

Dear All,

Remembrance of times past

Last Monday evening, I watched a documentary on the evacuation of Dunkirk by British and French troops in June 1940, following the remarkable German armoured advance to the English Channel after the invasion of France. It was narrated by the late Richard Holmes, a fine military historian. As the programme opened, I realised that the person with him was somebody I recognised. It took a few stunned seconds to realise it was the late Christopher Dreyer, whom I had anointed as he was dying and whose Funeral Service I conducted in my previous Parish of Buckland and Faringdon.

Commander Dreyer, DSO, DSC and Bar, as a young Lieutenant commanded Motor Torpedo Boat 102, making several journeys to Dunkirk. His last visit was to direct the recovery of French troops who had fought with the British and wished to continue the fight from England. It was moving to hear him expressing his sadness as he watched a long line of French soldiers awaiting rescue, knowing that this was the final rescue attempt, and they would be left behind. He was awarded the DSC (Distinguished Service Cross) for his efforts under German aircraft attacks.

We have just remembered the 80th Anniversary of D-Day - Deliverance Day – on the 6th June. The day on which British troops returned to France alongside the Americans and Canadians and the often forgotten Free French troops.

Alongside the British forces landing on Sword Beach that morning were Free French Commandos, tasked with seizing the important port of Ouistreham. This was accomplished as the day ended.

The event is finely dramatised in the excellent film “The Longest Day”, based on the late Cornelius Ryan's seminal history of D-Day, from which the film takes its name.

Sadly, many French soldiers returned to their homeland that morning to die at Ouistreham, on this day of deliverance for occupied France. Such is the heartrending cost of war.

This Weekend's Mass arrangements

Saturday 8th June: 6.00pm at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 9th June: 9.00am at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 9th June: 11.00am at St. Oswald's Church – **Followed by Coffee/Tea Social**

First Communion preparation

- Tuesday 11th June, 4.30pm: Next preparation meeting for the candidates - Parish Room at St. Michael's.
- Saturday 15th June, 9.45am: Reconciliation & First Communion practice - St. Michael's Church.

REMINDER!!!

First Communion Mass takes place at St. Michael's Church at **10.00am on Sunday 16th June.**

There will be **NO MASS at St. Oswald's Church that Sunday** to facilitate an unhurried celebration.

Please note Father Patick will not be available on Saturday morning, 15th June, due to the Reconciliation for our candidates & First Communion practice at St. Michael's Church.

Baptisms

Please note a month's notice is required for Baptisms. There will be no Baptisms until the end of July.

Advance Notice

Mandatory Second Collection on the weekend of 16th June will be for: **Day for Life**

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Day for Life – Sunday 16th June

The Church teaches that life is to be nurtured from conception to natural death. In England and Wales, *Day for Life* is celebrated on the third Sunday of June each year. This year it falls on 16 June. The theme is *The Lord is my Shepherd – Compassion and Hope at the End of Life*.

A debate on end-of-life issues has been in the headlines in recent months with calls for assisted suicide being expressed, especially by celebrities, a view that opposes the Catholic view that life is a gift and that we are called to care for others at the end of their lives.

Day for Life is marked on the same day by the three Bishops' Conferences of England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland.

For further information & resources, click: [Day For Life 2024 – Resources](#)

Parish Summit Meeting

This takes place at Harrogate on 12th – 14th June, and Ben Rowden will attend as our Parish representative. As this is a major Meeting, involving national and international speakers, there may be issues discussed affecting aspects of our Diocesan Mission Plan.

Some time ago I asked Ben to consider the possibility of a feedback meeting for Tadley and Burghfield Common, and we agreed on 4th July (decided shortly before the General Election was announced & also because I am away from mid-June to early July), in the Parish Room of St. Michael's from 7.00pm - 8.30pm.

In accordance with Diocesan Insurance Guidelines, 15 “first come, first served invitations” are offered to both our communities. There is also to be attendance from our Pastoral Area Parishes. Please let Dan in our Parish Office know if you wish to be present ASAP. The list will be closed once full. Thank you.

REMINDER!!!: ‘Mingle at St Michael’s’

Many thanks to the Archangels Social Group for starting this new initiative. It provides an opportunity for parishioners and others in the community to meet up midweek on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month for a chat and a piece of cake. The first “Mingle” session took place this week, on Wednesday afternoon, where there was a delicious array of cakes and plenty of conversation and laughter! Why not pop in next time on **Wednesday 19 June** from 2pm - 4pm? Location is the Parish Room at St. Michael's. All very welcome!

REMINDER!!!: Tadley Fete on The Green - Saturday 8 June, 12 noon to 4 pm

Many thanks from the Archangels for your generous donations of wine and sweets last weekend for their games to raise funds at the Fete for St Michael's Hospice, Basingstoke. We will have two gazebos on The Green, so please come along on Saturday to find us and have a go at trying your luck on our variety of games or buy some pre-loved jewellery or a jewellery box - Cash only please! We look forward to seeing you! There will also be a bouncy castle, live music, food, arts & crafts, games, lots of stalls and lots of fun! Free entry. Full details of the Fete on the poster displayed in St. Michael's Church.

REMINDER!!!: Cake & Gift Sale for Christian Aid - Sunday 9 June - after 9 am Mass at St. Michael's

Calling all bakers: please bring a cake (together with a note of ingredients in case of allergens) to St Michael's Parish Room before 9 am Mass this Sunday to help the Archangels raise funds for the recent Christian Aid Week Appeal. Please come in after Mass to buy a cake and take a look at our gift stall, which will include a number of religious items for sale - cash only please. We look forward to seeing you!

REMINDER!!!: Parish Canal Boat Trip - Sunday 21st July – ONLY 5 PLACES REMAINING!!!

The Archangels Social Group is organising a Parish Canal Boat Trip on the afternoon of **Sunday 21st July** from Newbury Wharf, RG14 5AS along the Kennet & Avon Canal. We have hired a boat for our exclusive use to depart at 4 pm, so we will meet at the Wharf at 3.45 pm.

There are 2 steps up and then 5 “rather steep” steps down to access the boat, which has a licensed bar and a toilet onboard. The trip usually lasts about 75 mins, but there can be delays if the canal is busy. Cost: Adults £10, Children £5. We suggest we gather for a bring-your-own picnic in Victoria Park, Newbury beforehand!

To book, please call Pauline Penfold on 07749 409920 or Mary Lee on 07821 254100 or email Mary at mlee@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk We hope you will join us!

REMINDER: Significant Wedding Anniversaries

Are you celebrating a 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or anniversary over 60 years? If so, Bishop Philip would like to invite you to a Mass of celebration. This will take place at St Bede’s church in Basingstoke on Saturday 7TH September at 2pm. It is a wonderful occasion to celebrate and witness to Marriage.

Please send an email to anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk to request a form for you to complete and return. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the Parish office, so that Dan can provide you with a printed form.

To help celebrate the occasion please could you also provide a *COPY* of your Wedding photograph, you can upload it when you access the form. Again, if you have no access to the internet, you can post a *COPY* along with completed form by post to the following address: St Bede’s Parish Office, Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX – Please mark envelopes: Significant Wedding Mass.

REMINDER: Money Management for All

Following the success of the sessions organised last year, Holy Ghost parish is delighted to tell you that once again we have partnered with Christians Against Poverty [CAP] to deliver one of their 'Money coaching' programmes in St Bede's church hall on June 20th & 27th and July 4th & 11th.

Delivered by local churches in partnership, money coaching is a free service designed to empower you with the knowledge, skills, tools and confidence to better manage your finances. Anyone can benefit - from those who've been using a budget for years to those struggling to get to grips with their spending. We'll hear from specialists in saving and spending wisely, to credit and debt professionals; you'll receive guidance that's second to none.

Places on the forthcoming course are very limited, so please book your space asap.

The sessions will begin at 7pm with a light meal, ending at 9pm. For more information please contact Deacon Tony or Pam on either adarroch@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 07883 059 529. But to book a place, please go to this link to book direct: [Get to grips with your finances | CAP UK](#)

We hope to see you there!

Caritas Portsmouth - Refugee Week: 17th – 23rd June

The theme for this year is ‘Our home’ and we want to see how we can make our parish communities more welcoming to those arriving in our country, fleeing war, persecution, and violence.

There are two online events to choose from. On **13th June from 6-7pm** we are joining Caritas Diocese of Plymouth to look at how we might be more welcoming to refugees and asylum seekers in our communities. On **Tuesday 18th June from 12:30-1.00pm** we are holding a lunch time event where we will hear about a parish project, with time to discuss and ask questions. Everyone welcome. Registration is required for both events and links can be found at <https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk>

ADoRE spiritual mini-retreat – 22nd June – CAN WE BE THE IMAGE OF CHRIST?

St. Paul famously said: “we all...are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” (2 Corinthians 3:18) but how often do we actually think or act as if the Holy Spirit is transforming us into Christ's image?

To understand and live this truth, we need to consciously rediscover how the same Holy Spirit that filled the Disciples at Pentecost is given to every baptised Catholic, to transform us progressively, filling us with the holiness and glory of Jesus. On June 22nd there is an opportunity to participate in a free mini-retreat morning “TRANSFORMED INTO HIS IMAGE – with ever increasing glory,” to explore this in more depth.

ADoRE spiritual mini-retreat 22nd June 10.00-1.00 “TRANSFORMED INTO HIS IMAGE – with ever increasing glory,” Including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring guest speaker Fr Chris Thomas. Please register for the Zoom meeting in advance at bit.ly/ADOREJUN2024 More information at www.altonrenewal.com

Could you be a Diocesan Trustee?

Our Diocesan Trustees are responsible for the organisation of the Diocese and its assets. This includes both physical assets such as the churches and schools and intangible assets like the Church's reputation. The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth is an incorporated charity with responsibility for numerous properties as well as employees across the parishes and in our central team. Consequently, we are always on the lookout for suitable lay people to serve on the Diocesan Board of Trustees and its sub-committees. We are especially looking for people with financial or business expertise, and for those with a legal background (especially in areas that are directly relevant to the Diocese, such as safeguarding), although persons with other types of experience may also be suitable. Being a Trustee is a genuine service to the Lord and His Church, thus ensuring that the diocesan mission of bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church might flourish.

If you would like to know more and wish to help, please contact Deacon Tony Darlison, Secretary of the Board of Trustees by [clicking here](#)

Diocesan Vacancies

For current vacancies visit: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/people/careers/>

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/>

Best wishes to you all,

Father Patrick.

Fr. 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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