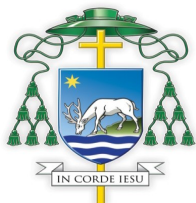


# THE MESSENGER

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: PRCDTR BASINGSTOKE  
HOLY GHOST (please also use this for  
cheque payments)

Grateful thanks for your generosity.

## Sunday 31st May 2020

### Year A, Psalter Week I

### Morning Prayer before all Masses at 9.15 am

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

## PENTECOST SUNDAY

Sun 31st	9.00 am	Mass: Liam Lavery RIP
	11.00 am	Mass: People of the Parish
	6.00 pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Vespers
Mon 1st	9.30 am	Mass: Daniel John Conway RIP
	12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 11.00
	6.00 pm	Mass: Sick of the Parish
Tues 2nd	9.30 am	Evening Prayer
	9.30 am	Mass: In Thanksgiving
	12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 11.00
Wed 3rd	9.30 am	Mass: Yvonne Rutledge RIP
	12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 11.00
	6.00 pm	Mass: Mothers of the Parish
Thur 4th	9.30 am	Evening Prayer
	9.30 am	Mass: Gerald Verjus
	12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 11.00
Fri 5th	9.30 am	Mass: Int. St. Bede's School
	12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 11.00
	3.00 pm	Mass: Int. Grandparents
Sat 6th	6.00 pm	Divine Mercy Chaplet
	9.30 am	Evening Prayer
	9.30 am	Mass: All couples to be married this year
	12 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 11.00
	12 noon	Mass: Joan Gomez RIP



## THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Sun 7th June	9.00 am	Mass: Yvonne Rutledge RIP
	11.00 am	Mass: People of the Parish
	6.00 pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Vespers

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**PENTECOST:** On Pentecost Sunday we celebrate the birthday of the Church. We recall the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, which enabled them to fulfil their ministry as they went forth to make "disciples of all nations".



Whilst we are unable to come to church, we can participate in Mass online and we can pray to the Holy Spirit, asking for the fruits that He offers us. Let us also remember the words of the Lord, especially at this time;

*"Know that I am with you always: yes, to the end of time"*  
(Mt 28: 20)

**PRAYERS:** Let us continue our prayers for 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 safe reopening of our Churches. Lord have mercy.

## Reopening our Churches

Cardinal Nichols is part of a special taskforce set up by the government for the reopening of churches. I have been actively encouraging the Bishops' Conference in its efforts towards (safe) reopening and recently I wrote to the Secretary of State and to all 34 MPs in our Diocese to enlist their support. In the Diocese, our Crisis Management Team has been drafting guidelines for parishes to reopen churches for private prayer (Phase One) and for the public celebration of the Sacred Liturgy (Phase Two). A couple of weeks ago, I sent the Guidelines out to our clergy for comment and many helpful suggestions have been coming in. What is clear is that as in other sectors of life - transport, shops, work - reopening our churches, while COVID-19 remains a threat, is certainly do-able but not be easy. Local arrangements will vary depending upon size of church, numbers of volunteers and availability of resources. Interestingly, Guernsey has approved the reopening of churches and so we will have much to learn from the experience of Fr. Bruce and the parishioners there. Whilst the Sunday Mass obligation is relaxed, one idea would be to encourage people to come to Mass on a day other than Sunday, thus spreading the numbers. Those who are sick and those in the "vulnerable" category will be asked not to enter. Arrangements in churches will need to be in place to ensure hygiene and social distancing, with signs reminding visitors of this and the seating reconfigured if feasible. Alcohol hand gel will have to be provided at the doors. Your parish will need you to help, if you can, as a volunteer steward to guide and assist, and many other arrangements will need to be put in place, especially when the celebration of the Liturgy resumes. Even here in the Cathedral, if social distancing is to be maintained, only a limited number of people will be allowed to enter. This raises the problematic question of how numbers can be regulated. Please keep this matter in your prayers. We all want our churches to reopen (safely) as soon as possible. Let us ask the Lord for a speedy end to the pandemic and for His guidance at this difficult time.

## Significant Wedding Anniversaries

Usually around this time, we would be inviting married couples from across the Diocese, who during the year 2020 are celebrating a significant wedding anniversary, to 'sign up' for the special Mass and celebration at St. Bede's Basingstoke. However, sadly, this year because of COVID-19, we have had to cancel the event, which was due to take place on Saturday 13th June. I remember last year, when once again St. Bede's did us proud, 79 couples joined us for the occasion, including 25 celebrating a Golden Wedding Anniversary, and 13 couples married 60 years or more. In total, we thanked God for 3,467 years of marriage! Instead, this year, what we're going to do is to offer a Mass live-streamed from my chapel here in Bishop's House. It will be on the day planned, 13th June, but at 9 am. The intention is to thank God for all who have been married 10, 20, 25, 40, 50, 60 and 60+ years that, during this anniversary year, the Lord will bless them and their families with His love and joy. So please make a note of this date in your diary and join me for the celebration online. I'm sorry there won't be a cake afterwards like the magnificent one pictured here! However, after the Mass, why not share together at home a coffee and muffin, while thanking God for His goodness?



## A Marian May in Sway

Sr. Lucy shares news of how the Dominican Sisters in Sway have been keeping a Marian May ...

Amidst everything else, here at St Dominic's Priory the lockdown has provided extra time for creativity! It has become routine on most afternoons to find a sister painting or sketching away, and we've all enjoyed seeing the fruits of this time.

As May is traditionally celebrated as Our Lady's month, Sr. Catherine suggested that we introduce a new concept called 'Mary May' to our artistic endeavours, and aim to produce more pictures in honour of the Mother of God. It was to this end that I painted an image of the holy Madonna and Child last weekend. It is a copy of one of my favourite Marian pictures, given to me by an uncle many years ago now.

Painting is often a contemplative experience for me, and I found that spending extra time with this image also gave me time to ponder more deeply Mary's role in our lives. Looking at my finished painting, I find it comforting to reflect that as Jesus gave Mary to be the Mother of all humanity (John 19:26-27), the tender embrace that is portrayed here also belongs completely to me and you. Jesus has given us His Mother, and we can count on her to guard, guide, protect, and pray for us no-matter what troubles we find ourselves in, be they plague, war, famine, or persecution. If we come to her and shelter under her mantle, then she will not allow us to be abandoned or forsaken, and she will teach us to walk the way of her Son's Cross in trust and love.

Our Lady, Blessed Mother, pray for us!

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