

Humanæ Vitæ

ON 25th July 1968 - so just fifty years ago - there was issued the most controversial papal encyclical of all time. Pope Blessed Paul VI, having convoked a commission of consultants 'on the regulation of birth', did not accept the advice of its majority and instead 'said no' to the pill. The Pope was revisiting the arguments of an earlier encyclical, *Casti connubii* ('of chaste wedlock') promulgated by Pope Pius XI on 31 December 1930 in response to the Lambeth Conference of the Anglican Communion which that year had cautiously endorsed artificial birth control.

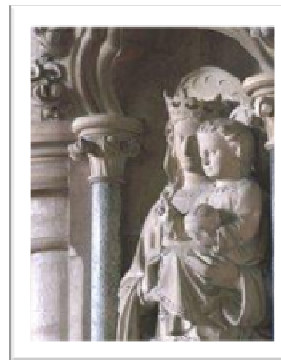
Since 1968, a time of immense social change and sexual emancipation, Catholic opinion has sharply divided into those who have viewed *Humanæ Vitæ* as a tragic mistake, a misreading of the complex needs of a modern society in which men and women work and raise families, and those who see the encyclical as a brave and prophetic document, upholding the true nature and purpose of human sexuality. The encyclical has been supported by subsequent popes and one cannot but notice the collapsing birth rate in so-called Christian countries, the decline in marriages, and the alarming increase in abortion.

As the magazine *Crux* said:

'In a sense, there's a clear before and after. The post-*Humanæ Vitæ* period in which we're still living is noisier, messier, more turbulent. It's one in which nothing can be taken for granted, least of all a global Catholic chorus of 'how high?' when popes say 'jump.'

There is a discussion to be had about marriage and family life but the stakes are so high for everyone that the difficult issues are easily avoided. Perhaps as a parish community we need to learn to talk about some of this together, openly and respectfully of others' positions, and not just as part of marriage preparation.

Fr Andrew



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Sunday 5 th August	SUNDAY 18 PER ANNUM Mass: 9.30am St Mary's Mass: 11.15am St Patrick's Mass: 6pm Milton Manor	Year B: Weekdays Year 2: Psalter Week 2 [GREEN] <i>Pro populo</i>
Monday 6 th August	The Transfiguration of the Lord Mass: 9.15am St Mary's	[white] <i>FM Louisa Goddard 1967</i>
Tuesday 7 th August	<i>Of Week 18</i> Mass: 9.15am St Mary's	[green] <i>FM Bridget Woods 1937</i>
Wednesday 8 th August	St Dominic, Founder Adoration: 11.45am Mass: 12.15pm St Mary's	[white]
Thursday 9 th August	St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross [Edith Stein] Mass: 9.15am St Mary's	[red] <i>FM Angela Mary Stillwell, relatives and friends 1951</i>
Friday 10 th August	St Laurence, Deacon, Martyr Mass: 8.30am Hendred House Adoration: 3pm Hendred House	[red] <i>Holy Souls</i>
Saturday 11 th August	St Clare, Foundress <i>No Mass</i>	[white]
Sunday 12 th August	SUNDAY 19 PER ANNUM Mass: 9.30am St Mary's Mass: 11.15am St Patrick's	Year B: Weekdays Year 2: Psalter Week 3 [GREEN] <i>Pro populo</i>
Confessions: Sundays at 8.45am or by appointment www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk		

LOOKING AHEAD

GATHERING TOGETHER IN CHRIST

Our next two meetings will be on Tuesdays, **August 7th** and September 4th. At our meeting in August we shall be reading chapter 7 of Paul's letter to the Romans to help us discuss and pray. Parish rooms, 7.30 pm; coffee and biscuits beforehand; finish 8.30 – 9.00. All welcome.

WEDNESDAY 15TH AUGUST

As well as 12.15pm, there will be Mass at 7.30pm at St Mary's on this Holy Day of Obligation.

SUMMER CHANGES OF MASS TIME

Weekend of 18th /19th August

Mass at St Patrick's will be at 6pm on Saturday 18th. Mass at St Mary's will be at 11am on Sunday 19th and sung by the Newman Consort. After Mass there will be a Festival Lunch at the Wheatsheaf.

SIGN UP FOR ST MARY'S FESTIVAL LUNCH

19th August St Mary's: Please sign up the list in the porch of the church.

FANNING THE FLAME CATHOLIC MISSION - SUMMER CAMP

Join us for 5 days of camping in the New Forest. Celebrating Mass and praying together, engaging talks, stream time, workshops (of all sorts) horse riding, football, good showers and great meals, and plenty of time to make friends and ask questions about your faith. The Summer camp is for 10-25 year olds and **runs from 20th - 24th August**. Bookings close on **12th August**. Please see poster in church.

YOUTH 2000 - WALSINGHAM SUMMER FESTIVAL 23-27 AUGUST

2018's biggest young Catholic Summer Festival! Walsingham, a 5-day camping festival run by young people for young people. It is about us discovering who we are as we come face-to-face with the God who made us, knows us and loves us. Together we ask all the biggest questions in an environment of a wholehearted encounter. What am I worth? What's my purpose? Deep down, who am I? Anyone between the ages of 16 - 35, or families with parents or children in this age-range are welcome. For more information or to book a place please go to www.youth2000.org/festival

PARISH COLLECTION

Last Sunday collection raised a total of £983.15 of which 89% was Gift aided.

FORTHCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

16th September: Home Mission Sunday

Find us on  

NEWSLETTER | Please send all notices for next week's Newsletter to Maria at hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk by **Wednesday 10 am**

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

BAPTISM AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time.



THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED

Sr Catherine, Mary Wallace, Brenda Paddon, Alfie Bartlam, Jadvyga Adasko, Angus Clark, Andrew Gunn and Julian Quinn. Names remain for four weeks.

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Those who have died recently and those with anniversaries at this time: *Francis Marshall, Charles Lafferty, Angela Stilwell, George Hunt and Elizabeth Boyle.*

HOLY FATHER'S AUGUST PRAYER INTENTION - Universal - The treasure of Families. That any far-reaching decisions of economists and politicians may protect the family as one of the treasures of humanity.

ANNUAL DAY FOR ALTAR SERVERS

Join us for our Annual Day for Altar Servers! This event will be on **Saturday 13 October** at Christ the King Church in Reading, RG2 8NR. It starts at 10am and finishes at 4pm. Please bring pack lunches. If you would like to register please go to www.eventbrite.co.uk

FOR SCIENCE OR RELIGION? A SYMPOSIUM

On **Saturday 3rd November** 10am to 4pm in Winchester. With two key speakers: Professor Brian Cox, professor of physics from the University of Manchester and well-known BBC broadcaster, and Dr Andrew Pinsent from the Oxford University Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion. Plus a great line-up of other speakers running optional workshops depending on your interests. These include "Christianity and Extra-Terrestrial Life", "What is Consciousness?" and "The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence. Programme details can be found at www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews. More information in September.

YOUTH SUNDAY WITH BISHOP PHILIP (16-35 ONLY)

On **Sunday 25 November** at St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth, from 5 to 9pm. This year we are joined again by FOCUS (Southampton University) who will be speaking on "witnessing to non-Catholics". We will also be welcoming Catherine Horsnall from Herbert Smith Freehills LLP who will be speaking on sustaining your faith through the university to workplace transition, and what it's like stepping out of a close-knit Cathsoc into the secular city culture. We look forward to seeing you!

THE CARMELITES AT BOARS HILL

Starting in September they will be offering two one-year courses both rooted in the Carmelite Tradition – a **School of Prayer** and a **Prayer Guides Course**. Please see leaflets at the back of the church.