

## TENTH SUNDAY Year B - 9th June 2024

## A GENERAL ELECTION ... WHO CARES?

We must. It is too easy, and understandable, to make the judgement that 'politicians are all the same'; 'they make promises and commitments they don't keep'; 'they can't be trusted.' And there is some evidence to support those views. But, and it is a huge 'but', we <u>have</u> to engage with the debate so that when we come to vote on 4 July we possess as much information as possible relating to the plans being proposed and about our local Candidates.

It has been said before that no election is about one single issue. The challenge is to investigate what is being put forward as a package and then, on balance, exercise our democratic right to help elect those who will make decisions for us and others in the next few years. On behalf of the Bishops of England and Wales, Cardinal Vincent Nichols has encouraged every Catholic to get involved, to read, to ask questions and seek answers before the General Election from those who have put themselves forward to be Members of Parliament.

Last week marked the eightieth anniversary of D-Day. As Allied Troops stormed the beaches of Normandy to gain a foothold in mainland Europe as the start of pushing back Hitler and his armies, more than 22,000 men died. They are now (at long last) commemorated with a Memorial in northern France. Many were young, often in their teens. They gave their lives so that generations to come could enjoy the freedoms Nazi occupation would have taken away. Their sacrifice was real and had a devastating impact on their families. When I'm tempted to say to myself "can I be bothered to vote in an election?" I stop and remember the lengths others went to so that I have the choice.

Looking around the world today, democracies are under pressure. Elections have taken place recently in South Africa (where for the first time in thirty years the ANC failed to gain an overall majority) and in India where nearly one billion citizens were eligible to vote. However, in countries where sham elections play out (Russia being a prime example) or where the views of the population cannot be expressed (a list of countries too long to mention) the voices of individuals are silenced, stifled or suppressed. We are so fortunate to live in a country where we have a vote, and the freedom to vote for whoever we choose. Not to bother because we haven't taken the time to look into the issues and what Candidates are saying seems a poor way to honour the memory of those who died so that we have this right. I wait to see what the national percentage turnout is when the results begin to come in on Election Night in July.

A General Election in our country usually takes place every four or five years. Many young people will be voting for the first time in their lives. Those of us who are old hands should get into conversations with younger adults – not to persuade them but to share views and opinions on the issues which affect us all. We might be surprised how often young people speak sense and can put us on the spot! The fact is that we all need to make ourselves heard, in discussion and through the Ballot Box. *Father John* 

**HUSTINGS** "We at Rosebery Park will be holding a hustings on Thursday, 27th June at 7.00 p.m. All the candidates for the constituency of Bournemouth East are due to be there. We want this to be an opportunity for Christians and others in this area to hear the candidates for the General Election and question them on their views. Hopefully this will help Christians in this area to decide how to vote. Could you let your congregations know about it? If you would like more information, please contact Dave Martin, who is a member at Rosebery Park and is organizing this event, on 0772 054 0805 or at davelmartin@gmail.com



**YOU ARE INVITED** to a Celebration of Thanksgiving for the presence for 75 years of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in this area, **on Sunday 23rd June at 10.00am.** 

The Convent closed last year, but some of the Sisters will be with us, along with friends, as we give thanks, and say farewell. Mass will be followed by refreshments in the Parish Centre. All Welcome.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY will be TODAY (9th) at Sunday 10am Mass. CLOW team.

SVP Tea Gathering will be in the Memorial Room on Thursday 27th. June from 2.00pm to 3.30pm. All welcome

**<u>READERS</u>** The new rota for July to December 2024 has been emailed out. If you would like a hard copy, please let the Parish Office know and one can be printed for you. If you haven't received it, please check your spam/junk folder but contact Parish Office if still not found. Thank you for your continued faithfulness to this Ministry.

**CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, SEND TEACHING ASSISTANT (INC. WRAPAROUND CARE) & MIDDAY SUPERVISOR** One Year Fixed Term The Governors of our friendly and successful school are seeking to appoint a SEND Teaching Assistant (inc. Wraparound Care) and Midday Supervisor to help us achieve our aims of getting the best from all our children in their learning and personal development. More information is available on the school website www.cccpschool.co.uk/vacancies **The closing date is midday Thursday 20th June 2024** 

**SVP AND CAFOD WORKING TOGETHER IN THE RUN UP TO THE GENERAL ELECTION** As Catholics, we know that tackling poverty and injustice are among the most important issues politicians should act on. St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD have produced a guide for Catholics for the General Election, with suggested questions to ask candidates. For more information, please go to: **cafod.org.uk/encounter or svp.org.uk/encounter** 

**<u>GENERAL ELECTION</u>** The Prime Minister has called a General Election for 4th July 2024. The Bishops' Conference have created a webpage about the issues important to Catholics. Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, has recorded a message encouraging Catholics, particularly young adults, to be "willing to get involved and vote" as the opportunity to vote in a general election is a "privilege".

Cardinal Nichols is asking voters to be active rather than passive in order to engage with politicians to ascertain their views on the key issues. "You want to know what your candidate will think and say on your behalf when that candidate gets into Parliament," says the Cardinal. "I would like to put forward a theme for us all to think about. How do we seek to construct a society in which families can flourish? That's the bedrock – many positive things flow from that." There is more information at: https://www.cbcew.org.uk/election24/

50% CAP ON ADMISSIONS TO FAITH SCHOOLS The Government has opened a consultation on lifting the cap that for the last 14 years has limited the number of Catholic children that can be admitted into any new Catholic school. Please go to the link below and respond to the consultation (only name and email address are required). Responses are crucial if Catholic families throughout the country are not to continue to be deprived of a Catholic education. https://www.cbcew.org.uk/lifting-the-faith-schools-cap/ Canon PJ Smith

**RELAY FOR LIFE BOURNEMOUTH 2024** will take place on Saturday **13th July** at Glenmoor and Winton School, Beswick Avenue, Bournemouth BH10 4EX It is a 12 event, starting at 10am. The Candle of Hope Ceremony starts at 9pm. RFL celebrates the power of community fundraising in the fight to beat cancer. If you can help in any way either by fundraising, advertising, sponsorship, entering a team or just come along to support, then email: bournemouthrelayforlife@gmail.com

<u>SIGNIFICANT WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES MASS</u> Bishop Philip invites all married couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th (or longer) Wedding Anniversary to join him for this year's Significant Wedding Anniversaries Mass at St Bede's Church, Basingstoke on **Saturday 7th September at 2:00pm**. If you and your spouse are celebrating a significant wedding anniversary this year, be sure to save the date! If you would like to attend, please email: **anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk** for an application form.

**MARCH FOR LIFE** Saturday 7th September LONDON. Theme is "Abortion isn't healthcare". Mass 11am St Georges Cathedral, Southwark and the March starts 1.30pm from the Emmanuel Centre, Marsham St, SW1P 3DW and ends at Parliament Square. More details from info@marchforlife.co.uk or see poster.



**THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR JUNE** FOR THOSE FLEEING THEIR OWN COUNTRIES Let us pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys fraught with danger and violence, may find welcome and new living opportunities in their host countries.

<u>PRAYERS</u> Please keep in your prayers **Ryan Browne**, one of our local Seminarians, studying at the Venerable English College in Rome, who will be Ordained as a Deacon by Bishop Philip on the **10th July** (in Rome). *St Stephen pray for him.* 

**VOCATIONS**: "For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother." Have I opened myself to God's will for me? If it might be to serve as a priest, brother or sister, talk to your priest or contact Cn. John Cooke. at vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869

**INTENTIONS**: For more families to pray for their children's vocations and nurture environments that lead to fruitful discernment, we pray to the Lord.

**FOOD BANK COLLECTIONS** are Friday mornings 10.30-11.30am and at Saturday evening and Sunday Masses. Gifts may be dropped off in the church porch. **TINNED FOODS** always appreciated. *Thank you for your continued generosity.* 

TO SET UP A STANDING ORDER (Can be Gift Aided) Go to your bank: You will need the parish business bank details, which are: CDP BOURNEMOUTH CORPUS CHRISTI Sort code 30-93-04. Parish Account number: 01786041 Or donate online at our website: http://www.corpuschristiboscombe.org.uk/ or on our Facebook page or to donate via Give As You Live, *click on the QR CODE* 

<u>GIFT AID</u> If you are a UK taxpayer please consider Gift Aiding your donation. The parish can reclaim 25p for every £1 donated, at no extra cost to you. To join the Gift Aid scheme, or if you want an annual box of offertory envelopes, please send contact details to: *accounts@corpuschristiboscombe.org.uk* Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No.1199568



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