

Pastoral Letter for Southeast Hampshire, Jesus Prince of Peace

Feast of the Assumption

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

A New Chapter for Our Pastoral Area

After four years of working together to prepare our Pastoral Area to become one Canonical Parish, I am delighted to share some wonderful news.

At our recent Diocesan Council of Priests meeting, the clergy advised Bishop Philip to establish the Southeast Hampshire Pastoral Area as one Canonical Parish, to be named Jesus Prince of Peace. Bishop Philip has agreed to this proposal and will officially announce the establishment of the new Parish in early September.

This is an exciting moment in the life of our communities. We have been preparing for this change for some time, and I am very grateful to everyone who has contributed to the journey so far.

Clergy Deployment

One of the questions you may naturally be asking is: **How will this affect me personally?**

On a day-to-day basis, you will see little change within your individual church communities. Our local communities will continue to be places where we gather for Mass, prayer, fellowship and mission.

Father Andrew Wagstaff will become the first Parish Priest of Jesus Prince of Peace and will be ably supported by Fr Joe, Fr Tom, Fr Oliver, Deacon Nick and Deacon Craig.

In terms of clergy deployment:

- **Fr Andrew** will serve the faithful at **Sacred Heart, Waterlooville, and St Edmund's, Horndean.**
- **Fr Tom Hiney** will serve **St Michael's, Leigh Park**, with the support of **Deacon Nick**, and **St Patrick's, Hayling Island**, with the support of **Deacon Craig.**
- **Fr Joe** will continue to look after **St Joseph's, Havant, and St Thomas', Emsworth.**
- We are delighted to welcome **Fr Oliver Ezeani** back to Portsmouth Diocese. Fr Oliver has served here previously and comes with great credentials and the warm appreciation of clergy and laity alike. He will serve **St Colman's, Cosham, and St Paul's, Paulsgrove.**

I am also delighted that a number of Associate Priests will be available to support our Parish and our communities when required:

Fr Joe Balasmay, Fr John Adikwu (full-time QA Chaplain), Fr Jeremy Garratt, Fr David Conroy and Mgr Vincent Harvey.

Our Schools

In terms of our schools and their governance:

- Fr Andrew will continue as the clergy governor at Oaklands Catholic School and will also take on this role at St Peter's Primary School.
- Fr Joe will continue as clergy governor at St Thomas More's.
- Fr Oliver will become the new clergy governor at St Paul's Primary School, Paulsgrove.

Our schools are an important part of the life and mission of our Parish, and I am grateful to all those who support our schools and the children and families within them.

Queen Alexandra Hospital

The Catholic Chaplaincy at Queen Alexandra Hospital will now be led by Fr Andrew, who will be ably supported by local clergy.

As always, if you are going into hospital, please speak to your priest beforehand, where possible, so that the necessary Sacraments can be administered before you are admitted.

Once you are in hospital, if you would like to see a chaplain, the best thing to do is ask the ward to contact the Chaplaincy and request a Catholic priest.

Please note that there is 24-hour emergency cover at the hospital, so a priest can always be called in an emergency.

Parish Council

I am delighted that our Parish Council has continued to grow and support all that we are hoping to achieve. We now have representatives from across our communities, bringing a wide range of experience and expertise.

Name	Role / Area of Responsibility	Community
Fr Andrew	Parish Priest	Jesus Prince of Peace
Marijke Miles	Chair	St Patrick's
Ellen McCarthy	Minutes and Administrators Coordinator	St Michael's
Josie Higson	Evangelisation	St Patrick's
Liz Holford	Catechetics	Sacred Heart
Seamus Higson	Finance Chair	St Patrick's
Anthony Lewis	Youth	Sacred Heart
Matthew Dyer	Inclusivity	St Michael's
Damien Banka	Polish Community	St Joseph's
Karena Fulford	HR and Communication	Sacred Heart
David Simpson	Ecumenism	Sacred Heart
Angela Muxworthy	Prudence and Stewardship Committee	St Joseph's
John Kilby	Prudence and Stewardship Committee	St Colman's
James Ryan	Missionary Committee	St Edmund's
Vivienne McCabe	Christ-Centred Committee	St Thomas'
Noel Hogg	Finance Committee	St Paul's
Chris Bates	Christ-Centred Committee	St Michael's

I am so grateful to each of them for their enthusiasm and passion for building up the Kingdom of God.

If you have any ideas or suggestions, I am sure the team would love to hear from you. Please contact them through Ellen McCarthy at office@stmichaelsleighpark.org.uk.

Parish Finance Committee

As we become one Parish, the current Transitional Finance Committee will become the new Parish Finance Committee.

The committee includes representatives from each church community, ensuring clear communication, appropriate accountability and good feedback between our communities and the Parish as a whole.

Within each church community, there will continue to be a local finance committee to assist with the day-to-day financial running of that community.

This is an important part of our commitment to healthy subsidiarity: ensuring that decisions and responsibilities are undertaken at the appropriate level, locally where this is best, and centrally where this is necessary for the good of the whole Parish.

Name	Community
Zia Collins	Parish Administrators' Representative
Noel Hogg	St Colman, Cosham with St Paul, Paulsgrove
John Kilby	St Colman, Cosham with St Paul, Paulsgrove
Trevor Nee	St Edmund, Horndean
Yvonne Hands	St Edmund, Horndean
Angela Muxworthy	St Joseph and Ss Thomas, Havant and Emsworth
Ian Castle	St Joseph and Ss Thomas, Havant and Emsworth
Vicky McGuigan	St Joseph and Ss Thomas, Havant and Emsworth
Ellen McCarthy	St Michael and All Angels, Leigh Park
Seamus Higson	St Patrick, Hayling Island
Clare Hill	St Patrick, Hayling Island
Paul Baker	Sacred Heart, Waterlooville

Sunday Mass Times Across Our New Parish

Please find below the Mass times across our Parish from the weekend of Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th September.

Please note that the St Patrick's Sunday Mass will return to 11.30am. This will enable Fr Tom to greet the people at St Michael's before travelling across to St Patrick's.

<u>Saturday Vigil</u>	5:00pm 6:00pm 6:15pm	St Thomas' St Colman's Sacred Heart
<u>Sunday</u>	9:00am 9:00am 9:30am 9:30am 11:00am 11:00am 11:30am 11:30am 1:00pm 4:00pm 5:30pm	St Thomas' St Edmund's St Colman's St Michael's Sacred Heart St Joseph's St Patrick's St Paul's St Joseph's (Polish) Queen Alexandra Hospital Sacred Heart

As we enjoy a slight slowing down during August, I do hope you find time to refresh and recharge.

I offer my prayers to you all as we begin this exciting new chapter in the life of our communities and look forward to all that God will accomplish among us as we become Jesus Prince of Peace.

Thank you for all that you do, for your prayer, your generosity and your commitment to our communities.

May God bless you and your families.

Fr James

PS: As incoming Parish Priest, I would like to add a note of thanks to Father James for his pastoral charity and commitment to our communities. He is the Moses of our journey up to this day – taken from us just before we are to enter the promised land of Jesus Prince of Peace. Like Moses in Deuteronomy, Father James has clearly indicated to us the direction we should take to fulfil the Bishop's plan in Southeast Hampshire. My role is to be the Joshua to Father James' Moses, to settle the land we have been allotted. I am deeply grateful to Father James for bringing us, as it were, to the Jordan. Please join me in praying every blessing upon Father James as he sets out on a year of academic excellence in Steubenville, Ohio.

Father Andrew