

Parish of Tadley (with Kingsclere) and Burghfield Common - PARISH NEWSLETTER

16th February 2025 (6th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C)

Presbytery & Office: Tel. 0118 981 4572 Email tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Website: www.stmandsto.org.uk

Office hours: 9.45am-2.45pm on Tues, Weds, Thurs, Fri. Closed on Mondays

Dear All,

There is growing concern about how the Parliamentary Committee discussing the assisted suicide Bill is conducting its scrutiny of this deeply worrying proposed legislation.

The First Reading of the Bill received a clear, if not resounding, majority in The Commons, partly because 30 MPs voted in its favour only provisionally. They were assured that adequate safeguards for people being allowed to kill themselves with medical assistance would be watertight. A judge would make the final decision that there was no coercion involved, especially in respect of the elderly and vulnerable. This provision has now been dropped by the Committee, on the grounds that the legal system would be unable to cope with it. Surprisingly, this had not been clearly investigated before the Bill was discussed in Parliament.

Although the Committee has a majority in favour of assisted suicide, because of a majority vote to advance it in Parliament, serious questions are being asked about its conduct. Around double the number of witnesses selected to give evidence support assisted suicide than the number opposing it. Those not able to give evidence at the oral sessions included: the Government's Chief Suicide Prevention Strategy Adviser, the British Geriatrics Society & disability rights groups, senior palliative care doctors & legal experts. One witness suggested that it should be a criminal offence to dissuade a loved one from pursuing assisted suicide. There is also the question of whether a doctor will be given the right to suggest that you accept assisted suicide in certain cases.

We are being asked once again to write to our MPs to recognise the serious moral threat that this proposed legislation enshrines. A personal letter is always the best way to do this, but the Right to Life charity provides you with an e-mail contact to address your concerns to your MP:

www.rightrighttolife.org.uk/ASBillAction

Funeral Arrangements

1. The Funeral Mass for **Pat Welsh** will be at 12 noon in St. Michael's Church on Friday 7th March.
2. The Funeral Mass for **Theresa Geddis** will be at 12 noon in Saint Oswald's Church on Tuesday 11th March.

May they both rest in peace.

Not Available

For the upcoming week, I am generally not available as follows:

- Monday (My usual day off)
- Tuesday (Funeral Arrangements & Bishop Philip's Pastoral Area visit to St. Bede's, Basingstoke)
- Wednesday (Funeral Arrangements & Wedding preparation meeting)

Many apologies for any inconvenience.

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This Weekend's Mass arrangements (Racial Justice Sunday)

Saturday 15th February: 6.00pm at St. Michael's Church, Tadley
Sunday 16th February: 9.00am at St. Michael's Church, Tadley
Sunday 16th February: 11.00am at St. Oswald's, Burghfield Common

Note: There will be no tea/coffee after Mass at St. Oswald's this Sunday. There will also be no music during Mass.

Lent

Did you know?....

This Sunday, 16th February, is what once was called *Septuagesima* Sunday. In the Church's Liturgical Calendar in use prior to 1969, *Septuagesima* marked the beginning of pre-Lent preparation period. *Septuagesima* Sunday was the third Sunday before the beginning of Lent, *Septuagesima* literally meaning "seventieth" in Latin, that is, 70 days until Easter (although in fact there are only 63 days!). However, it is the opportunity for our Lenten preparation to begin.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the start of the season of Lent, and this year it falls on 5th March. Our Mass arrangements on the day will be as follows:

11.00am at St. Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common
7.00pm at St. Michael's Church, Tadley

Although it is not a Holy Day of Obligation, it is an obligatory day of fasting & abstinence.

Lent Courses at Silchester

Tuesdays 7.00pm – 8.00pm, from 11th to 15th April. Silchester Sports Pavillion

or...

Thursdays 10.00am – 11.00am, from 6th March to 10th April. Silchester Methodist Church.
Everyone is welcome.

World Day of Prayer, Friday 7th March

There will be three local ecumenical services on this day in our Parish area. Well done to all involved in arranging them:

Tadley: 2.00pm at the Immanuel Centre, URC

Burghfield Common: 2.00pm at St. Oswald's Church

Kingsclere: 7.00pm at Kingsclere Methodist Church

CTAT Events

REMINDER: CTAT "Love our Schools" fortnight, 10th – 23rd February

Although this event has now started, there is still an opportunity for anyone to gather from across our churches on the **19th Feb at the Immanuel Centre, Tadley URC, at 7.45pm - 9.30pm**, for a prayer and worship evening to bless our local schools.

In addition, it is never too late to help with any of the initiatives to support our schools. Please get in touch with Sam Dunn samd@bccnet.org.uk to find out what help might still be needed (especially if you able to help with baking some scones!), or check on <https://ctat.churchsuite.com/events/x50tzvif>

CTAT Men's Breakfast – Saturday 22nd February

Open to all, just come along! Cooked breakfast & good company. This month's event will feature a talk on: Aviation & Faith. Starts 10.00am at the Immanuel Centre, Tadley URC, Main Road, Tadley, RG26 3NJ.

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Diocesan Website – Feedback invited

Our [Diocesan website](#) is the primary “shop window” for the Catholic Church in our region. The Diocese wants it to be simple and intuitive to use, a hub for information, a platform for community engagement, and a showcase of our collective vision, mission and values.

To help us achieve this, a substantial update to the website is being planned and the Diocese would value your feedback. Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts about it. Your input will help make sure that the revised site meets your needs and expectations more quickly and efficiently.

If you would like to share your views, please take part in this short survey by scanning the QR code or by [clicking here](#)



Certificate in Catechesis (from Fr Gaston Afah)

The Dominican Sisters of St Joseph in Lymington are offering a 2-year Certificate in Catechesis to equip parish catechists, parents, and grandparents to transmit the Catholic faith to others. This Certificate is approved by the Bishops' Conference, and offers a formation developed from the 2020 Directory for Catechesis, relevant to the pastoral context we face in our parishes. It is delivered online in weekly sessions with notes, recordings, and presentations made available to the students. It is comprehensive in its overview of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and in its practical application to all forms of catechesis. Two in-person days are offered each year to build up the students' community and fellowship in faith.

Click here to [Apply now](#) to begin your studies in September 2025.

Click here to [Download the Brochure](#).

2025 Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Bishop Philip invites us to join him in pilgrimage to Lourdes this July. In this Jubilee year of hope it will give us the opportunity to hope and pray for the Church, for the world, for peace, for the sick of our Diocese and all visitors and pilgrims to the Sanctuary.

Our Diocesan pilgrimage will take place from Monday 7th July when we gather at Heathrow airport for a morning flight to France and end when we return to Heathrow on the evening of the 11th July.

The cost of the pilgrimage this year is £879 per person for a shared room, youth pilgrims can travel at £825. To find out more and to book a place please click here to complete an [application form, email](#), or telephone 07780 221686 or write to Canon PJ Smith at St Edmund's House, Bishop Crispian Way, Portsmouth PO1 3QA.

More details to follow next week.

REMINDER: ADoRE spiritual mini-retreat – 22nd February – PILGRIMS OF HOPE – THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR GUIDE WAY

The second of the "PILGRIMS OF HOPE" series of meetings for 2025, which, month by month, will be moving forward with expectant hope in the providence of God; a firm trust in the victory of Christ; and joy in the blessings and gifts of the Holy Spirit for revitalising the Church.

The Keynote speaker is (our very own parishioner!) **Gerry Penfold**, Leader of Called and Gifted UK. Called and Gifted is a spiritual journey that helps you understand your own calling and identify the specific charisms that the Lord has given you to share with others.

ADoRE spiritual mini-retreat 22nd February 10.00-1.00 on Zoom. "PILGRIMS OF HOPE – THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR GUIDE." Including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prophecy, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring guest speaker Gerry Penfold. Please register for the free Zoom meeting in advance at bit.ly/ADOREFEB2025 More information at www.altonrenewal.com

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Headteacher wanted! - Basingstoke

The CEO of Mother Teresa Catholic Academy Trust (MTCAT) and Governors of St. Anne's Catholic Primary School wish to appoint an outstanding Head Teacher to lead our team. For more details: www.st-anne.sch.uk/aboutus/vacancies

Other Diocesan Vacancies

For current vacancies visit: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/people/careers/>

There are also opportunities in our Diocesan schools:

<https://www.casoportsmouth.org.uk/current-vacancies-2/>

Further reading

Portsmouth Diocese news items:

<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/communications/news/enews/>

Catholic Bishops Conference of England & Wales news items:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/news-and-media/>

Caritas Portsmouth Newsletter:

<https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk/news-events/>

Best wishes for the weekend,

Father Patrick.

Fr. Patrick Tansey

Parish Priest

St Michael's Church, Tadley

St Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

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Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through his Church

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

A registered charity number 1199568

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