

Dear All,

I received a delightful letter recently from Patricia (Trish) Bell, addressed to myself and the parish community of Saint Michael.

The daughter of Rita and Albert Burkwood, she grew up in the parish in the 1960s and 1970s, and was married in Saint Michael's Church on 5th May 1984.

She will be celebrating 40 years of marriage as Mrs. Bell, and wanted to share this wonderful occasion with the parish where it all started. On 5th May (this Sunday) she will be praying for us all.

Although I do not know her, I have written to thank her and her husband for remembering us, and letting them know that they will be in our intercessions this weekend. Our prayers that it will be a memorable celebration. Ad multos annos! (to many years!).

Catholic Parish Summit, Harrogate

You will, I hope, have read about this meeting in the Diocesan e-news, which Gerry Penfold will be attending between 12th - 14th June as Leader of the Called and Gifted Team. He encourages Called and Gifted "Graduates" to join him.

Some time ago I was reading details of the Summit, especially recommended by Father Mark Hogan, with whom I met regularly with other priests before the pandemic to consider the Divine Renovation process in respect of our Diocesan development. Father Mark is our Episcopal Vicar for Evangelisation, based at Winchester. Whilst doing so, I was approached by Ben Rowden, who is one of our CTAT representatives and an active member of the Catenian Association locally. I agreed that he should attend as our Parish Representative and have asked him to link up with Gerry. It would be good to receive feedback on the summit, especially if aspects of it may be of use in our Diocesan Ten Year Mission Plan in the Basingstoke Pastoral Area. So please keep the forthcoming Summit in your prayers.

This Weekend's Mass arrangements:

Saturday 4th May: 6.00pm at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 5th May: 9.00am at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 5th May: 11.00am at St. Oswald's Church

Weekday Masses:

Thursday 9th May (Ascension Day – Holy Day of Obligation Mass): 11.00am at St. Oswald's Church
Thursday 9th May (Ascension Day – Holy Day of Obligation Mass): 7.00pm at St. Michael's Church

ADVANCE NOTICE - Children's Liturgy (Next Sunday 12th May):

The next Children's Liturgy at St. Michael's will be at the 9.00am Mass, next Sunday.

ADVANCE NOTICE – Pentecost (Sunday 19th May)

The usual three weekend Masses will be celebrated.

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International Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians (This Sunday 5th May)

Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald urges the Catholic community to pray for our Eastern Christian brothers and sisters. His Eminence also points out that we owe them a huge debt of gratitude for their lasting contribution to the Church and the Body of Christ.

“The day offers us in the West an opportunity to think of the Eastern Churches and to give thanks to God for all that we owe them,” writes the Cardinal. “We thank them for the first preaching of the Gospel, the origins of the monastic tradition, the early Church Fathers, and above all, the witness of the Eastern Christians down the centuries, which has been, and still is, an inspiration to our faith.”

World Communications Day (Next Sunday 12th May):

The theme for this year's World Communications Day, chosen by Pope Francis, is 'Artificial Intelligence and the Wisdom of the Heart: Towards a Fully Human Communication'. The Pope begins his message by noting the latest advances in AI and goes on to say: “This leads inevitably to deeper questions about the nature of human beings, our distinctiveness and the future of the species *homo sapiens* in the age of artificial intelligence. How can we remain fully human and guide this cultural transformation to serve a good purpose?” To read his message please click here:

[Pope Francis' message for World Communications Day 2024 - Catholic Bishops' Conference \(cbcew.org.uk\)](https://www.cbcew.org.uk)

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

CAFOD – Sudan Emergency Appeal

Further to last week's article highlighting the desperate situation in Sudan, donations can be made via CAFOD's Sudan Crisis Appeal using this link [Sudan Crisis Appeal \(cafod.org.uk\)](https://www.cafod.org.uk)

However, for those who wish to contribute by cheque, please send your donations to:

CAFOD,
Romero House,
55 Westminster Bridge Road,
London SE17 7JB

Please make your cheque payable to CAFOD (SUDAN CRISIS APPEAL)

Right to Life – Latest Appeal

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

The Leader of the House of Commons, Penny Mordaunt, has just announced that Report Stage of the Criminal Justice Bill is going to be on Wednesday 15 May. This means that we have under two weeks until the biggest battle on abortion in a generation.

On Wednesday 15 May, MPs will be given the opportunity to vote on two pro-life changes to the law - one amendment tabled by Caroline Ansell MP to lower the abortion time limit from 24 weeks to 22 weeks - and another tabled by Liam Fox MP that would bring the abortion time limit for babies with Down's syndrome in line with the time limit for babies that do not have disabilities (as you likely know, abortion for Down's syndrome is currently legal right up to birth).

MPs will also have the opportunity to vote on two extreme abortion up to birth amendments that have been tabled by pro-abortion MPs Stella Creasy and Diana Johnson.

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](#)

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 & a happy Bank Holiday 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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