

Dear All,

This weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost, bringing the Easter Season to an end. On Monday 20th May, Ordinary Time resumes. As one commentator has said:

“Pentecost, formerly a Jewish harvest festival, is inseparable from Easter, because it offers us the fruits of Easter, the trophies conquered in a decisive battle... Pentecost fulfils the prophetic words: “you shall be as gods”.

Pentecost fills us with the hope of future glory, hope of a new heaven and a new earth, of all that God has prepared for those who love Him.

So in these last days of Easter let us continue to pray that the Spirit will fall upon us afresh, forming us more deeply as Christ's Body the Church, urging us without fear to address God as Father as his adopted sons and daughters, adopted brothers and sisters of Jesus, led by their Spirit to share eternal life.

Hopefully, members of both our communities will be at the Burghfield Common and Mortimer Pentecost service at Mortimer Methodist Church on Sunday evening at 6:30 PM, in which I am involved.

Happy Pentecost!

Restricted availability next week

I shall not be generally available next week (excepting emergencies) as Dan and I have a large backlog of Diocesan and Parish matters to address, especially as I prepare to take a summer break from First Communion Sunday, 16th June, to the weekend of 6th/7th July.

Advance notice: Please also be aware that Dan will have a couple of days off on 28th & 29th May & the Parish Office will be closed on those days.

This Weekend's Mass arrangements:

Saturday 18th May: 6.00pm at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 19th May: 9.00am at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 19th May: 11.00am at St. Oswald's Church

Pentecost Service – 6.30pm Sunday 19th May

Churches Together in Burghfield and Mortimer will have a Pentecost Service on Sunday evening at 6.30pm, Mortimer Methodist Church. All in our Parish are welcome.

First Communion preparation

Next preparation meeting for the candidates is Tuesday 21st May at 4.30pm in the Parish Room.

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REMINDER: Tadley Arts Festival planning meeting – Monday 20th May

Churches Together Around Tadley (CTAT) have begun preparations for our Tadley Arts Festival in October. There will be a planning meeting at St. Paul's Church on The Green at 7.30pm on Monday 20th May. We need a large group of volunteers from our churches (to help with curating art, music, sound, refreshments, stewarding & involving schools), so please kindly plan to attend if you are able to help!

Mary Lee will be representing our Parish that evening & our thanks to her for her major involvement in the planning, especially concerning the involvement of our local schools.

The Festival will run from Friday 11th October to Sunday 13th October, with the possibility of a film night on Thursday 10th October. There will be a special Act of Worship on the Sunday morning, which I shall be attending as part of our Ecumenical Collaboration, so there will be no Burghfield Common Mass that Sunday.

The theme of the Festival is Creation, celebrating God's gift to us of the beauty of the world we live in, and of the music and art expressing our joy of it.

CTAT (Churches Together Around Tadley) Forum – Thursday 23rd May

This takes place this coming Thursday, 23rd May, at 7:00 PM for 7:30 PM, in Silchester Methodist Church. Again, the meeting is open to all parishioners and we shall be debating events and initiatives up to Christmas 2024! We need more members of our local churches to give time to develop these as contributors and volunteers, so please come along if you'd like to help.

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.

"Life in the Spirit" (LIS) Course

An introduction to a life lived in the power of the Holy Spirit, and life changing for most who participate! LIS DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH on ZOOM - 7 Sessions starting on Thursday evenings, from 6th June to 18th July 2024 from 7.30pm until 9pm Live Holy Spirit Day for course participants at St Bede's Church in Basingstoke on Saturday 29th June starting 9.30am with Mass until 1pm. Adoration at 8.30am optional! Tea and coffee will be provided. Welcome to bring and share packed lunch afterwards. Please use this link to register – <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZlIf--trDwjGNAuzzyTiLVcwy7lzHwq87dG>
Free to all – Crowdfunding to cover costs
- <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/CHARISportsmouthLIFEINTHESPIRITcourse>

"Come Away with Me" Retreat

Our Diocesan Vocations Promotion team invites young adults (18 - 35) to a 'Come Away with Me' (Mark 6:31) Retreat on Saturday 8th June at St Philip Howard Church and Hall in Fareham, PO14 1ND. The day will feature talks, testimony, prayer and fellowship. After our Sunday Vigil Mass at 6.30pm we will close the retreat day with an evening meal. Booking is required and for information please see the poster on display in our churches or email: vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Laudato Si' Week: 19th -26th May

The theme of this year's Laudato Si' Week is 'Seeds of Hope' and encourages us to gather in community to contemplate and nurture seeds of hope for our "suffering planet" (Laudato Si' #2).

[Laudato Deum](#), published last October is a reminder of the urgency of the [Laudato Si'](#) message, that we need both a personal and cultural transformation to address our ecological and climate crisis. And this transformation needs to happen now. *"There are no lasting changes without cultural changes ... and there are no cultural changes without personal changes"* (Laudate Deum, #70)

Each of the 8 days has a different focus:

Sunday 19th – Ecological Conversion

Monday 20th – Sustainable Transportation

Tuesday 21st – Sustainable Food

Wednesday 22nd – Renewable Energy

Thursday 23rd – Waste Reduction

Friday 24th – Water Conservation

Saturday 25th – Catechesis and Integral Ecology

Sunday 26th – Reflection and Commitment

You can find actions, prayer, reflections, and resources in the Laudato Si' Week [Celebrations Guide](#) . We will post each day, on the themes and any actions in the Diocese. You can find us on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

Resources can be found on the Diocesan [website](#) including a parish / school Eco-Review with an initial focus on biodiversity, along with various posters and ideas.

You can also find, via this link, a series of [reflections](#) on the 7 Laudato Si' goals put together by parishioners last year.

Local Church Plant Sales

Suitably enough, for Laudato Si' week, we have an opportunity to support Plant Sales at a couple of our local CTAT churches:

Silchester Methodist Church on Pamber Road, RG7 2NY, is holding a Plant Sale and Coffee Morning in the Church Hall from 10 am to noon on Saturday 18 May. All welcome!

St Mary's Church, Bishopswood Road, Tadley, RG26 4HQ is holding a Plant Sale with Refreshments on Saturday 1 June from 10am to 2 pm. All welcome!

Stella Maris

Catholic maritime charity Stella Maris (formerly called Apostleship of the Sea) is very grateful for all your prayer and financial support of its work on Sea Sunday last year. To report back on the use of those funds, it invites parishioners to join an **online update and thank you webinar on Tuesday 28th May from 7:30pm to 9:00pm**. You will hear about the impact of your generosity on the lives of seafarers, fishers, and their families over the last year. Its CEO and chaplains will share inspiring stories of how they have helped seafarers and fishers through your support. To register for this virtual event, please visit www.stellamaris.org.uk/thankyou2024

Right to Life – Update

The previously reported Parliamentary proceedings regarding the Government's proposed Criminal Justice Bill have taken on a couple of new twists, prompting the Right to Life charity to request our support for two new initiatives:

- ***Stop Gendercide***

Campaigners against sex-selective abortion have called on MPs to vote against Stella Creasy and Diana Johnson's extreme abortion amendments because they will legalise sex-selective abortion. Sex-selective abortion usually targets baby girls due to a preference among some parents and cultures for having sons. Campaign group *Stop Gendercide* has launched a tool on their website that makes it easy to send an email to your MP to ask them to vote against these amendments so that sex-selective abortion is not legalised. Although you may have already asked your MP to vote against these amendments, it's important that you contact them again on this so they are aware that their local constituents do not want sex-selective abortion legalised.

Click the button below to [contact your MP](#) using the tool. It will only take 30 seconds of your time.

- ***Protect Both Lives***

A large cross-party group of MPs have tabled a new amendment (NC115) to the Bill. This new amendment would help protect women and babies from dangerous late-term home abortions.

Right to Life have therefore launched the *Protect Both Lives* campaign, entirely focused on building support for this important new amendment, which if it becomes law, will save the lives of babies and protect women from late-term abortions.

One again, although you may have already contacted your MP, it's important that you also contact them again to request they support this new amendment.

Click this link to [contact your MP](#) using the tool. It will only take 30 seconds of your time.

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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