

# CATHOLIC PARISH OF WESTBOURNE NEWSLETTER



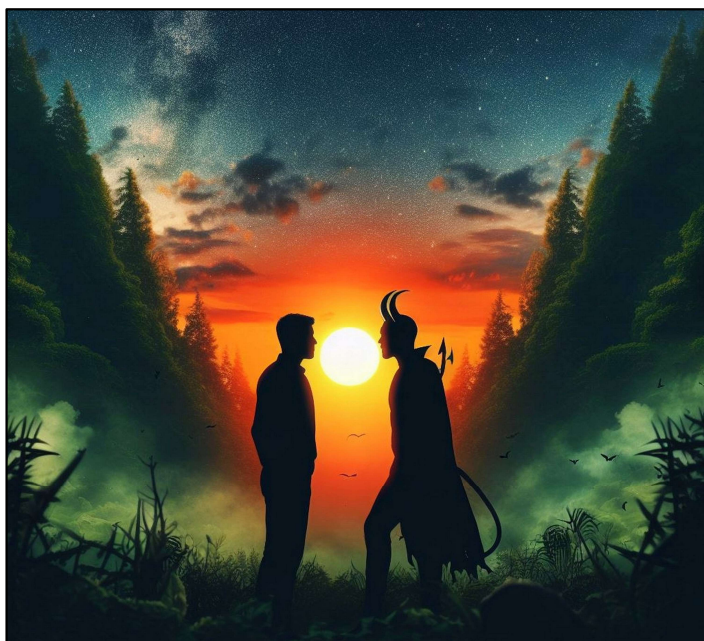
28 APRIL 2024

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

## The agents of evil

The words of consolation and encouragement that our Lord spoke to his apostles on Holy Thursday night were intended to console and encourage all his followers for all time. They encourage and console us today, and we need encouragement to persevere on the road to heaven. Living a truly Christian life is never easy. We have always had the attraction of the world and the temptations by the agents of evil to make that life less easy still. But in our own day, these difficulties have increased a hundredfold. The attractions of this world have been multiplied by the increased comforts, pleasures and means of self-indulgence that science and technology have put within our reach. Human nature, always inclined to choose the easiest way out, has been given so many means of escape from the strain of self-control that even for a fervent Christian, it is frequently very difficult to avoid these worldly allurements.

Having the ordinary comforts of life and the possession of some of this world's goods is not wrong or anti-Christian, but the natural temptation is to get more and more of these comforts and riches, and the point is soon reached where this becomes the only purpose in life. When this sad stage is arrived at, God and our future lives are forgotten; this world becomes our idol and our prison. The temptations that the agents of evil put in Christ's way are also multiplied today. The communications media is now technically improved and perfected and can be, and sometimes is, a means for good.



Unfortunately, more frequently, they are the channels of bad example. The evil deeds of men have more "*news value*" than their good deeds. And it is so much easier to follow the bad example! Permissiveness, rejection of authority, glorification of unlawful sexual indulgence, drug addiction, and other such crimes are placed before the minds and eyes of the youth of today, and are unfortunately copied by far too many.

It is indeed hard to swim against the current; it is so much more pleasant to allow oneself to be carried along without effort by the rushing tide. But when there are rocks and shoals ahead, the thoughtless and ease-seeking swimmer will end in grief. Our Lord  
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Visit our website: [www.catholicwestbourne.org](http://www.catholicwestbourne.org)

## MASS TIMES

**Sunday 28 April - FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

9.00am  
11.00am

**Tuesday 30 April - FIFTH WEEK OF EASTER**

10.00am

**Wednesday 1 May - ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER**

10.00am

*The Rosary will be said before Mass.*

**Thursday 2 May - ST. ATHANASIUS**

10.00am

**Friday 3 May - Ss PHILIP & JAMES**

10.00am

*Mass is followed by Adoration.*

**Saturday 4 May - THE ENGLISH MARTYRS**

10.00am

**Sunday 5 May - SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

9.00am  
11.00am

## OUR PARISH

**OUR LADY IMMACULATE CHURCH  
SEAMOR ROAD, WESTBOURNE,  
BOURNEMOUTH, BH4 9AE**

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Leslie Adams

**Telephone:** 01202 764027

**Email:** ladams@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

*(Baptism, Marriages, Sick Visits,  
Funerals and Confessions)*

**Parish Administrator:** Peter Murdock-Saint

General enquires and hall bookings

**Telephone:** 01202 760640

**Email:** oliadmin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Safeguarding Officers:** Dee and Edward  
safeguarding.boush@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Donations:** CDP Bournemouth

**Our Lady Immaculate**

**Sort code:** 309304 **Account:** 00875075

## SUNDAY MASS READINGS

**Entrance Antiphon - Cf. Ps 97: 1-2**

*O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.*

**Gospel Acclamation - Jn15:4,5**

*Alleluia, alleluia! Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty. Alleluia!*

**Communion Antiphon - Cf. Jn 15: 1, 5**

*I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.*

**THE AGENTS OF EVIL (CONTINUED)** has warned us today, as he warned his first followers, to abide in him, to remain closely united with him, as is the branch to the vine, if we hope to bear fruit worthy of heaven. He promises us that if we remain closely united to him, that is, if we strive daily to keep his commandments, he will be ever ready to answer our requests and to heed all our prayers. The sincere prayer of every person who is trying to lead a Christian life today is for the grace to overcome the allurements of the world, the flesh and the devil. Let us take courage, then. Christ has promised to remain beside us during life if only we stay close to him.

While we remain healthy branches of the vine, Christ, we will be on the road to heaven. Our daily tasks, our work as well as our prayer, our recreation as well as our rest, our joys as well as our sorrows, will give glory to God and prove that we are worthy to be called disciples of Christ.

**GOING INTO HOSPITAL?** Please contact the Catholic Chaplaincy so that appropriate support can be given to you during your stay. Why not give a note to the hospital staff when you're admitted that explains that you would appreciate a visit from the chaplaincy? This could be followed up by a telephone call from a relative or friend to the ward to ensure the request has been actioned. Fr. Leslie would be happy to administer the Sacrament of the Sick before you go into hospital.

## PARISH AND DIOCESAN NEWS

**THANK YOU** for your generous Easter gifts to me. *Fr. Leslie*

**DONATION.** A parishioner who wishes to remain anonymous has given us a beautiful humeral veil that can be used for Adoration and Benediction. This has been inscribed in memory of his dear, late wife. We thank him for this most generous gift, and we pray that his wife and all the faithfully departed may rest in peace.

**A YEAR OF ENCOUNTER** is a joint initiative between CAFOD and the St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), which helps Catholics to ask local candidates key questions at the key moments. Visit the website: [cafod.org.uk/encounter](http://cafod.org.uk/encounter) for more information.

**TRAINING DAYS.** For Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Saturday 4 May. For readers: Saturday 19 October. Both days will run from 9.30am to 2.30pm, at St Bede's Church and Hall in Basingstoke. There will be light refreshments. Email: [liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

**YEAR OF PRAYER '24 - RETREAT DAY.** *'Our Father in Heaven'*, Friday 4 May and Saturday 5 May, St. Peter's Church, Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8RY. Pope Francis has asked that this be a year of prayer in preparation for the Jubilee Year, 2025. He has asked that there be a particular focus on the Our Father. Register for this free event online at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/year-of-prayer-our-father-in-heaven-retreat-days-fri-3-pm-and-sat-4-may-tickets877957062207?aff=oddttdtcreator>

**THE ROSARY** is said every Wednesday at 9.30am before Mass at 10.00am. Please do feel free to join us if you can.

**GETTING MARRIED?** Congratulations! Please note that you need to give 12 months' notice. Please speak to Fr. Leslie.

**THANK YOU** for your continued generosity to our parish.

**DON BOSCO BOYS CAMP.** We are delighted that this camp will be going ahead again this summer for boys of secondary school age (leaving Year 6 to leaving Year 11) at St. Cassian's, Kintbury. There will be plenty of sports, outings, competitions and games to ensure the boys 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). For more information please email: [dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

**ORGANIST.** If you or someone you know could help enhance our worship by playing the organ at Mass, please speak to Fr. Leslie.

**POPE'S INTENTION FOR APRIL.** *For the role of women.* We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

**VOCATIONS.** Pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life, especially for our diocese. If you are considering such a vocation, talk to your priest or contact Cn. John Cooke. Email him at: [vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or call 01329 318869.

**PLEASE REMEMBER** all the sick and housebound of our parish: *Mairead Holbrook, Cecilia Agnes Grimston, Geoffrey Dixon, Christopher Browne, Teresa Wraith, Elizabeth Lubrow and Win Sheridan.*

**MASS INTENTIONS.** Please email these to Peter in the office. [oliadmin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:oliadmin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES.** The Portsmouth Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place this year from Monday 22 July until Friday 26 July departing from Gatwick Airport to Toulouse and then by coach transfer to Lourdes and staying at Hotel La Solitude. Find out more by emailing [lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

Visit our website: [www.catholicwestbourne.org](http://www.catholicwestbourne.org)

## 'I am the vine, you are the branches'

Jesus said to his disciples, *'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.*

*As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me, you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away: he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt.*

*If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will, and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'*

**CONFESSIONS** will take place after Mass or by appointment. Please speak to Fr. Leslie or email him at [ladams@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:ladams@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk). His telephone number is 01202 764027.

**MARRIAGE CARE VACANCY.** Marriage Care is a Catholic organisation providing a marriage preparation and relationship counselling service. It is looking for trustees to strengthen its board and to help it continue to provide vital relationship support services to the Catholic community and beyond. Visit: [www.marriagecare.org.uk](http://www.marriagecare.org.uk) to find out more information.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY.** Free resources to help your child grow in faith can be found on the following websites:

- [www.casopportsmouth.org.uk/daily-worship](http://www.casopportsmouth.org.uk/daily-worship)
- [www.cafod.org.uk/education/children-s-liturgy](http://www.cafod.org.uk/education/children-s-liturgy)



**REGINA CAELI.** During the Easter season, the words of the hymn "Regina Caeli" ("Queen of Heaven") are substituted for the Angelus prayer before Mass:

Queen of Heaven

V. Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

R. For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.

V. Has risen, as he said, alleluia.

R. Pray for us to God, alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray.

O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen

While the authorship of the Regina Caeli is unknown, the hymn has been traced back to the twelfth century. It was in Franciscan use, after Compline, in the first half of the following century. There is a legend that says St. Gregory the Great (d. 604) heard the first three lines chanted by angels on a certain Easter morning in Rome while he walked barefoot in a great religious procession and that the saint thereupon added the fourth line: "Ora pro nobis Deum. Alleluia."

# Love your priests

According to recent studies, a great number of priests quit each year. They don't quit because they have a lack of faith in God. They don't quit because they no longer believe in the calling God has placed in their lives. They don't quit because of financial reasons.

Priests quit because they are overwhelmed by mental exhaustion.

Until you're a priest, you never fully understand what it's like to carry spiritual burdens for people. Getting up in the middle of the night praying for your family of faith, awakened in the night because of someone in need, or your heart being overwhelmed with a person's absence or distance.

A priest's mind is continuously occupied with the presentation of the Sunday message. How to preach it? What to teach? How do we apply it?

Priests are criticised on a continual basis. They are told to do better or that the church building needs to be better.

Priests invest their whole lives in people, and yet people will turn their backs on their priest at the first sign of a storm, usually without even a conversation first. Priests stand in the middle of disputes; they stand in the middle of gossip. They counsel broken marriages and comfort those who've suffered loss.

Priests navigate the waters of imperfect people, desperate to see each one thrive in their faith. They long for spiritual breakthroughs. Your priest craves the very best for you. They do all this while trying to battle their own faith and grow in their own faith with God.

Priests see the posts, hear the whispers and endure



the negativity.

Priests are continually caring for the sheep while fending off the wolves. Priests pour out and pour out, rarely being poured into.

### **What keeps a priest going? YOU!**

You - the person who is genuinely hungry.

You - the person who worships with passion and freedom.

You - the teenager who is striving to be a follower of Jesus.

You - the single mum who understands the beauty of the hope found in Christ.

You - the one who walks through the door for the first time because you are searching for peace, hope and community.

### **Please pray for your priest.**

Serve your priest.

Talk with your priest.

Encourage your priest.

Your priest is human.

They need you more than you think.