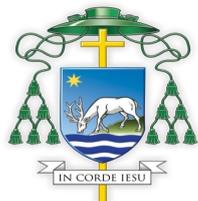


# THE MESSENGER

Serving the Churches of Holy Ghost and St. Bede

A PUBLICATION OF PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE TRUST REGISTERED CHARITY No. 246871



**St. Bede**  
Popley Way  
Basingstoke  
RG24 9DX  
01256 465214

**Parish Priest:**

Rev. Christopher Rutledge  
Coordinating Pastor and Dean

**Assistant Priest:**

Rev. Leo Odomeja  
Tel: 01256 320246

**Permanent Deacon:**

Rev. Tony Darroch

**Parish Administrator:**

Mrs Liz Murphy  
Office Currently Closed— for  
enquiries please phone or email  
Tel. No. 01256 465214 - Ext 1

**Email:**

stbedes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Website:**

www.stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk

**Facebook:**

facebook.com/stbedesbasingstoke

**Facilities Manager:**

Dr Stephen Flitcroft (Parish Office)  
Office Currently Closed

**Safeguarding:**

Diocesan Office 023 92816396  
Jan Hughes 07719012955

**Holy Ghost Church Address**

Sherborne Road,  
Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 5TD

**Parish Donations**

If you would like to make a donation  
to the Parish, or set up a Standing  
Order, our bank account details are:

Lloyds Bank, Sort Code: 30-93-04,  
Account Number: 00874184  
Account Name: PRC DTR BASINGSTOKE  
HOLY GHOST (please also use this for  
cheque payments)

Grateful thanks for your generosity.

## Sunday 17th May 2020

Year A, Psalter Week II

Morning Prayer before all Masses at 9.15 am

All Masses and Services from St. Bede's Church via our Webcam

### SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE

Sun 17th	9.00 am	Mass: Monica & Herbert Barlow RIP
	11.00 am	Mass: People of the Parish
	6.00 pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Vespers
Mon 18th	9.30 am	Mass: Betty Ferguson RIP
	12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 11.00
	6.00 pm	Mass: May Tobin RIP
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer and Rosary
Tues 19th	9.30 am	Mass: All families in the Parish
	12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 11.00
Wed 20th	9.30 am	Mass: Carmel Harding RIP
	12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 11.00
	12 noon	Mass: Sick of the Parish
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer and Rosary
Thur 21st		<b>Feast of The Ascension of the Lord</b>
	9.30 am	Mass: Int. Staff & Pupils of St. Bede's School
	12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 11.00
Fri 22nd	9.30 am	Mass: Int. All Hospital Staff
	12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 11.00
	12 noon	Mass: For Care Home Staff and Residents
	3.00 pm	Divine Mercy Chaplet
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Sat 23rd	9.30 am	Mass: Sheila Budgen RIP
	12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 11.00
	12 noon	Mass: For Hospital Chaplains

### SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE

Sun 24th	9.00 am	Mass: People of the Parish
	11.00 am	Mass: Winnie Dorothy Orrell-Jones RIP
	6.00 pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Vespers

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**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD:** The Easter season is drawing to a close and on Thursday 21st May we celebrate the first of two forthcoming feasts, The Ascension of the Lord.



*“Go, make disciples of all the nations; I am with you always; yes, to the end of time” (Mt 28 19-20)*

**DURING MAY:** Fr Chris and Fr Leo will be praying the Rosary on Monday and Wednesday evenings after Evening Prayer. If you are unsure how to pray the Rosary this is the perfect time to find out how.

**PRAYERS:** Let us continue our prayers for Fr Chris, Fr Leo and all clergy, for those who are sick and their carers, those who have died and the bereaved. We pray for an end to the pandemic and the reopening of our Churches. Lord have mercy.

## ***Bishop Philip writes in this week's e-News ...***

The Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales made this statement on Monday 11th May in response to the Government's plans going forward to ease the coronavirus lockdown. The statement says:

"The timing and the manner of the opening of churches touches profound sensitivities and spiritual needs. The Government's document and statements fail to recognise this. The Government's position, established today, includes these steps aimed at opening churches as soon as possible: the establishment of a task force for places of worship, to work closely with 'stakeholders' in ensuring that premises are COVID-19 secure; and heeding the experience of other countries in which churches are already open for worship. In dialogue with the Government, the Catholic Church will continue its engagement in this process and has already submitted a detailed plan, in full accordance with public health guidelines, for churches to be opened for private prayer. The Church is ready to play its full part in the task force, understanding that this includes the possible earlier use of churches for private prayer, as a first safe step towards their use for public worship."

We need our churches (safely reopened) in order to commune with our Creator and to receive the saving sacraments through which Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour shares with us the gifts of eternal life. In the Diocese, we are now actively thinking about what is needed in order safely to open our churches, at least initially for private prayer. It will require us all, clergy and faithful, to work together generously to enable this. More anon.

## **Foundation of the Diocese**

Next Tuesday, 19th May, marks the 138th anniversary of the formation of our Diocese of Portsmouth, as we celebrate the feast of the Dedication of our Cathedral Church of St. John the Evangelist. It was on that day in 1882 that Pope Leo XIII created the Diocese of Portsmouth from the western portion of the Diocese of Southwark (founded in 1850). Southwark had become too large for one bishop, extending as it did from London to Bournemouth, and from Oxford to Dover and to the Channel Islands. The obvious place for the Cathedral and curia of the new diocese was Winchester, but the Ecclesiastical Titles Act did not allow a Catholic diocese to take the same name as an Anglican one. So, plans were drawn up to establish the new see at Southampton, with St. Joseph's Bugle Street as the pro-cathedral. However, the construction of a large parish church in the middle of Portsmouth had begun, and it was decided to make that the future cathedral instead.

Bishop John Vertue (1826–1900) was the first bishop of the new diocese. He was consecrated by Cardinal Manning on 25th July 1882 and on 10th August 1882, the new cathedral opened. The new bishop had about 70 priests and 40 missions. Bishop Vertue was succeeded by Bishop John Cahill, his Vicar General, and during his time, a number of religious orders established houses in the Diocese. Thus in 1901, Benedictines from Solesmes settled on the Isle of Wight at Quarr and Benedictine nuns at Ryde. Benedictine monks from St. Edmund's in Douai, France, arrived in Upper Woolhampton shortly after this and in 1903 they founded Douai Abbey. Next Tuesday, please pray for our Diocese – and for me too.

## **Free e-Book**

Dr. Stephen Bullivant of St. Mary's University, Twickenham has written a book called Catholics in the Time of Coronavirus and it is available for free download from the Word on Fire website <https://www.wordonfire.org/covid/>. It comes with a Foreword by Bishop Robert Barron. Bullivant argues that the COVID-19 pandemic has been, for countless people around the world, a great and unexpected trial. But for Catholics, this trial is not only economic, social, or medical — it is spiritual. Plunged into a time of darkness and separated from the Sacraments and their parish communities, the faithful are feeling isolated, disheartened, and uncertain about what the future holds. This eBook is an insightful and encouraging analysis of the coronavirus, shedding light on the Church's present moment by referring to similar crises in the past, such as the plague that ravaged Milan during the time of St. Robert Bellarmine and how the Church responded then. Bullivant also looks to the immediate future and the challenges we will face when our churches will reopen.

## **Listening to the God Who Speaks in Lockdown**

Sr Hyacinthe OP, Leader of the Formation for Mission Teams shares news of some useful lockdown resources ...

The Dominican sisters invite you to join them everyday (except Sundays!) at 4pm, for a time of sharing and prayer on the Word of God. Each day, we read and ponder together the Gospel given to us in the liturgy of the Word at Mass. Join us at <https://ffm.clickmeeting.com/lectio>

Also check out the God who Speaks national website for resources for Ascension and Pentecost by visiting <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/the-god-who-speaks/focus/>

*To read the full edition of this week's e-News go to: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews>*