



Between the time Feb 2022



This week we marked the end of the Christmas Season and for a period returned to what in the Church's calendar is called 'Ordinary Time'. The colour changes from White to Green and from this Sunday we will count down the Sundays till Lent. This is one of those year's where that period between Christmas and Lent will be the whole of February as Ash Wednesday is March 2nd. That sense of between the times extends beyond the church's calendar. We have moved out of Plan B in response to COVID but still are in a period of care for each other and caution.



The PCC and Standing Committee are regularly reviewing how we continue to ensure as possible can share in our life in as safe a way as possible, currently we are **encouraging everyone to wear a face covering in our churches**, and to be sensitive to others and the space they need around them. If you wish to remain in **seats which are set apart** then in each church, there are seats set distanced for you to use. We are also aware of our need to ensure that our hospitality is offered as safely as we can so are ensuring that **those preparing and serving Tea and Coffee etc are wearing a face covering** and if possible, wearing gloves to handle mugs etc. If you are sharing in tea and coffee, please continue to be sensitive to others and **do not crowd around the serving tables, and only remove face coverings when actually drinking**. We will review again and are considering any other changes to happen at Ash Wednesday,

We appreciate that for some these moves will not be enough while for other they may be challenging and unsettling. **Please do let the Ministry know your feelings and thoughts and we will be adapting and developing as we believe is best for the common good. Please continue to show the care and respect for each other- and our worship and love of God – that you have shown in such depth over the past months.**



Part of being between times is a sense of looking forward. Over the next few weeks there are some things we can begin to look forward to. On **March 12th** we will as a Diocese be welcoming our **Bishop, Jonathan**, as he begins his ministry with us. We also look forward to welcoming **Fr Rajiv as a curate**. You will find some words from him introducing himself. There will be a small service of welcome **at 6pm on March 1st** (Shrove Tuesday) and that will be followed by Pancake Races, Food and a Quiz – you can join in some or all of those things!



Another thing to look forward to (and hold in prayers) will be a **Confirmation later in the year**. On Candlemas we welcomed those exploring their faith – **Aimee, Alana, Harry, Linda, Lizzie, Maisie, Rachael, Samuel, Teela - May** – and we will announce when the confirmation is, once Bishop Jonathan has arrived. **If you would like to explore our faith with them then please let one of the Ministry Team know.**

Also looking ahead there is the joy of the **Parish Panto** – which is resuming rehearsals – on **Saturday March 26th** – we hope you can join us at **2.30pm or 7pm**.



One of the areas the **Social Justice Group** is focusing on is our response to the Environment and how we can be better stewards of creation. We were delighted that they have been successful in being given a grant to help us develop sustainable transport. The first sign of this is **the 6 new Bike Stands on the North side of St Mary's** – we hope people will begin to use these and consider cycling more often. There are further items to appear ... but more on that next time!



Inside St Mary's the Organ Project has seen the return of the restored pipes which are now in the North Aisle. Currently the Screen is being cleaned and the angels on it re-gilded. If you get the chance do call in and see the work in progress. It's also still not too late to sponsor a pipe – please contact Matt Dixon for details.

In this in-between time, we will continue to invite everyone to **pause and pray with us at 9 and 6** each day. Also, to share in daily worship either online or at our churches. There also continue to be opportunities to meet each week for **Coffee and Chat**. In addition to these regular things there are also the following events:

Weds Feb 9th After the Noon Mass at St Mary's **the Fellowship meet for lunch** (please bring your own) and conversation with Mthr Charlotte

Sat Feb 12th 10am Valentine's Coffee Morning and Just Ask at St Mary's. We will be raising money for Christian Aid (to help replace the money we did not raise at the cancelled Reindeer Drive) and welcoming those who are planning to marry at St Mary's this year, Come and enjoy a Bacon Buttie!

Sun Feb 13th 11.30am Young Families gathering at St Mary's. We gather for worship, craft and activity and a chance to chat afterwards.

Mon Feb 14th 7.30pm Julian Prayer Group at St Faith's

Tues Feb 15th 6pm Social Justice Group meets at St Faith's – if you are interested in being part of our various activities in this area then please come along or contact Revd Sam.

Weds Feb 16th 7pm The Deanery Synod will meet at St Mary's (Please note Choir rehearsal will be at St Faith's)

Mon Feb 21st 7pm Monday Men meets – contact Revd Marcus for details.

Thurs Feb 24th 7.30pm Ryal Marine School of Music Concert at St Mary's

We hope to send another newsletter soon with details of our Lent activities this year. We will be reflecting together on **'A community built on love'** and this will include joining in the national 'Embracing Justice' focus and the Hope into Action book 'A house built on love'. If you would like a copy of the book to study and read please contact Revd Sam.

Thank you as always to all of you for your support, your care for one another and your prayers for us and all we do. We are all aware that the journey over these days has been wearying and unsettling. If you are aware of anyone who needs a call from the Ministry Team, or you would like them added to our prayer list then please let me know.

Best wishes for these 'between times'

Father Bob 023 92 822687



Hello! My name is Rajiv and I am really excited to be joining the family at Portsea parish. I was ordained deacon in 2021, after studying as a full-time student in Oxford; completing a BA in theology and religion at Oxford University, and then an MA in Theology, Ministry and mission with Durham University. I am currently also doing a part-time professional doctorate with the University of Roehampton focusing on exclusion in the Church of England.

Before all of this, I was a secondary school geography teacher, having trained at the Institute of Education, Russell Square, and completed my teaching practice in Dagenham (where I am sure we received danger money- I once confiscated live ammunition!). We then moved to the Isle of Wight to teach in a joint catholic and Church of England secondary school, where I had pastoral responsibility. I left my role as assistant principal for pastoral and personal development to follow a call into full-time ministry.

My 1st degree was in geography, which I studied in Bangor; mainly because it was the one place where I could do one of my all-time favourite things-mountain biking. I loved teaching, and teenagers are my favourite age group. Partly because I was once saved by one in my kayak capsized in the river Medina; which was an exciting adventure. I grew up near the original West Ham stadium, so I see myself as Eastender-although my passport says I was born in Ascot (!). I think having the good sense of humour and being able to laugh at yourself as an important part of being human. I am looking forward to learning about life at Portsea parish, especially panto, and the Mayfair..., and getting to know more of you in daily life.