



CATHOLIC PARISH GUILDFORD

This week's email is longer than usual! It contains the text of the New Deanery Newsletter: part of the local response to Bishop Richard's Pastoral Plan - *The Word who is life.*

The first few Deanery Newsletters will focus on 'getting to know you...' to quote the old song. This month it begins with the clergy of the Deanery - the next edition will focus on the communities.

As we hear in the Liturgy during this Easter Season of the growth of the early Church do please keep *The Word who is Life* in your prayers.

Wishing you a continued & blessed celebration of the Lord's resurrection: Alleluia!

PRAYER

DIVINE MERCY

The Divine Mercy Sunday was last weekend - but our Parish Celebration takes place tomorrow (Sat 13th). St. Mary's Church community are hosting a retreat by the Marian Fathers from the Divine Mercy Apostolate in London in the afternoon from 1 pm - 4 pm.

The programme includes the Rosary, Holy Mass, Adoration, The Chaplet, Benediction & Confessions.

On departure refreshments will be served in the church hall.

All are welcome to come together in prayer & devotion on this special day.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Please keep in your prayers

Rosa Alongi Funeral at St Mary's on Friday 19th April at 11am

Gerard Dyson Funeral on Friday 26th April at 11am at St Edward's

Ray Traynor Funeral on Friday 3rd May at 10am at St Joseph's

**Eternal Rest grant unto them O Lord, and let Perpetual light shine upon them,
May they rest in Peace.**

MISSION

TUESDAY CLUB

The Tuesday Club welcomes all to join our next get-together on Tuesday 16th April in St. Joseph's Church Hall at 2.30pm. Actress Sarah Gobran will give us a talk about the **Guildford Shakespeare Company**, from staging productions of great drama, to education in the dramatic arts. Homemade cakes and Tea/coffee will be served.

No need to book. Please email Tuesdayclub@cpg.church or contact the office if you need transport.

<https://www.cpg.church/tuesdayclub.html>

ST EDWARD'S -SMARTIE TUBES

If you were given a tube of Smarties for the Lent project at St Edward's please return them this Sunday (14th) or next Sunday (21st). We hope you have enjoyed eating the Smarties and have filled your tube with coins! This is the final item for our Lent project for Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice.

Thank you for your support.

CAFOD SKY DIVE

On Sunday 14th April Daniel Lintott will be undertaking a charity tandem skydive from 15,000ft in aid of the Gazza crisis. Daniel is a Guildford parishioner and a recent President of the Guildford Catenian Circle. If you wish, donations may be made using ctrl+click [HERE](#).

[PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE](#)

The Guildford Catenians of the Parish are organising another pilgrimage to Medjugorje from the 7th to the 14th October this year and would welcome parishioners who would like to join them. Our pilgrimage is being organised through a wonderful team in Medjugorje who use the best local guides and who are all closely involved in the Medjugorje story.

For more information please contact Greg Melly by email (greg.melly@ntlworld.com)

[KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA](#)

The Guildford and District Knights of St Columba invite you to St Augustine's Abbey, Sampleoak Lane, Chilworth GU4 8QR on **Saturday May 18** to discover the Benedictine way of life. An optional Holy Mass is at 9 am followed by a talk from **10.00 to 11.30 am** in the Abbey Church. Admission to the talk is by donation. Refreshments will be available as well as access to the monks' shop. If you wish to attend please email richardatob@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEERS PLEASE

[CAFOD SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED](#)

Could you help CAFOD to inspire children and young people in our Catholic schools by giving an assembly or a workshop in a local school?

You will discuss issues of global justice whilst complementing the work of teachers, priests and catechists. Contact Jenny Finlayson on jfinlayson@cafod.org.uk or tel: 07710 094448

[COUNTERS WANTED FOR ST JOSEPH'S](#)

Counters at St Joseph's Church required – Two new volunteers are required to help count the collection at St Joseph's Church every 2 or 3 weeks. Counting will take place during the week on a day to fit in with you. If you are available, even if it is only once a month, please contact Tim Edwards (0736 22 88 756).

DEANERY NEWSLETTER

In *The Word who is Life* Bishop Richard says

I therefore take this opportunity to invite everyone in the Diocese – lay faithful and religious, deacons and priests – to join with me in forging our parishes into communities of saints, into strong, lively and welcoming schools of discipleship.

May they be communities where the Lord is known and loved;
where the liturgy is experienced as an encounter with the wonder of heaven;
where daily prayer is a natural part of life;
communities of healing, where all are welcomed,
their dignity as children of God always recognised;
where young people grow in deep love for the Gospel,
for the sacramental life of the Church and for prayer;
where all know the riches of the Faith and seek to share it with others.

To help make this vision a reality it was announced earlier in the year that the community of communities which make up our deanery will become a single parish, under the joint leadership of a team of priests. Fr Jonathan How will be their moderator, who will coordinate their work as first among equals.

Fr Jonathan writes:

What has happened so far?

- The clergy team met in February with Canon Kieron O'Brien and Deacon Nick St John, who are supporting the development of our new parishes and in March with Bishop Richard.
- The appointment of the moderator has been announced, effective when the new parish is erected.
- A date has been identified for Bishop Richard to celebrate Mass at which the new parish will be entrusted to the team of priests. This is planned for 10.30am on **Saturday 7th September** and will take place at St Joan of Arc Church in Farnham. We hope that many of the lay faithful will come together that day to pray for the fruitfulness of our new parish.

What are the next steps?

- Times of Eucharistic Adoration in each of our current parishes for the fruitfulness of the pastoral plan
- Reflection on the gifts and talents with which the Lord has blessed us - as individuals, and as parish communities - and to consider how these might

contribute towards this renewed vision of 'Making our Church of today, everyone's Church for the future'.

- A meeting of representatives from the pastoral teams of each of our current parishes in May to help build a shared picture of our gifts and talents.
- Building means of communication across our communities – such as this newsletter.

Why are these changes being made? This is explained in detail in the pastoral plan, but essentially this new structure will make us better able to put into effect the mission of the church, the mission of sharing the love of God with all people. The structures that we are so used to have served us well, but the world is changing. We need to be able to engage with the world as it is today, and the people of today, who so badly need the word who is life. The restructuring of our existing Deanery into a single parish is not an end in itself – it is a tool to make us better able to live as disciples of the Lord and witness to his love and mercy.

Does this mean that we will see different priests each week for Sunday Mass? No, the plan is that each priest will continue to celebrate Mass in the particular communities under his care, so that we can enjoy the continuity that we all value so much. We will try to support each other as much as we can, and there may be times that we are able to cover for one another, but in general you will probably not notice a change in this respect.

Will the Mass times change? No one likes change, especially changes fundamental as the times of holy Mass. The plan itself does not envisage changes to Mass times, and if the number of priests remained constant things could continue much as they are. But in reality as the number of priests available continues to decline, it is inevitable that there will need to be some changes. This is an uncomfortable fact that we cannot avoid.

How will lay people be involved? This is a new structure, and we will need to feel our way carefully and grow it together. All the clergy in the existing Deanery feel that it is essential that the lay faithful of the Deanery are involved in the process of change, as well as in the running of the new parish in the future: "For in the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body" (1 Cor 12:13). There may be some particular experience, qualities or expertise that you have that have been given for the building up of the body of Christ in mission. It is in the interests of us all – and all those people who so badly need to hear the good news, and all the generations of future disciples yet to be born – that we make real the vision our Bishop has set before us: the vision of our parishes as 'communities of saints' and 'schools of discipleship'.

We will try and keep you informed of what is happening as we go along. In May there will be a gathering of representatives from the parishes across the Deanery as a first step in building a shared picture of the way God is at work in our communities.

There is a lot of work to be done but please bear with us if the rate of progress does not seem as fast as you might hope. All the members of the clergy team are also working in their parishes and many of them also have substantial diocesan commitments. The lay people who work with us are also busy women and men. We will all do the best we can: this is such an important step forward, we need to act decisively, but carefully. It is the Lord's plan that we need to implement: not mine, not yours. The world needs the good news; we are the particular frail earthen vessels that he has chosen to entrust it to at this particular moment in time. We are the ones who have been sent.

What can I do now?

- Pray that our parishes will become communities of saints and missionary disciples.
- Reflect on your own gifts and talents.
- Try to find out about some of the other parish communities around you.

Parish Websites

Ash & Heath End <http://www.holyangelsash.org>

Cranleigh & Bramley <https://www.cpcb.org.uk>

Farnham <https://www.stjoanofarcfarnham.co.uk>

Godalming <https://www.stedsgod.com>

Guildford <https://www.cpg.church>

Haslemere, Hindead & Chiddingfold
<https://www.catholicaslemere.com>

Sunday Mass Times in Guildford Deanery

For further details please follow [this link](#)

Introducing our Clergy

Guildford Deanery is served by eight priests to whom the new parish will be entrusted and five deacons.

Ash and Heath End – Fr Robin Farrow with Deacon John Edwards

Cranleigh & Bramley – Fr Alistair Simmons

Farnham – Fr Niven Richardson

Godalming – Fr Jonathan How

Guildford– Mgr Canon Tony Barry (Dean), Fr Tristan Cranfield, Fr Roy Waters with Deacons Sean Evans, Edward Hopkins, Ian Hunt and Michael Phillips.

Haslemere, Hindhead & Chiddingfold – Fr Rajesh Minz

Mgr Canon Tony Barry grew up in Englefield Green and was formed at St John's Seminary, Wonersh and ordained Deacon just two months before the Church of St Joseph Guildford was opened in 1984. He served as a curate in Caterham and Chichester and then a number of other roles in the Diocese. In 2000 was appointed to the Team Ministry in Crawley Parish. Working with three other priests the parish grew as neighbouring parishes were successfully merged. This time was a formative experience and prepared Mgr Tony for his appointment to Guildford. As well as valuing the opportunity of working collaboratively, the Team Ministry in Guildford has allowed him to fulfil his responsibilities as Episcopal Vicar of Surrey - supporting parishes across the county when the need arises: the other priests generously taking on more of the Guildford Parish workload. As a member of the Bishop's Episcopal Council Mgr Tony has had the privilege of being involved in the development of *The Word who is Life* and he is a member of the Diocesan Steering Group. As the Chair of the Diocesan Education Committee he is also keen that the schools are enabled to play their role in the Bishop's Vision.

Fr Tristan Cranfield is a member of the moderated clergy team in Guildford Parish, where he has served since February 2022. He is the Vocations Director for the Diocese and a member of the Council of Priests. Born in Shoreham, he grew up in and around Arundel, attending local Catholic schools, and served as an altar boy and chorister at the Cathedral. He studied Arabic and French at Oxford University, and lived abroad for several years in the Middle East. Before becoming a priest, he was a translator, mainly working with Arabic literature, but also spent some time working as a PA in a law firm and teaching English as a foreign language in Turkey, India and London. He was sent to Rome to train for the priesthood at the Venerable English College from 2011-2018, before being ordained back in Arundel. He has served previously in the parish of Eastbourne.

Fr Robin Farrow grew up in Maidenhead and was ordained priest in 2015, having previously served fourteen years in Sussex in the Church of England. He is married to Caroline and has five children. He was appointed to Ash in 2015. He enjoys reading and music when the children let him!

Fr Jonathan How grew up in Burgess Hill and was ordained priest for the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton in 1993. He has previously served as a priest in the parishes of Woking and Cobham and was appointed to Godalming in 2019. Fr Jonathan served for 18 years at St John's Seminary, Womersley, teaching both Philosophy and Liturgy and acting as Bursar and as Director of Studies. He is a trustee of the Diocese and chairs its finance and art and architecture committees. He is also a Trustee of the Secular Clergy Common Fund and of St Joseph's Specialist Trust. Outside of the Diocese he serves on the Joint Liturgical Group and is a member of *Societas Liturgica*. Fr Jonathan has an active involvement with the Scout Movement at local, national and international level, to which he has made a significant contribution in the areas of Spiritual and Religious Development and Interreligious Dialogue. In his spare time he enjoys climbing and mountaineering.

Fr Rajesh Minz was ordained in 2008 for the Diocese of Rourkela in the North East of India.

After ordination Fr Raj served as an Assistant Parish priest in his home diocese, setting up a new school. After two and half years he was transferred to St. Albert's Theological Regional Major Seminary in Ranchi, India where he had done his own theological studies. He taught theology there for two years before being sent to do further studies in Pastoral Theology at Leuven, Belgium. With the agreement of his bishop, who wished him to have the experience of living and working abroad as a missionary, he has served in our Diocese in Bexhill since 2015, moving to Haslemere in September 2022. Fr Rajesh likes visiting the families, care homes, sick, elderly and housebound. His hobbies are: reading, writing, walking, basketball games.

Fr Niven Richardson grew up in Scotland, and was ordained priest in 1991. He came to Farnham in 2011, having previously served in Merrow and Burpham, Camberley, Seaford, Bexhill, Bognor. He really appreciates the natural countryside of Surrey and Sussex, especially the ponds and the seaside.

Fr Alistair Simmons is parish priest of Cranleigh and Bramley, having returned to his native deanery from the South coast. He firmly believes that knowledge of our faith and love of scripture can be effectively communicated and made more accessible through various artistic mediums – music, art, architecture, poetry, etc. – and he enjoys incorporating this aspect into preaching and teaching, especially as part of days of recollection and retreats. He believes that grow best as communities and individuals when we risk deepening our knowledge

and appreciation of each other. It saddens him that invaluable local projects such as *Churches Together* seem to be kept going only by the older, committed generation in our parishes. He would love to see a re-flourishing and re-vitalisation of local ecumenical and interfaith dialogues, times of prayer and practical projects. Much does go on; we could do so much more.

He says that "When our former bishop, Cormac Murphy O'Connor, once asked if I would consider pursuing further studies, I explained my long-held interest in *speculative theology*. (Those who know me well, know my love of pushing boundaries as well as embracing those who find themselves in, or beyond, the liminal spaces of our society and faith communities.) Unsurprisingly, perhaps, further studies did not materialise, not even when I later suggested Rahner's *theology of symbol* or *war and peace studies* as alternatives!"

Fr Roy Waters was ordained Deacon in 2002 at Chilworth Friary following a career in telecommunications and served there until 2010. He was appointed a Diocesan MC in 2006 until 2012. When Chilworth Friary closed in 2010 he then served in the parish of Cranleigh and Bramley for the next seven years. Following the death of his dear wife Hilary in 2015, he returned to St John's Seminary Womersley to study Canon Law. He was ordained priest in Arundel Cathedral in May 2017 and appointed to the Catholic Parish of Guildford. He has two married sons and three grandchildren.

Deacon John Edwards comes from Farnham. He was ordained in 2005 after a career in BT and serves Heath End and Ash. He is married to Ann and has three children and five grandchildren.

John and Ann enjoy caravanning and narrow boating.

Deacon Sean Evans was ordained to the Permanent Diaconate on 19th July 2021. He is married to Anna.

Deacon Edward Hopkins is originally from the Parish of the Nativity of the Lord in Redhill, Reigate and Merstham. Most of his working life was spent in Adult Education, where he focussed on teaching English to immigrants and refugees. Before starting seminary, he spent a year as a pastoral assistant at St Joseph's in Dorking, and after three years of study at St John's Seminary, Womersley, spent a year on a pastoral placement at Arundel Cathedral. He is currently based at Guildford Parish at the weekends while completing his training at Allen Hall seminary in London during the week. **He will be ordained to the priesthood on 22 June at Arundel Cathedral.**

Deacon Ian Hunt was ordained to the Permanent Diaconate on the 19th July 2021. Being born and raised in Guildford he was baptised in 2006, he is married to Sandy and has 4 children.

Deacon Michael Phillips was a professional soldier for 31 years, latterly as a soldier-diplomat. Ordained Deacon in 2009 Michael has been married for over 51 years with three daughters.

And the last word goes to Fr Niven....

What motivates me about the life of the new parish is all that is written in *The Word Who is Life*. The power of the positive and energising words speak of a church effervescent with life. It is full of dynamism and hope. It is this kind of parish that I am looking forward to. The words open and openness are used in the prayer that we are invited to say as we prepare for the forming of the new parish, drawing on the way that *The Word Who is Life* speaks of our communities as places where all are welcomed and of lively communities of faith. To be part of this is exciting and I look forward to this journey we will all be travelling on together.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

Mental Health Awareness Seminar – A choice of two dates. Saturday 13 April in Crawley or Saturday 15 June in Burgess Hill. Cost £30 (subsidised by Diocese)

Do you work in public Ministry in your Parish? Do you work or support people in your day to day lives? The number of people experiencing the challenge and suffering of poor mental health is a growing reality in the UK.

The course is led by a Member of the Mental Health First Aid England team and is suited to those involved in pastoral activities, leading events and those who work and support youngsters. The aim of this seminar is to help you to understand the impacts and realities of mental health on the individual. To help you identify the early signs and symptoms and to signpost the individual effectively. Places can be booked through the attached links [Mental Health Awareness Seminar \(13-Apr-2024\) · ChurchSuite Events](#) or [Mental Health Awareness Seminar \(15-Jun-2024\) · ChurchSuite Events](#) will take you to the registration page.

Youth Ministry Training - 20 April and 18 May and at The St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley

Do you want to see more young people in your Parish? Sign up for the Diocesan two-day Youth Ministry Training course. Be inspired, encouraged and equipped for the new era of mission that we find ourselves in.

E: lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk

Children's Liturgy Saturday 18 May

Following on from the success of our previous Children's liturgy training we are repeating the training. This will take place at the St Philip Howard Centre in Crawley. Please join us for a morning exploring an exciting style of delivering the liturgy of the word for children. Lucy Hall will be demonstrating a hands on, tactile approach to wondering about the Gospel. Whether you have been working in this ministry for a long time or if you are new, come to be enthused by Lucy and to meet others who share your passion. Please sign up here: [Liturgy of the Word with Children - Leaders' training \(18-May-2024\)](#) · [ChurchSuite Events](#)

Adoremus 2024 – Cost £40 per person

Join Bishop Richard at Adoremus 2024, the National Eucharistic Congress at Oscott, Birmingham and the place where the first Eucharistic procession took place after the restoration of the Church in Britain. The day will include a keynote address, Mass, a Eucharistic Procession and Benediction and a range of campus activities including an Acutis presentation, Rosary walk and Adoration in the Chapel. Parking is available at St Wilfrid's School, Crawley but please arrive in good time to board the coach which will depart promptly at 6.45am. The coach will depart Birmingham at 6pm. Please bring a packed lunch. For more information and to book your ticket please see the attached link [Adoremus 2024 \(14-Sep-2024\)](#) · [ChurchSuite Events](#)

To find out about and book events hosted by the Diocese please visit the Diocesan website events calendar

W: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events>

OTHER EVENTS

[CHILWORTH ABBEY](#)

The next Chilworth Abbey Study Morning, is on Saturday, April 20th, 2024, led by Fr John Seddon OSB, on the concluding Part 8 of Jeff Cavin's 'A Quick Journey through the Bible', dealing with The Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles: Messianic Fulfillment and The Church. Mass, 9.00am, Video and Talks 10.30am-12.30pm. Bring a friend if possible.

See chilworthbeneditines.com, for more details

CPG LIVESTREAM

SUNDAY MASS ONLINE: 10.30am and 5pm

JOIN US FOR DAILY MASS ONLINE: Monday-Saturday - 10 am

EVENING PRAYER 6pm (Mon-Fri)

Please join us by [clicking here](#).

If you have any intentions that you would like the community to pray for: an anniversary, sick family member or friend, someone or something that can be included in the 6pm Evening Prayer Intercessions please email: office@cpg.church or 01483 562704

DIOCESAN PRAYER

**LORD,
The Word who is Life.**

May all the people of our Diocese grow in openness
to the power of the Holy Spirit,
so that through a growth in understanding and courage,
and truly open to your call,
we may bear powerful witness
to all around us,
for you are Lord for ever and ever,

AMEN