

Dear All,

Having celebrated the Ascension of our Saviour on Thursday, we now begin the final part of our Easter journey, culminating in the Solemnity of Pentecost on the weekend of 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> May. In preparation for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Church, we have started the Novena of Prayer to the Holy Spirit, to inflame us with a desire to spread the love of God to others, transforming us into missionary disciples, reflecting the love of the Father and of the Son in our own lives, that love which is given us by the Holy Spirit. Use these nine days leading to Pentecost to be days of prayer of discernment, discovering more clearly the will of God in the everyday events of our lives, and asking that we may become perfect imitations of our Risen Lord.

On Ascension Thursday evening, Pope Francis officially announced that 2025 is to be a Jubilee Year. More about this in future Newsletters.

Please read carefully the following item....

In case of hospital admission, there is a necessity to advise the hospital chaplaincy and the ward you are on, that you are a Roman Catholic requiring a priest if you are seriously ill. This is your responsibility, or that of your family, and if not done may result in no priest visiting.

Our Diocese suggests that the patient could carry a note to give to hospital staff on admission notifying staff that they are Catholic and that they would really appreciate the Catholic chaplaincy service. This could be followed up by a telephone call from the family to the ward making the request.

Hospital staff are always under immense pressure, and it can happen that a person's religious details ("spiritual needs") are overlooked upon admission, especially if it is an emergency. Our hospitals generally do a fantastic job enabling our chaplains to offer support to patients and to administer the Last Rites. Let us pray for all the medical staff who are caring for the sick – and also for our magnificent chaplains in their irreplaceable work. Let us pray too ourselves for a happy death and that no Catholic dies without the sacramental care of Mother Church.

**This Weekend's Mass arrangements:**

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May: 6.00pm at St. Michael's Church  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May: 9.00am at St. Michael's Church – **Children's Liturgy**  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May: 11.00am at St. Oswald's Church

**NOTE:** Obligatory Collection at all Masses this Weekend for the **Catholic Communications Network**.

**Pentecost Service - Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May**

Churches Together in Burghfield and Mortimer will have a Pentecost Service 6.30pm, Mortimer Methodist Church. All in our Parish are welcome & there are posters in both our churches. I look forward to parishioners joining me for this event.

**First Communion preparation**

Next preparation meeting for the candidates is Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 4.30pm in the Parish Room.

----- + -----

### **CTAT Forum**

Please note that the next CTAT Forum is at 7.00pm for 7.30pm on Thursday , 23<sup>rd</sup> May at Silchester Methodist Church.

### **Tadley Treacle Fair**

A reminder that the Tadley Treacle Fair is on Sunday 2nd June. CTAT will be having a stand there and needs volunteers to help set up and pack down and also to be on the stand during the fair. Dina Haywood is coordinating and would very much like to hear from all who are wishing to help - any part of the day would be very welcome. Please contact Dina via [dinahaywood@btinternet.com](mailto:dinahaywood@btinternet.com)

Volunteers are also needed to help the Loddon Valley Lions set up and pack down the Treacle Fair. Anyone wishing to volunteer for this should contact either Steve McKay [Revstevemckay@gmail.com](mailto:Revstevemckay@gmail.com) or Stewart Madden [stewart.madden@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:stewart.madden@salvationarmy.org.uk)

### **REMINDER - Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes**

Bishop Philip warmly invites us all to join him & fellow pilgrims for the annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. This year's pilgrimage is from Monday 22nd – Friday 26th July 2024.

Departing from London Gatwick Airport on Monday 22nd July. Accommodation will be close to the Sanctuary at the four-star Hotel La Solitude which enjoys panoramic views of the upper town and the Pyrenees. The hotel boasts en-suite rooms with tea and coffee-making facilities and a comfortable restaurant with a varied and plentiful menu. The itinerary which takes full advantage of all that Lourdes has to offer, which includes participation in all the usual Pilgrimage activities.

If you would like to know more about the Pilgrimage to Lourdes this year email:

[lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or [click here](#) for a booking form.

**Calling the young People of our Diocese:** Just finished your A-levels? Or about to finish Uni for the Summer...? Why not give something back by joining our Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes? You could help by assisting some of our pilgrims by pushing wheelchairs, offering a steadying arm and a warm smile! Youth pilgrims are an essential part of this Pilgrimage, and they tell us each year of the amazing time they have had, returning many times to serve our pilgrims. Watch the promotional video by clicking [here](#) & scrolling to the bottom of the page to give you a flavour of what it is like to take part. If you would like to know more, contact: [lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) - Funding is potentially available to assist with costs.

### **New Certificate in Catechesis**

This Certificate is offered by the Dominican Sisters in Lymington, as part of their apostolate of Faith formation, [Light of Truth](#) and provides the essential formation necessary to Catechists in doctrinal and pastoral matters relevant to catechesis, in line with the new Directory for Catechesis and structured on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. It consists of:

- 8 modules (4 modules per year) comprising 9 online sessions each, offered live, in an interactive environment, and accessible afterwards.
- accompanying resources for each modules in written, audio or video format
- 2 in-person days a year: a formation day and a retreat day
- personal tutorials on-demand

More details can be found here: <https://www.lightoftruth.uk/certificate>

The Sisters are inviting everyone interested to an online [open evening](#), on Wednesday 29th May at 7.30pm. They will present all the features of their new Certificate and answer questions raised about it.

### **Farnborough Abbey - Visit of St Edmund Champion Relics**

The Knights of St. Columba invite all parishioners to Farnborough Abbey, the National Shrine of St. Joseph for a 12 noon Mass, Saturday 25th May, where the Relics of St. Edmund Champion will be present. After Mass there will be a chance to venerate the Relics. Also, at about 1.00pm there will be a Rosary Procession around the Abbey Church; weather permitting. All are welcome to join the Knights on this Saturday at the St Michael's Abbey GU14 7NQ. Do bring a lunch and join a shared lunch in the house at about 1.30/2pm. It is also hoped that an official tour of the Abbey itself & the crypt will take place at about 3pm. Please join from 11.30am onwards and stay as long as you wish.

### **ADoRE spiritual mini-retreat – 18<sup>th</sup> May – TEMPLES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

St. Paul famously said “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you” (1 Corinthians 6:19) but how many of our parishioners actually think or act as if the Holy Spirit is in them? To understand and live this truth, we need to consciously rediscover how the same Holy Spirit that filled the Disciples at Pentecost dwells in every baptised Catholic. On the eve of Pentecost, there is an opportunity to participate in a free mini-retreat morning on Zoom that will explain this in more depth.

ADoRE spiritual mini-retreat 18<sup>th</sup> May 10.00am -1.00pm “TEMPLES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT – surrendering to God’s will.” Including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring guest speaker Gary Stephens. Please register for the Zoom meeting in advance at [bit.ly/ADOREMAY2024](https://bit.ly/ADOREMAY2024) More information at [www.altonrenewal.com](http://www.altonrenewal.com)

### **Caritas – Dementia Friends**

Caritas Portsmouth is hosting an online Dementia Friends Information Session on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 7pm for anyone interested in supporting people with Dementia in their parishes, community or family. Everyone welcome. Please register at <https://tinyurl.com/4ysur27w>

### **Right to Life – Update**

Further to previous appeals, the Right to Life charity writes to inform:

It is now looking unlikely that the debate and votes on the pro-abortion and pro-life amendments to the Criminal Justice Bill in the House of Commons will be on 15 May. If so, they will be postponed until day two of Report Stage, for which the date is yet to be announced.

We are still planning to go ahead with a rally in Parliament Square on 15 May, as we know many of you are keen to come together with other people and pro-life groups from around the country to show there is momentum building in support of Caroline Ansell’s amendment to lower the abortion time limit and against Diana Johnson and Stella Creasy’s abortion up to birth amendments.

This will help with building support for the pro-life amendment and against the pro-abortion amendments, and then if the votes on the abortion amendments don’t happen on that day, as is likely the case, we can then look at whether it will be possible to have another rally on the day of the votes.

### **Rally details**

- **Date:** Wednesday 15 May 2024
- **Time:** 11am
- **Location:** [Parliament Square, Westminster, London SW1P 3JX](https://www.parliament.uk/visiting-parliament/visiting-parliament) (nearest underground stations are Westminster and St James Park)

**Placards will be provided** - Placards and banners for you to hold will be provided on the day, so there is no need to bring along your own materials.

Many lives are at stake here. Actions you take ahead of these votes, such as writing to your MP, will play a big part in persuading MPs to vote the right way.

If you haven't already emailed your MP asking them to oppose the abortion up to birth amendments, you can write to them now using our easy-to-use tool by [clicking here](#).

Similarly, if you haven't asked your MP to support the amendment to reduce the time limit, you can write to them now using our tool by [clicking here](#)

### **BACCA Summer Fete**

The Basingstoke African Caribbean Catholic Association will be holding their Annual Summer Fete. 12.00 Noon – 6.00pm, Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, at St. Bede's School Field, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX. Adults £10, Children (2-7) £5, Children (Under 2) Free, Family Ticket (2 Adults & up to 4 Children) £30

### **Diocesan Vacancies**

Data Protection Lead, Portsmouth - Currently there is no closing date.

Project Development Officer - Caritas, Portsmouth - Currently there is no closing date.

For these & other 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**

St Michael's Church, Tadley

St Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

Tel: 0118 981 4572

Email: [tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through his Church**

**Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth**

**A registered charity number 1199568**

**Registered office: Diocesan Office, St Edmund House, Bishop Crispian Way, Portsmouth PO1 3QA**

**[www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)**