

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### **LENTEN APPEAL**

Embrace Gaza

All donations should be returned by this Sunday April 14th

### **CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY APPEAL**

All donations should be returned by this Sunday April 14th

## SAVE THE DATES

### **FATHER MICHAEL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

Saturday April 20th

Join us for a Parish Celebration for The 50th Anniversary of Father Michael's Ordination

We will be hosting a Cream Tea from 2.30pm —5.00pm followed by evening Mass at 5.30pm

A sign up sheet for catering numbers is now available at the back of Church

We are also having a collection for Father Michael to buy a present - please put any donations into an envelope marked (FrMAP) for the attention of Krissie

Please post them into the presbytery by 13th April

### **BOOK AND PLANT SALE ON MAY 12TH**

We are holding a book and plant sale at the beginning of May. Please consider donating any books (please only good as new ones) or plants. Donations can be left on the table in the office. All proceeds will be given to the charities the Parish supports. For more info contact Krissie in the office—Please be aware that Krissie is away on annual leave from 16th –24th April.

### **ECUMENICAL SAFARI SUPPER Saturday, 6th July.**

This is a free event and a sign up sheet will be put up nearer the time.

## **Thought for the week**

**14th April, 2024**

**3rd Sunday of Easter**

### *They recognised Jesus in the breaking of bread*

Today (Sunday) sees the 42nd year of the Reading Half-Marathon. A great day on the streets of Reading for the runners and their supporters. Not so good for those who want to drive through the town! It is an event I have participated in, but now my legs and knees are ageing I stick to the 5 Km Park runs. A wonderful thing about the half-marathon is that it attracts people of all abilities. The winners will cross the line in just over an hour while those bringing up the rear will be crossing in closer to four hours. Yet all will finish with a personal sense of satisfaction and achievement, and perhaps have raised money for a good cause at the same time.

On several occasions St Paul likens the Christian life to a race. Everyone is invited to participate, regardless of personal abilities, and we all have the same trainer – Jesus. Athletes who are serious will go into strict training and deny themselves certain things. Our training requires we stay in regular contact with Jesus through prayer and deny ourselves those things that draw us away from him. Once the race has started, athletes do not look back but, keep their mind fixed on the finish line. If we do look back causing us to stumble and fall or lose sight of the finishing line, we can be certain Jesus will be there to lift us up and get us back on track again.

Our trainer also provides all the nourishment we need to cross the finish line. Not multi-vitamins and protein supplements, but himself in Holy Communion. Do we recognise him in the breaking of bread like the disciples in today's gospel?

The risen Jesus was the first to cross the finish line when he entered heaven with his human body. If we follow his instructions, he will ensure we cross the finish line by raising up our mortal bodies when he comes again in glory.

Deacon Brian





**We ask you please, to pray for the following people who need your prayers:**

Please pray for Sarah Britton .

Please pray for Mary Edwards who has had hip surgery, after a fall at home, and is now recovering in The RBH.

Please pray for Carl Stitt the Uncle of Krissie as his operation was not successful and will have to be repeated.

Thank you for your continued prayers for Robert Brooks who is now back at home and continues to improve.

Rosemary continues to need our prayers having undergone major surgery, as the recovery will be long and slow.

Please pray for Kim, Paul and Joe Bunton (Joe has severe learning difficulties ). Please pray that they get the help they need.

Please continue to pray for Father Paul Rowan. Both cancer surgery and corneal graft are at last showing positive outcomes.

Please pray for Peter Halter's sister Jean who has macular degeneration and for her great grandson Rogan who continues to need our prayers following his bone marrow transplant,

Please Pray for Jim Hardiman.

Please Pray for Maria McNamara's niece who is undergoing chemotherapy. Her name is Alison Flynn née McNamara.

Please pray for Reuben Muston aged 17 (Theresa and Mike Muston's grandson) who had Aplastic Anaemia. He still needs our prayers that he will continue to improve.

Please pray for Savanna Clark (aged 2 with eye trouble).

Please pray for Shirley Trollop.

Please pray for Isobel Messenger (Vera Bird's great granddaughter) she has now had her operation to improve her hearing.

Please pray for Simon Keen who is recovering from an operation.

Please pray for Mary Hagger.

Please pray for Vivien Kear (Krissie's friend) who has cancer.

Vera Bird has asked for our prayers for her Great, Great Grandson Harry.

Prayers please for Antonita's nephew Peppin who has long covid.



**Please also remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time including;**

Carol Connell, Fr Robert O'Neill, Fr. Xavier O.F.M.,  
Jenny Pereira, Jack Leach, Mary Ann Oattes,  
Camilio Santana Rodrigues, Brendan McCarthy.