

9th July 2023 (14th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A) PARISH NEWS

Dear All,

Mass arrangements – 8th & 9nd July

Saturday 8th July: 6.00pm at St. Michael's Church

Sunday 9th July: 9.00am at St. Michael's Church

Sunday 9th July: 11.00am at St. Oswald's Church

NOTE: The *Stella Maris* Sea Sunday collection will be taken as a 2nd collection this weekend.

Clergy Conference to address the Ten Year Diocesan Plan

As you will read in the Diocesan e-news this week, this Conference took place on Wednesday 28th June for the Deacons & Priests of the Diocese, following a meeting on the previous day of Deans & Pastoral Area Co-ordinators, to address progress on our Ten Year Mission Plan. There follows my resume of the points discussed, as I know parishioners appreciate being updated:

At the beginning of the Conference, Bishop Philip addressed the assembly, stating that following the two meetings, there will be a final draft of *You Will be My Witnesses*. This should have been completed in early 2023, but the timescale for collating so many responses to the Consultation that took place in 2022 was not achievable. Hopefully, the final draft will appear soon, following more clergy responses from the two meetings last week.

He stressed that the Plan must be centred by clergy & laity in Christ, meaning prayerful discernment of God's will & accepting change, which may involve anxiety, insecurity & cynicism from some. It must not be seen as a purely structural re-organisation, but a Christ-centred process ensuring that in ten years, there will be a continuing presence of the Catholic Church in our Diocese. This will necessitate a change in cultural outlook – a new idea of Church, adapted to bringing people to Christ by a greater understanding of Mission & Outreach.

Bishop Philip was quite straightforward in stating that if we do not grasp this *Kairos* time of grace & opportunity, it is possible there will be no real local Church in our Diocese by 2030. It might be said that we need to see ourselves in a new Apostolic Age, allowing ourselves to be led by the Holy Spirit as did the Early Church. And this is not particular to us alone, but sadly to many parts of Europe also.

It was a good Conference, participants expressing their & parishioners' anxieties, but also recognising the need to grasp the moment in proper planning & trust in God.

Mgr. Jeremy Garratt & Father James Lewis spoke of how the Havant Pastoral Area is moving forwards rapidly to establish one Parish from Havant, Hayling Island, Horndean, Leigh Park, Waterlooville & The Isle of Wight.

This has been made possible by a Christ-centred approach, whereby clergy & parishioners committed to the process have worked closely together, ensuring that the entire Pastoral Area is aware of developments & accepting that there is a need to avoid personal preferences dominating. Essential in any Pastoral Area is the involvement of lay people with a committed Christian Faith & the skills to progress the process alongside clergy, joined as one body.

Canon Dominic Golding addressed the "Challenges of a Multi-Church Parish"; of bringing together several communities with their own churches to become one island Catholic community. This involved parishioners getting to know one another & harmonising administration by working

together. Also, the necessity of parishioners realising that with a now reduced number of Priests on the island, Mass times needed to accord with the availability of Priests, rather than personal preferences in respect of times & particular church buildings being used.

Having served on the “other” Channel Island of Guernsey for three years, it strikes me that some of the considerations are applicable to smaller Pastoral Areas on the mainland, in respect of becoming single Parishes.

One of the concerns I have expressed to the Diocese is the need for the care of active Priests as the Plan develops, so that they are not burnt-out & are properly cared for as we will have fewer Priests in the coming years. This problem, or challenge, is accelerating.

Father Benjamin Theobald’s presentation “Canon Law & the way forward for Parishes” was first class, outlining the major challenge of 87 present Parishes becoming 24 in the next few years. This will involve difficult & painful, but necessary, decisions in respect of buildings, Mass times & deployment of clergy. There has to be reasonable consultation, so that several Parishes become one, with one Parish Priest, the Bishop making a final decree for each as he sees fit. In some places Priests may have to live together as one community, others may require a different approach. Questions arise over the acceptance of Mass Stipends, clergy days off & holidays, in a single Parish area, with the need for parishioners to adapt to being members of that one Parish area, rather than individual groupings.

The final presentation was by Elisa Alberto, an engaging Italian mother of two, on “Change Management & Leadership”, introduced by Professor Philip Booth of Saint Mary’s University, Twickenham. Both are Catholics concerned about the integration of good management principles with a Spiritual Vision. What is the nature of proper leadership in the development of the Plan, allied with a clear, Spiritual Vision? An area for both clergy & laity to pray & reflect upon. Both are extremely important for all involved. As the Bishop said, we are all in the same boat together! St. Mary’s University is willing to help in this area of Change & Leadership in the coming years as necessary, so we await further developments.

Condolences to Father Paul Leonard

Father Paul, the Priest in charge of Saint Joseph’s Church, Basingstoke, sadly lost his father at the beginning of this week. He had been caring for him, as well as continuing, as far as possible, his priestly duties. His mother died not so long ago. Our prayers are with him at this difficult time & we remember in prayer the souls of his parents, especially his father.

Imelda Lloyd RIP

We also keep in our prayers the soul of Imelda Lloyd from Burghfield Common who died in June. Her Funeral Mass will be at Saint Oswald’s Church on Tuesday 18th July at 11.30am.

Tadley Remembers

Our Churches Together Around Tadley time of Remembrance & Prayer for those who have died locally takes place at 3.00pm this Sunday 9th July, at Tadley Cemetery. I look forward to some parishioners from our Saint Michael’s Church community joining me & our other local clergy & Councillor Avril Burdett, Leader of Tadley Town Council, that afternoon. Please pray for fine weather.

Closer to Christ Campaign

I am not available next Tuesday 11th July, because of a day of Closer to Christ meetings,
Please note the following meetings to help parishioners engage with the Campaign & know the aims:

1. Thursday, 20th July at 6.00pm – St. Michael's Church
2. Tuesday, 25th July at 11.00am – St. Michael's Church

There are sign-up sheets in both our churches this weekend, as was the case last weekend. Thank you again to those who have contacted the Parish Office to inform of their availability for either meeting. This is most helpful, as the intention of the organisers is to contact as many people as possible over the next few weeks so that all are aware of the aims of the campaign.

Mass Times – 25th July

Tuesday 25th July is the Feast of Saint James the Apostle & there will be Mass in Saint Michael's Church at 10.00am that day, before the 11.00am meeting for the Closer to Christ Campaign.

Francis Brookes Organ Recital

The Recital performed by Francis, in remembrance of his recently deceased father & to raise funds for Saint Michael's Hospice, on 2nd June was first class.

Saint Michael's Church hosted almost fifty people for the event on a bright Friday evening, with some fine organ playing by Francis on the recent modern organ gifted to us by the Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Reading, through his good offices. Particularly enjoyable were pieces by J.S. Bach, the famous Lutheran composer, together with others by H. Purcell & E. Elgar, who were both Catholics.

The outstanding sum of £476.50 was raised for our North Hampshire Hospice, which does outstanding work in caring for the dying, enabling people to die with dignity, with family members alongside them. Thanks to Francis & all who supported the Recital!

Gardening Group TOMORROW 8th July!

Parishioners are welcome to join the Gardening Group who will be working at St. Michael's Church this Saturday 8th July from 10am till 2pm.

Diocesan Job Vacancies

ESTATES MANAGER/BUILDING SURVEYOR – SOUTH CENTRAL

Hybrid working with office based in Portsmouth

Full time: 35 hours per week, usually worked over 5 days

Closing date for applications: Friday 21st July 2023

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

NOTE: FUTURE EVENTS

The following three events are scheduled at various points in the future, however we have been asked to advertise them early since it is expected that they will get booked up quickly:

ADorE mini retreat 22nd July – The Importance of Healing in Sharing the Good News

There is an opportunity to participate in a free mini-retreat morning on Zoom that will show us how healing is a powerful element in helping us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Details:

ADORE spiritual mini-retreat **22nd July** 10.00-1.00 "SIGHT FOR THE BLIND - The Charisms of healing and miracles in Evangelisation." Including Mass, Adoration, Praise and inspiring guest speaker **Marcin Stetner** of Cor et Lumen Christi community. Please register for the Zoom meeting in advance at bit.ly/ADOREJUL2023

CAFOD

CAFOD Portsmouth is hosting two meetings in September so that volunteers and supporters can find out more about their work. Details hereunder. Please book early to avoid disappointment by emailing Jo Lewry at: portsmouth@cafod.org.uk

Saturday 9th September at St Bedes Church hall ,Popley Way, Basingstoke RG24 9DX from 10:30 am to 12:30pm where Philippe Mougine CAFOD's Emergency Response Leader will talk about our work in Pakistan after last years floods.

Saturday 16th September at St Michael & All Angels Church hall , Dunsbury Way , Leigh Park PO9 5BD from 10:30am to 1:30pm (lunch is provided) where Sara Moreno from CAFOD's Partner SIEMBRA from Colombia will speak about her work with human and environmental rights defenders.

"Engaging the Disengaged"- How to accompany the non-religious person in daily life

The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth in partnership with the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales is delighted to release details of an online seminar on Tuesday 21st November exploring strategies for all Catholics to fulfil their mission to bring people closer to Christ. The keynote address will be given by internationally acclaimed and bestselling author Sherry Anne Weddell from the Catherine of Siena Institute. Sherry has developed numerous unique formation resources that are used around the world and trained and helps lead an international team who have worked directly with over 130,000 lay, religious, and ordained Catholics in hundreds of parishes in 150 (arch)dioceses on 5 continents. Her book *Forming Intentional Disciples* has sold in excess of 150,000 copies.

Demand for the event is expected to be high and early booking is advised to reserve a place. Tickets are priced at £10 per person and can be purchased by scanning the QR with your Smart Phone or by clicking on the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/engaging-the-disengaged-how-to-accompany-non-religious-persons-tickets-646139539757>

Please read carefully the outline of our Clergy Conference & if you have any queries about it, please let me know. Hoping that you find it helpful, if not a little challenging!

Happy reading & all best wishes for a good weekend.

Father Patrick Tansey

Parish Priest

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Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through his Church

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

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