

PRAYING FOR OUR LEADERS

I am writing this before the result of the General Election is known. If all the predictions are correct, and barring any enormous shocks, we are likely to have a different political party forming a new government for the United Kingdom. But whatever the outcome, there are thousands of people who have been courageous enough to put themselves forward as Candidates in the election. Some knew from the outset that they had zero chance of being chosen [who remembers Lord Sutch from the Monster Raving Loony Party?] but I think every one of them must be commended for putting their names forward and allowing us a choice.

At the recent Hustings held in Rosebery Baptist Church, five of the seven who were standing for the Bournemouth East constituency came along and faced questioning. I agreed with much of what I heard, some parts I did not. But I was struck by the sincerity of those facing the audience and their genuine desire to serve the people of our locality and to try and make life better for everyone. The way they thought that should be done might differ but the aim was very similar. In a time when cynicism about the motives of politicians is rife, it was refreshing to hear what clearly came from the heart: that service of the local community, and engaging on the national stage in Parliament, is felt worthwhile and deserving of the necessary personal sacrifices it requires.

We talk about 'democracy', and 'living in a democracy'. This word comes from the Greek language and means "a system of government by the whole population, usually through elected representatives." One statistic which is likely to be worrying when the dust settles is what percentage of the population did not vote. Traditionally younger generations are less likely to vote, older generations more likely. Wouldn't it be wonderful if that rather sad reality was upended – or at least corrected?

Whoever is now an elected Member of Parliament, they need our prayers. In fact, I suggest they ought to be able to depend on our prayerful support because they have been chosen and must now do their best to represent us, our needs and concerns. Whether we agree with their views, whether they got our vote, they are now MPs and ought to be encouraged. What has become clear in recent years is the volume of abuse suffered by Members of Parliament (and other public figures). Whilst most of them accept that a certain level of criticism goes with the territory, often through social media, it is appalling and worrying when that escalates into hatred and threats – which can encompass the MP's family. That is plain wicked and wrong.

So let us, as a Catholic community, pray for those who have been elected – especially our local MPs. As they strive to serve us, with a particular emphasis on the most vulnerable and needy in society, may they may feel supported and encouraged in the work they are doing. What they do is vital work because it can make a difference to almost every aspect of our lives. *Father John*

Celebrating <u>FR JOHN'S RUBY JUBILEE</u> of his ordination as a priest (40 years), will be on Friday 19 July. With Mass at 7.00pm followed by refreshments in the Parish Centre afterwards. Please take a letter and return the reply slip if you think you will be able to come along.

If you can help set up on the day please be at the Parish Centre at 2.00pm. Thank you.



THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR JULY FOR THE PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK Let us pray that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick grant the Lord's strength to those who receive it and to their loved ones, and that it may become for everyone an ever more visible sign of compassion and hope.

PARISH OFFICE will be closed 8th - 12th July (inc). Will re-open Monday 15th July.

<u>CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD</u> will take place 14th July at 10am Sunday Mass. As a general guideline this Liturgy is for children between 4 & 7 years of age. Parents please remember to sign in. *CLOW team*

PARKWOOD ROAD CLOSURES in 2 phases from 8th July. Closures should span a duration of approximately 8 weeks. See poster at back for visual representation.

SVP Tea Gathering will be in the Memorial Room on Thursday 25th July from 2.00pm to 3.30pm. All welcome.



<u>CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SOUTHBOURNE</u> & the Friends of Fishermans Walk welcome Boscombe Salvation Army Band Sunday 21st July at Fishermans Walk Bandstand. Songs of Praise: 2.30—3.15pm. Boscombe Salvation Army Band Music: 3.15–4pm Donations to: BH1 Project which is run by Boscombe Salvation Army. It aims to serve and support those in the local and wider community irrespective of their background. Member of the Homeless Partnership BCP.

<u>CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BOSCOMBE</u> - <u>AN EVENING OF FUN AND PRAISE. TUESDAY 27th</u> <u>AUGUST</u> from 5pm at a spot in Iford Meadows by the River Stour (see pic) The road at the top of the picture is Iford Lane. Bring a picnic, join in some fun activities, and join together in a time of praise to God. *All welcome.*



STELLA MARIS Next week, 13/14th July, there will be a second collection for Stella Maris (formerly Apostleship of the Sea). Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all of our lives, especially for those of us who live near the sea, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. Sea Sunday is when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Your support will make a big difference to seafarers and fishers in need. You can donate in church, by visiting www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate, or by texting 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris to continue its important work, so please give generously. *Thank you.*

<u>RELAY FOR LIFE BOURNEMOUTH 2024</u> 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

PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN DON BOSCO BOYS CAMP Sunday 28 July to Saturday 3 August 2024 "We are delighted that camp will be going ahead again this summer for boys of secondary school age at St. Cassian's, Kintbury. There will be plenty of sport, outings, competitions & games to ensure that boys will have a fantastic week. This will continue to take place within the context of the celebration of the Catholic Faith, including daily Mass and morning prayer. The cost of the camp is £230 (part bursaries may be available on application). To find out more, email **dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk**

"TAKING YOUR PRAYERS WITH ME TO LOURDES" BISHOP PHILIP "Be assured that I constantly keep the people and work of the Diocese in my prayers but I am often asked to pray for people's personal intentions when I go on pilgrimage or visit Holy Places which is why I have arranged with our Lourdes team to help me do this on our Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes. If you would like me to offer a prayer for your intention at the Grotto in Lourdes this July please email your petition in confidence to **lourdespetition@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.** At this address you will also be able to find out how to donate to the Lourdes fund and make a donation that will enable a candle to be lit at Lourdes for your intention."

PRAYERS 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. Prayers also** for the **Priestly Ordination** of Dcns. Ambrose Chou and Tom Hiney on Saturday 13th July at 11am and the Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate of Stephen Patterson and Zacharias Parambi on Saturday 27th July at 11am – both ceremonies at St John's Cathedral. *All welcome or join on the Livestream.*



VOCATIONS ANNUAL BBQ AND NIGHT PRAYER with Bishop Philip and our Portsmouth Seminarians – Tuesday 30th July The Vocations team are hosting the annual gathering of all the Seminarians and Seekers/ Discerners. If you are interested in joining the evening yourself as a new enquirer - or you know of a man/men who you think could be interested in joining the evening, please pass on details. For further details and to register your interest, **please email: vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk by Friday 20th July.**

<u>VOCATIONS</u>: "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." God does not call the qualified, he qualifies the called. If you think he may be calling you, talk to your priest or contact Cn. John Cooke. on: vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869

INTENTIONS: That all men and women will answer the Lord with humble obedience when they are called to serve Him and His people as priests and religious brothers and sisters, we pray to the Lord. For Dcn Ambrose Chou and Dcn Tom Hiney who will be ordained as a Priests by Bishop Philip next weekend and Ryan Browne who will be ordained as a Deacon, in Rome, this week. We ask that You fill them with the fire of your love, that their ministry may reveal your presence in the Church. 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

