before signing them up. For further details and to register, please go to <https://ctat.churchsuite.com/events/bs1fhgaj> The party is free, but any donations to support youth work in Tadley would be welcome and can be made online from the same CTAT page.

Calling adult volunteers: We need plenty of adult volunteers who have current DBS-checks to work with children to help supervise at the party. Please contact Sam Dunn at samd@bccnet.org.uk to volunteer.

CHRISTMAS ANGELS 2023

Many parishioners helped with the last CTAT Christmas Angel campaign a few years ago in terms of knitting or crocheting angels, assembling them with tags and helping them "fly" around Tadley and Silchester to be discovered on December mornings. This year, Tracey Bennett is co-ordinating the Tadley flights and Jan Hughes the Silchester flights.

In Tadley, a display of the Christmas Angels is planned for the weekend of 9/10 December at Tadley Common Methodist Church, where refreshments will also be served. The angels will be blessed during their Sunday 10.30 am Service on 10 December. Much help will be needed to set up the display on Thursday 7th and Friday 8th, steward the weekend event, bake cakes, serve refreshments, break down the display on Monday 11th, and help fly the angels at 6 am on Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th. Arrangements for Silchester to follow.

Can you help please? Please contact Mary Lee in the first instance on 0118 981 3221 if you can help with any of the following:

Making the Christmas Angels: if you would like to get involved in making the Christmas Angels this year, which can be as simple as contributing the small, knitted squares to be assembled by someone else, please contact Mary.

Displaying the Christmas Angels: angels will be displayed on Christmas trees in Tadley Common Methodist Church – help is needed with the set-up of the trees and decorating them with the angels on Thursday 7 and Friday 8 December.

Baking cakes: volunteering to bake cakes for refreshments over the weekend of 9/10 December, including description of cake and ingredients for allergens.

Stewarding or Serving Refreshments: either helping by stewarding the display in the church or by serving refreshments from their kitchen - could you help for a morning or afternoon on Saturday 9 or Sunday 10 December please?

Breaking Down the Display: help needed please to take down the angels and pack away the trees on Monday 11 December.

Flights of Angels: help needed please to fly the angels in designated areas around Tadley at 6.00 am on Tuesday 12 and/or Wednesday 13 December. Head torches helpful to keep your hands free to attach the angels. Breakfast will be provided afterwards!

First Holy Communion 2024 – Applications invited

I would like to know by Sunday the 29th of October the names of all those who wish to receive their First Holy Communion in 2024.

Candidates must be aged 8 years by the end of August (at least year 3 of school) and be regular Church attendees. Please provide the following details to me in a sealed envelope:

NAME OF CANDIDATE.

ADDRESS.

TELEPHONE NUMBER.

EMAIL ADDRESS.

DATE OF BIRTH.

NAMES OF PARENTS.

Christians Against Poverty

Christians Against Poverty have been invited to provide Money Coaching Sessions, on how to manage money, at St Bede's Church, Basingstoke. This is not just for those who are struggling, but for anyone who would like to know how to make their money go further.

The sessions are free and each session will start with a meal. They will be held on Thursday evenings starting on the 2nd November with follow up sessions on the 9th, 16th and 23rd. Spaces are limited, so, we are encouraging people to book their place early. Places can be booked at <https://capuk.org/get-help/get-to-grips-with-your-finances?step-two=show&find=money-course&postcode=RG24> or Tel: 07883 059529

"Called & Gifted" Programme - Reminder

The Called and Gifted discernment process starts in our Pastoral Area with a Live Teaching Day on Saturday 21st October at St Bede's Church from 9.00am. To register please email: calledandgifted@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or contact our Parish representatives, Roy Singh or Gerry Penfold.

Catholic Youth Ministry Internships

Castlerigg Manor (The Lancaster Diocese Youth Service) are looking for young Catholics aged 18-25 to join their internship programme. The scheme lasts for one or two years and gives participants wide ranging experience, skills, training, and qualifications as well as the opportunity to work with a fantastic team based in the Lake District. For more information contact: director@castleriggmanor.co.uk

Karena Fulford

Some of you may be aware that Karena Fulford, the Diocesan Head of People & Administrative Support, will be leaving to take up a new post outside of the Diocese. I have been very grateful for Karena's support with various issues during her three years of excellent service and will be sorry to see her leave. The vacant position is therefore now advertised, with a closing date of October 11th.

For this & 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/>

I hope you will be able to enjoy the return of Summer this weekend! This edition of the Parish News is for two weeks. If necessary, Dan will send out a brief Update next Friday.

Father Patrick.

Father Patrick Tansey

Parish Priest

St Michael's Church, Tadley

St Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

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Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through his Church

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

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