

Parish of Tadley (with Kingsclere) and Burghfield Common - PARISH NEWSLETTER
16th March 2025 (2nd Sunday of Lent)

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

Website: www.stmandsto.org.uk

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

Dear All,

Remembering COVID

Last weekend our country reflected upon the 5th Anniversary of the serious development of coronavirus in the United Kingdom. It was obvious by early March 2020 that this virus was endangering the health of our world, bringing death and disruption in its wake!

On Wednesday 19th March, the Mass of the Solemnity of Saint Joseph will be celebrated at 11:00 AM in Saint Michael's Church. It is everything except a Holy Day of Obligation, and the Gloria is said (in spite of the fact that we are in Lent), alongside the Creed.

In 2020, it was the last public Mass celebrated in the Parish for some considerable time. By Diocesan decree, no further public Masses were to be held, and then priests entered into the surreal experience of saying Masses in empty churches during the first lockdown. I still remember that day.

Wednesday this coming week would therefore be a good time to come to Mass, thanking God that we survived and praying for the souls of those who did not.

One of the themes our Pope has called to be part of this Jubilee Year we are keeping, is to reflect and pray about the effects of COVID, and to address them with Jubilee Hope. Sadly, this seems to be little mentioned in many Jubilee reflections.

Why should we see it as a major element of the Jubilee Year, alongside the evil of war and the need to address climate change? Well, as Pope Francis recognises, it has radically changed our world. We have many people suffering from the debilitating effects of long COVID, some whose lives have been devastated, bringing pain and a sense of hopelessness. Not forgetting the many who lost relatives and friends, not being able to say farewell. I still remember a burial I officiated at which had five family members allowed to attend a graveside service which lasted only 20 minutes with social distancing obligatory for all.

Many of our youngsters, unable to attend school at the time, are struggling with communication and conversation skills. Technology was immensely helpful, but it cannot replace personal contact and the importance of social interaction in group settings of learning. There is also now a growing concern that some youngsters no longer see the need to attend school regularly, having been accustomed to being at home and unhappy that they are now obliged to attend, as before the pandemic.

The whole question of work is now concerned with a similar situation of whether one can work from home or is it necessary to be in the office. Our own Government is now stressing the need for their staff to return to regular office attendance. Unwillingness to do so may lead to unemployment, as President Trump is advocating. The evidence in favour of one form of work or the other being best is not clear, but the debate continues!

And, of course, there is the question of the serious drop in Church attendance following the pandemic, for the future of our Christian witness and financing of our buildings. Alongside isolation experienced by many elderly people, the mental health effects of lockdown and the burnout of members of the NHS and other carers. Not forgetting that the World Health Organisation warns that another pandemic of some sort will occur in the future.

Jubilee Hope needs to be embraced!

This Weekend's Mass arrangements

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

Note: The collection for the CAFOD Family Fast Day is this weekend & CAFOD's appeal will be read out at all Masses.

Note: Next weekend 22nd/23rd March, there will be a special National collection dedicated to supporting Jubilee initiatives & projects at the Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady in Walsingham.

Weekday Masses

Monday 17th March, The Feast of St. Patrick: 11.00am at St. Michael's Church, Tadley
Wednesday 19th March, Solemnity of St. Joseph: 11.00am at St. Michael's Church, Tadley

My availability

For the upcoming week, I am generally not available for the entire week, due to the two weekday Masses, appointments with the dentist & optician, a clergy meeting in London, as well as ongoing retirement preparations.

Dan will be in the Parish Office as normal, so please contact him & he will flag anything urgent with me.

Assisted suicide petition

Further to my item on this in the Newsletter dated 2nd March, sincere thanks to all those who have already signed the Care Not Killing petition and/or written to their MP. The petition will be available again in our Churches this weekend & this is the last opportunity to sign it before it has to be submitted.

Message from our Parish Administrator, Dan

Just a quick note this week to inform that we have now finalised the arrangements for tree surgery works at the St. Oswald's Site, which resulted from the formal tree survey conducted last year. These works are now scheduled during w/c 28th April. As a reminder, the entire St. Oswald's site is subject to a blanket Tree Preservation Order, so the Surveyor's recommended works required a formal application to be completed & sent to West Berkshire Council, for their review & approval, before we could give the go ahead to the contractor.

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Lent – Events & resources

FINAL REMINDER: CAFOD Lent Appeal – Family Fast Day collection

This year's CAFOD Family Fast Day is on 14th March. There will be talks & collections at all our Masses that weekend 15th/16th March. Please donate to the Family Fast Day parish collection and be a pilgrim of hope with CAFOD this Jubilee Year. You'll be supporting communities experiencing the impacts of war, poverty and climate change to find solutions and hope. Donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call us on 0303 303 3030. You can also text: CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.

The QR code below links you straight to CAFOD's virtual envelope where you can also donate.

NOTE: Gift Aid envelopes will be available for those who wish to use them (please ensure you are able to Gift Aid after assuring yourselves that you are in compliance with the HMRC tax limits).



To access CAFOD's Lent prayer video: <https://youtu.be/oEtpTxt3Pag?si=qQbCUJTFgX7FeBG>

FINAL REMINDER: Douai Abbey - Lent Day of Prayer, Saturday 22nd March

Times: 10.30am to 4pm, with arrivals and coffee from 10am. The day will be led by Fr Alex Austin OSB. St Benedict mentions joy in his Rule only to describe Lent! 'Preparing for the favourable time' calls for eager engagement, so that we do not stumble through Lent, but embrace its invitation to journey towards Easter. A contribution of £30 (to include lunch, coffee and tea) or £15 (bring your own lunch) payable on the day. All booking and enquiries to the [Programme Director](#). Further information is available on the Abbey [website](#).

REMINDER: Lenten afternoon of recollection at St. Joseph's, Basingstoke - Sunday 23rd March

Times: 2.00pm – 5.00pm. In the light of God's Word and of the call to grow in hope in this Jubilee Year, this Pastoral Area afternoon Lent retreat wants to help us live Lent as a journey of hope, rooted in Christ. The retreat will include a reflection meditation, time for personal prayer, opportunity to avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and sharing.

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Archangels' Events

Mingle at St. Michael's – Wednesday 19th March

The Archangels Social Group looks forward to welcoming you to the next Mingle on Wednesday 19th March from 2 - 4pm in the Parish Room for conversation and laughter over tea, coffee and cake.

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Foodbank updates

- **Basingstoke Foodbank has 3 Centre Volunteer vacancies, 1 x Volunteer Admin vacancy and 1 x Store/Packing team vacancy**

- Centre Volunteer vacancies: If anyone is interested in hearing more about what this regular once a week for approx 3 hours role is, just email: paulavallance@basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk who will explain more, and set up an opportunity for anyone interested to shadow the team in a centre once or twice before making any decisions.

You need to be a Christian as we aim to offer a short prayer with any of the visitors to the Foodbank Centres. This is a great role for anyone who enjoys meeting & chatting with new people, listening, showing empathy, and who is happy to be doing a bit of practical packing, setting up our pop-up cafe style centres first thing, and packing away after the 2 hour session.

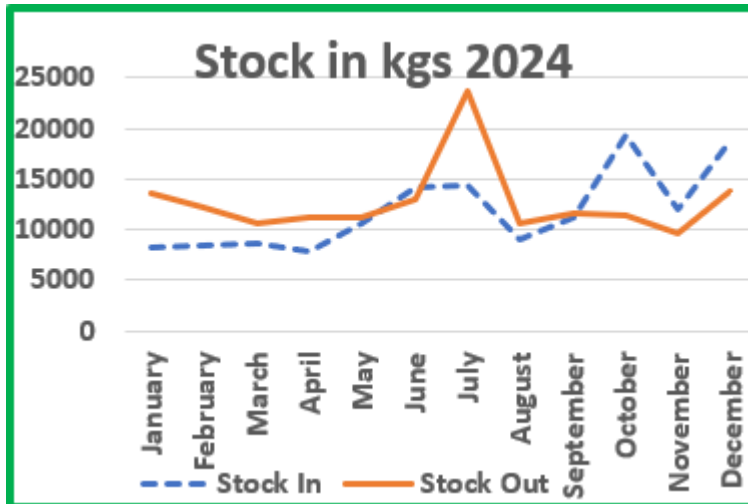
- Admin Volunteer vacancy in head office; Tempus Business Centre, Houndmills: this is a half day weekly role of 3 hours. You'll be working on our database, uploading information about vouchers, and talking to clients and agencies on the phone. You need to be fairly competent using Word and Gmail.

- Packing/Store volunteer in our head office warehouse; Tempus Business Centre. This is a half day weekly role of 3 hours. You'll be receiving and weighing in donations, sorting by type, and packing some 3-day packs for clients who are not able to visit our centres. This could include chatting to a client on the phone about their food requirements.

We're very happy to arrange for you to visit and shadow our volunteers before you decide if it's 'for you'. Just email me if you're interested in finding out more.

paulavallance@basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk

- **West Berkshire Foodbank**



The WB Foodbank writes:

A belated thank you for your generous and much needed response at Christmas as shown in the graph. Having been regularly sending out more to our clients than receiving in donations for most of 2024, the last 3 months reversed this - Harvest in October, the Supermarket Collection Events in November/December and then a fantastic Christmas. The end of the year sees West Berkshire Foodbank in a good place to be able to continue to help those in need in our local communities. We couldn't do this without you. Thank you!

Your donations of food are vital, particularly if notice is taken of our urgently needed items which can be found on our website and also the BanktheFood free App, but cash donations are very useful too. Cash gives a greater flexibility in meeting the needs of individuals and families in crisis e.g. purchasing specific items which are running low, or items such as heated throws or Air-fryers.

The Foodbank also has two ideas for raising funds (Posters attached to this Newsletter):

- 40 pence for 40 days (of Lent) challenge
- Grand Raffle

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REMINDER: 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.

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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.casop Portsmouth.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

Registered office: Diocesan Office, St Edmund House, Bishop Crispian Way, Portsmouth PO1 3QA

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

40 pence for 40 days



Will you take part in our 40 for 40 challenge this Lent?

By giving up 40 pence a day for the 40 days of Lent you can support local individuals and families facing hardship this Easter.

All you have to do is find an old jam jar or similar container and start collecting!



**Ending hunger
together**

Registered Charity Number: 1151996 | Registered in England & Wales



Tickets for our
Grand Raffle are
now on sale!



Our fantastic supporters have donated 20 amazing prizes
please buy a ticket to help those in need in our community

£1 per ticket - buy online



Raffle - West Berks Foodbank Grand Raffle

Raffle - We don't think anyone in our community should have to face going hungry. That's why we...

 Peoples Fundraising



Champagne dinner
for 2 at the
Braywood

2 VIP Debenture
tickets to
Wimbledon



Brand new
mountain bike

<https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/raffle/west-berks-foodbank-grand-raffle>

To be drawn by the Mayor, Andy Moore, at 12pm on 12th April
at the Coffee Morning in the Town Hall.