

NORTH WEST

HAMPSHIRE

PASTORAL AREA

Serving the Parishes of

**ANDOVER, BASINGSTOKE, HOOK,
TADLEY AND BURGHFIELD COMMON**



**St Michael's Parish, Tadley,
Kingsclere,
and St Oswald's Church,
Burghfield Common**

St Michael's Church

Bishopswood Road, Tadley
RG26 4HG

St Oswald's Church

Abbey Park, Burghfield Common,
RG7 3HQ

Parish Priest:

Rev Fr Patrick Tansey
0118 981 4572

Safeguarding Officers:

Mrs Kath Murtagh (Tadley)
0118 981 4658

Mrs Ellen Goodall (Burghfield Common)
0118 983 3332

Parish Secretary:

Mrs Barbara Davis
Email: tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Website: www.stmandsto.org.uk

Covenant to the People

If you would like help from the Covenant to the People scheme, please call Bill Reilly on (0118) 9813784 during May.

NEWSLETTER 24th May—30th May 2020

AD

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

A PUBLICATION OF PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE TRUST REGISTERED CHARITY NO 246871

HEAL OUR WOUNDS, OUR STRENGTH RENEW!

'Has anything like this happened before, Father?' No doubt many Catholics and others have asked this question of priests in recent weeks.

One might reply: 'Not exactly, but one should not forget the Papal interdict of England between 1208 and 1214. ' During that time the parish churches were closed, Mass only being celebrated in monasteries behind closed doors. Baptisms were allowed in a home or in a church porch; Communion was allowed only when one was dying and the dead could not be buried in consecrated ground. Many parish clergy took up secular work as there were no collections to support them, some keeping in touch with parishioners in the local taverns!

WOW! And there is no record of popular discontent against the Church. What caused this remarkable state of affairs?

Pope Innocent III, the formidable man who approved the work of Saint Francis of Assisi: when others wanted him declared a heretic, made Stephen Langton Archbishop of Canterbury in 1206. Stephen, from Lincolnshire, and Innocent knew each other from their time as teachers at the University of Paris, but King John refused the new Archbishop entry into England. Relations between England and Rome deteriorated, and the Interdict was declared and the King excommunicated and deprived of the Sacraments.

Often, in moments of great distress, God is silently acting, especially through the Power of The Holy Spirit, whom we celebrate next Sunday, The Solemnity of Pentecost. For Stephen Langton The Holy Spirit was central to his life, as was Sacred Scripture, in which the action of that Spirit is ever present.

On Pentecost Sunday, in those Catholic churches which will be open in our troubled World, The Veni Sancte Spiritus will be sung or said after the Scripture Readings before the Gospel. It is generally acknowledged that this magnificent hymn of praise to The Holy Spirit, called The Golden Sequence, was written by Stephen Langton whilst a teacher in Paris. It is a prayer which comes from the heart, and pulls the heart into that which it proclaims ... Those of all consoles best ... solace in the midst of woe ... visit those these hearts of thine, and our inmost being fill ... It is a prayer for our time of fear, pandemic, confusion and pain.

As The Year of The Word reminds us that we are fed in the absence of The Eucharist by Sacred Scripture, it is interesting to note that 'every copy of the Bible became a memorial to Langton' according to one historian. A pioneer in study of the Old Testament, especially of the prophets of Israel, it is to him that we owe the division of the Bible into chapters. This major advance, enabling a better reading of Sacred Scripture, was eventually adopted when printing began. His eventual acceptance by King John as Archbishop of Canterbury might be considered a grace-filled moment in the story of England and of our globe. The dete-

riorating relationship between the monarch and his nobles accelerated after the lifting of the Papal Interdict, drifting towards civil war. Langton, a mediator and the former student of the Prophets, emerged as a prophetic figure himself.

In 1215, he helped to engineer the acceptance of Magna Carta (The Great Charter), which began to establish the principle of due process, whereby a person was entitled to fair trial and presumption of innocence until guilt was proven. It has become the norm in civilised societies worldwide.

It might be said that God's Presence, unseen and unfathomed, was ever-present in those turbulent times: 'Because the Holy Ghost over the bent World broods with warm breast and with ah! Bright wings'. Gerard Manley Hopkins SJ

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IN PRAYER

Malcolm of our Tadley community would appreciate your prayers following an operation on a nose cancer on Friday 22nd May, and for a speedy recovery in the coming week. You will recall from our Divine Mercy Sunday Newsletter that his daughter Lisa died on Holy Saturday. Continue to keep her soul in your prayers, please.

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BEATITUDES (or Blessings) FOR A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

We shall have a few of these again next few weeks as an aid to private, silent prayer and reflection, enfolding our globe with God's Blessing. They have been provided by Gerry Penfold:

Blessed are the unemployed and the self-employed, for their need of God is great.

Blessed are the checkout workers, for they have patience and fortitude in the face of overwork and frustration.

Blessed are the refuse collectors, for they will see God despite the mountains of waste.

Blessed are the teachers, for they remain steadfast and constant in disturbing times.

Blessed are the bereaved, for whom the worst has already happened. They shall be comforted.

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CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION NETWORK COLLECTION takes place this week-end, The Seventh Sunday of Easter

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LOOKING TOWARDS THE RE-OPENING OF OUR CHURCHES

A Government task-force is now looking at the possibility of churches being at least open for private pray-

er around 4th July 2020 AD. However, this will involve these being safe and secure from Coronavirus Father Patrick is now considering the need of parishioners to be regularly available on Sundays and weekdays to maintain social distancing and regular disinfecting of our local churches. These, and other regulations, will determine whether a church may be opened. Our Bishops of England and Wales have agreed to comply with any regulations.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols has rightly informed Catholics who have written to the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales asking for the re-opening of churches for private prayer that to do this before restrictions are lifted would endanger life. It is the responsibility of us all, in Charity, to think not only of our ourselves, but also of our neighbours, whoever they are.

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LOOKING FOR THE DIOCESAN E-NEWS?

Search your Junk Mail! The new Diocesan E-Mail System seems to be sending it there. Apologies have been received from the Diocese - and Father Patrick has recovered the recent one via Barbara's expertise and patience, which is wearing thin at the moment! So is any that Father possesses!

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APOLOGIES AND NEWS OF UPDATED SYSTEM—(from Barbara)

My apologies to all that last week end, the Newsletter, Deacon Tony's Reflection, Geoff Poulter's Novena and the CTAT E-News were not on the Website. One of the results of the new email migration system is that it reinstated previous historic email addresses, over riding the current one! All the information to be uploaded onto the Website was emailed on Friday afternoon, but it was not until Tuesday, that I discovered what had happened. Currently, there does not appear to be a way of retrieving the correct email addresses. If you normally receive information from us and are no longer doing so and have over the last several years changed your email address, could you please kindly send me an email advising me of this, and I will then update the system.

We are still experiencing other problems, but hopefully will get these resolved! The Dinosaur Park is beginning to become very appealing!!

Again, my apologies to all—Barbara

DON'T MISS THE NEWSLETTER!

The attempt to return to something like normal continues in the Parish Office. As was the case before the pandemic, all items for the Newsletter need to be in the Parish Office by the Wednesday of the week in which it is published, by 12 noon that Wednesday.

PARISH OFFICE DETAILS:

The office will be closed on the following days:

Monday 25th May - The Spring Bank Holiday
Tuesday 26th May

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BAD HAIR DAY (UPDATE)

The BBC's Radio 4 'Any Questions' programme revisited the question of hair on Friday 15th May. After discussion of the continuing coronavirus situation, a final light-hearted query to the panellists asked why Government ministers appeared to maintain their hairstyles without the aid of barbers or hair-dressers over several weeks of 'lockdown'. One panellist said that she was unable to do anything with her hair because her children felt she would look worse if she tried to cut it herself! After general discussion, the panel agreed their barbers and hair-dressers now have the status of essential workers.

Not surprising!. The recently opened establishments in Germany have waiting lists until December, and on the day those in New Zealand were to open, there were long queues from midnight before they did so. How they will cope with social distancing and regular disinfection of equipment and door handles, and face masks being worn by all, is another question. Fr Patrick has decided he will continue at present to be a cavalier in style, but others may prefer to make advance bookings or get ready for long line of waiting customers when we return to 'normal'! Stay cool!

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CTAT CONFERENCE CALL (20th May 2020)

The Reverend Richard Harlow, Pastor Greg Whittick, The Reverend Kay Blackwell and Father Patrick discussed a number of ongoing issues. The final part of the Conference was attended by Paul Gross, CTAT Communications Officer. The Reverend Jill Sakakini sent her apologies, having a ministerial engagement. The Reverend Ruth Midcalf sent a message to all via Pastor Greg, thanking them for all the prayers and support; Father Patrick had left in a telephone message after last week's Conference. She hopes to rejoin us soon.

There was a short discussion concerning the possible opening of churches for private prayer in July and the problems associated with ensuring Government regulations are adhered to. Also, the possibility of outdoor Services once Masses and other Services are permitted, because the numbers able to attend inside will not be the same as before because of social distancing. Obviously, these could only take place if the weather was good!

The Reverend Kay Blackwell spoke about the URC Oasis Café in Basingstoke being able to provide lunches for £5.00 if people wished to ask for them—a main course, and soup or dessert. Fr Patrick assured members that two meals a week were being provided by CARITAS to assist those in the Insight programme locally, and that contact was being maintained with those involved. Concern had been expressed at the last Conference Call that there appeared to be a lack of communication, which Fr Patrick had agreed to investigate as he also was in the dark at the time.

BEREAVEMENT:

The SANCTUARY post COVID course, addressing issues which will emerge as we return to some normality, looks interesting. It is widening the area of GRIEF to issues

such as job loss and related areas of loss. Fr Patrick said that two of our Tadley Parishioners had contacted him, saying that they were interested in helping and the Reverend Richard asked that they make contact. There was discussion about the possibility of addressing mental Health issues by ZOOM, but this area needs consideration, as virtual meetings lack the presence of individuals to give support if a problem arises in a meeting, leaving a person possibly even more distressed.

STRESSFUL TECHNOLOGY:

There was a discussion about the stress that Ministers experience in the controlling of technology in presenting Services or Prayer with large groups involved virtually. Even the most experienced members struggle at times!

MASK EXTENDERS:

Paul Gross, CTAT Communications Officer, joined the meeting at this stage. He was thanked for the CTAT E-News of May 2020, and especially for the detailed explanation of how to make masks. The Mask Extender will be feature in the next issue, with information about Collection Points and the necessary hygiene requirements in preparing Masks for groups in the Tadley area. The Ministers meet again next week, and ended the Conference Call with prayer together.

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LAUDATO SI—FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

Parishioners may be interested to know of an event by the new Worcester Green Christian Group. The e-mail address is worcester@greenchristian.org.uk

To mark the Fifth Anniversary of Pope Francis' important Encyclical Laudato Si (On Care For Our Common Home), on Thursday 28th May, Margot and Martin Hodson will be talking about the links between the current pandemic and climate emergency from the Christian perspective at 7.30 pm BST on ZOOM. People are welcome to book a place.

Our thanks to Sarah Davis of our Kingsclere community for forwarding this information.

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ACTIVITIES FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

A reminder about our competition to design and colour in a Poster for Pentecost, of The Holy Spirit.

There will be two age groups:
3-7 years
8-13 years

From each age group, two posters will be chosen, from parishioners of both parishes. Fr Patrick will choose the posters, which will be displayed in both our Churches when they reopen. The artists of the chosen posters will each win a £5.00 Amazon gift voucher.

Please email/post your design to Barbara, the Parish Secretary at tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk by Tuesday morning 26th May, for Fr Patrick to judge and the winners will be announced in the following Newsletter.

When submitting your design, please put the following

details on the BACK of your poster:

Your name:
Your age:
Email address:
Telephone number:
Church:

This week we have devised a WORDSEARCH for you to do.

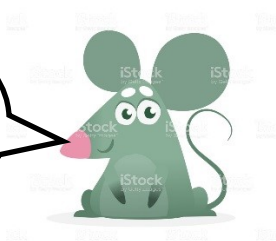
Remember the words may go in the following directions:
/\|—, diagonal, vertical, horizontal and backwards.
Good luck in finding the words.

A F S T I M R S R T
P A T R I C K T S T
R T M S Y B O O K N
A H I A C T C S B E
Y E C E S E O W E M
E R H W T S M A L A
R U A N T N E L L T
B P E L B I B D S S
O P L B R E T S A E
I T S M O U S E Z T

WORDS:

FATHER
PATRICK
ST OSWALDS
ST MICHAELS
PENTECOST
LENT
EASTER
MASS
BOOK
ACT
PRAYER
BIBLE
TESTAMENT
BELLS
MOUSE

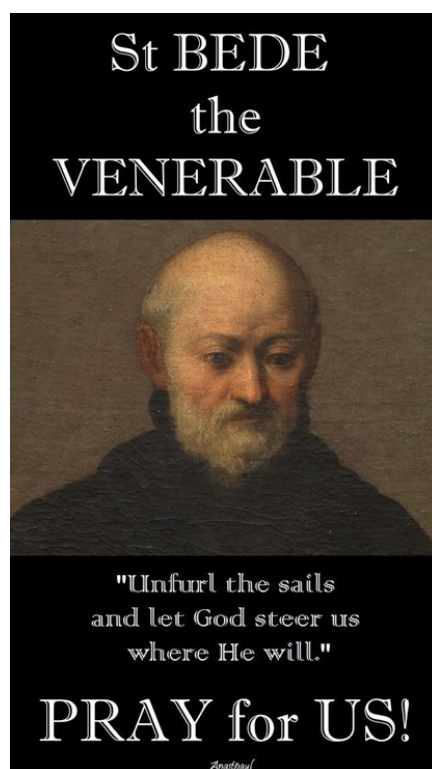
Sorry no prize for
completing this
puzzle.



FEAST OF ST BEDE

We keep in prayer Fathers Rutledge and Leo of St Bede's Church, Basingstoke, on 25th May, as they and their parishioners remember its patron Saint Bede (673AD—735 AD), 'a light of the church, lit by the Holy Spirit', is regarded as the Father of English History, as well as a master of Sacred Scripture. Below is one of the many impressions of him in art. He is a Doctor of the Church, worthy of religious study on the journey to holiness.

As well as remembering Father Chris and Father Leo, we also remember Father Chris Whelan and Father Gaston at St Joseph's Church, South Ham, thanking them all for their Hospital Chaplaincy during the pandemic. Remember also Father Paul at Hook and Father Austin OSB at Andover, a Benedictine like Bede. Not to forget Father Patrick also of our Parish Area.



PENTECOST NOVENA

In view of the problems incurred last week, in respect of uploading information onto the Website, we have included the Pentecost Novena, kindly supplied by Geoff Poulter, in the Newsletter. Hopefully, this means that nobody will miss it.

Pentecost Novena to the Holy Spirit

(To be prayed the nine days before Pentecost, beginning on Friday 22 May)



SIGN OF THE CROSS

READING FOR THE DAY

(After each daily reading, continue with a time of silent reflection and the prayers listed below)

Friday – You Will Receive Power

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witness in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the Earth. **Acts 1:8**

Saturday – Jesus' Promise of the Advocate

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. **John 16:13**

Sunday – The Need to be Born of the Spirit

Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. **John 3:5**

Monday – The Spirit Give Life to Dry Bones

Thus, says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. **Acts 1:8**

Tuesday – Life through His Spirit

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you. **Romans 8:11**

Wednesday – Understanding Comes through the Spirit

Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. **1 Corinthians 2:12**

Thursday – One Spirit, Many Gifts

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit: and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. **1 Corinthians 12:4-6**

Friday – The Fruit of the Spirit

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. **Galatians 5:22-23**

Saturday – The Outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost

Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. **Acts 2:3-4**



SILENT REFLECTION

NOVENA FOR PENTECOST TO COME,

Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with your love. Set our lives aflame with your gifts. Grant us wisdom to choose what is good and true; understanding to embrace your plan of salvation; right judgment to act according to your will; courage to share our faith with others; knowledge to live as disciples of Jesus Christ; reverence to respond faithfully to your grace each day; and wonder and awe in your presence. Inspire us with enthusiasm for our Catholic faith. Grant us boldness to proclaim the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ, and help us to bring the transforming power of the gospel to our world. We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen

OUR FATHER,

HAIL MARY,