

Parish of St. Michael, Tadley (with Kingsclere) and St. Oswald, Burghfield Common

Priest-in-Charge: Father Stephen Vooght

Parish Administrator: Dan Wisniewski

Safeguarding (St. Michael's Church): Christne Caren

safeguarding.tad.sm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Safeguarding (St. Oswald's Church): Ellen Goodall

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Pastoral Facilitation Team: Gerry Penfold (Chair)

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

Address: St. Michael's Presbytery, Bishopswood Road, Tadley, RG26 4HG

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

Website: www.stmandsto.org.uk

MASS TIMETABLE

Day	Date	Feria, Memorial (M), Feast (F), Solemnity (S)	Time	Church	Mass Intention
Sat	15 th Aug	Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary (S) - Vigil	6.00pm	St. Michael's	
Sun	16 th Aug	Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary (S)	9.00am	St. Michael's	Kevin Barnes RIP
			11.00am	St. Oswald's	
Mon	17 th Aug	NO MASSES – FR. STEPHEN IS AWAY			
Tues	18 th Aug				
Weds	19 th Aug				
Thurs	20 th Aug				
Fri	21 st Aug				
Sat	22 nd Aug	21 st Sunday – Vigil	6.00pm	St. Michael's	
Sun	23 rd Aug	21 st Sunday	9.00am	St. Michael's	Jim & Sandie Anderson, Family & Friends
			11.00am	St. Oswald's	
Mon	24 th Aug	NO MASS			
Tues	25 th Aug	Feria	12 Noon	St. Oswald's	
Weds	26 th Aug	Feria	9.30am	St. Michael's	
Thurs	27 th Aug	St. Monica (M)	9.30am	St. Michael's	Cuthbert Neves RIP
Fri	28 th Aug	St. Augustine of Hippo (M)	7.00pm	St. Michael's	
Sat	29 th Aug	22 nd Sunday – Vigil	6.00pm	St. Michael's	
Sun	30 th Aug	22 nd Sunday	9.00am	St. Michael's	Gina Poulter RIP
			11.00am	St. Oswald's	

Fr. John Lee, our Pastoral Area Co-ordinator, will celebrate the Saturday Vigil Mass on 15th Aug.

Fr. Paul Gunter OSB, Abbot of Douai Abbey, will celebrate both Sunday Masses on 16th Aug.

Weekday Masses preceded by 30 mins of Eucharistic Adoration. Rosary after Mass

Confessions: Before Weekday Masses, Saturday at St. Michael's 11.00am - 12 Noon, or by appointment

Mass Intentions: If you would like a Mass Intention, please contact Dan in the Parish Office

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven



The Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven is one of four extraordinary privileges that God bestowed upon her:

- (1) The Immaculate Conception - in the first instant of her conception, by a unique grace and in consideration of the merits of Christ Jesus the Savior of the human race, she was preserved free from all stain of original sin;
- (2) The Perpetual Virginity - she always remained a Virgin throughout her life having conceived Jesus miraculously by the power of the Holy Spirit;
- (3) The Divine Maternity - she truly became the Mother of God (Theotokos) because she conceived and bore not merely the human person but the divine Person of the Son of God, Jesus Christ;
- (4) The Assumption into Heaven of her body and soul - she passed straight from this life, body and soul, into heaven and did not experience what normally happens when separation of the soul from the body takes place and the body decays.

In Romans 6:23, we read that *“the wages of sin is death”*, and because Mary was given the grace of being preserved from original sin and also went on to live a sinless life, this meant she did not experience death as everyone else does. William Wordsworth in 1822 wrote a sonnet entitled *“The Virgin”*, in which he praised Mary as ***“our tainted nature’s solitary boast.”***

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a reminder of the exalted heights to which God calls us and of God’s power to make good on his promise to enrich us with his gifts of grace. Our Lady stands before us as a sign of what we all are to become when we finally reach heaven. As Preface of this feast day says: *“For today the Virgin Mother of God was assumed into heaven as the beginning and image of your Church’s coming to perfection and a sign of sure hope and comfort to your pilgrim people.”*

Let us pray we will imitate Mary by always seeking to embrace God’s will in our lives and so allow Jesus to reign in the world through us. Let us joyfully look forward to joining the company of Our Blessed Lady and all the saints in heaven when we reach the end of our lives here on earth.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Both our Churches and the Parish Office will be CLOSED for holidays next week.

Fr. Stephen returns Saturday 22nd August, when Masses will resume as normal.

Please see the Mass Timetable on the next page for details.

(As a reminder, there is also no Mass today Friday 14th Aug.)

Dan returns Tuesday 25th August, when the Parish Office will reopen.

Please see the Emergency Contacts on the next page in case of any urgencies during this period.

The next Parish Newsletter will be issued for the weekend of Sunday 30th Aug.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

- **In case of a serious need to contact a priest:**

Hospital Chaplaincy Contacts:

Basingstoke Hospital Chaplaincy Team

Office Hours: 01256 314901

Urgent & Outside of office hours: Via the Hospital Switchboard 01256 473202

(Alternatively, St. Bede's Parish Office during Office Hours only: 01256 465214)

Royal Berkshire Hospital Chaplaincy Team

Monday-Friday 8 am-4 pm: 0118 322 7105

Urgent & Outside of office hours: contact switchboard 0118 322 5111 to ask for the on-call chaplain.

NOTE: When contacting Hospital Chaplaincies, please clearly state you require a Roman Catholic priest. It is the responsibility of the family to request a Chaplain to attend.

If there is a problem in finding a priest, DEACON TONY DARROCH will help as far as possible, if available - Tel: 07723 763767

Other alternative contacts:

St. Bede's, Basingstoke 01256 465214

St. Joseph, Basingstoke 01256 323595

Douai Abbey (Woolhampton Parish) 0118 9715350

- **Any urgent issues with the Parish buildings/facilities at both our church sites:**

Hugh Lobo: 07733 367350

Children's Liturgy announcements

St. Michael's

If anyone would like to join the small children's liturgy team at St Michael's, we are always very happy to welcome new volunteers. We currently run sessions every 3 weeks in term time & rotate turns between us.

If you would like to know more about being involved in this ministry, please contact Anne via this email address:

ae_reilly@yahoo.co.uk

St. Oswald's

A Children's Liturgy group will be starting at St. Oswald's on September 6th during 11am Mass and will be on the first Sunday of every month moving forward.

Online Donations

Parishioners who would like to support our Parish with online donations can now do so by scanning this QR Code:



ADoRE mini-retreat - 22nd August

The theme this month is "LOVE MERCY" - Responding to God's mercy to us by forgiving others. *"What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."* (Micah 6:8).

Mini retreat morning Including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prophecy, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring talk from guest speaker **Fr Gareth Leyshon**, Leader of the Sion Community. Register in advance at bit.ly/ADOREAUG2026 Details [HERE](https://www.altonrenewal.com/this_month) at https://www.altonrenewal.com/this_month

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM FR. JOHN LEE, OUR PASTORAL ARE COORDINATOR

For those who may have missed our earlier email containing Fr. John's announcement, please find it on the next page of this Newsletter (also available as a You Tube video via this link: <https://youtu.be/Zsan1NedMcg>)

ARCHANGELS SOCIAL GROUP

Parish Afternoon Walk and Tea – Sunday 16 August

The Archangels' Annual Parish Walk, led by Pauline Penfold, will take place in Silchester on Sunday 16 August. The plan is to:

- meet at Silchester village playground car park at 2.30pm
- walk to St. Mary the Virgin Church down The Drove, passing the old museum. It's about one and a quarter miles, so should take about 40 minutes. This is a flat walk with no stiles.
- there will be tea/coffee and cake to buy at the Church and we can sit and chat. Non-walkers who would like to join the group at the church for the tea and chat, should aim to arrive around 3pm. There is some parking available.
- then the walkers will retrace their steps back to the car park the same way, unless some want to go back a different way alongside the outer wall on a green narrower undulating path - which is about a quarter of a mile longer route back.

If you didn't sign-up, but would like to join the walk, please let Pauline know on 07749 409920. If your plans have to change on the day, please let Pauline know if you won't be joining her on the walk after all, so the group is not waiting for you to arrive. Many thanks!

No 'Mingle @ St Michael's' in August

There will be no Mingle taking place next Wednesday 19 August. The next gathering will be on Wednesday 16 September in the Parish Room from 2pm to 4pm.

Picnic Tea & Rounders in Silchester – Sunday 6 September

This is now being run as a CTAT event, led by St Mary the Virgin Church community. Please see 'Praise, Pitch & Picnic!' below for details and sign up on the form in church porches to join in this fun afternoon and hopefully form a St Michael's team for the rounders - but spectators are equally welcomed!



Praise, Pitch & Picnic!

Please come along to Silchester Playing Field, RG7 2NJ, on the afternoon of Sunday 6 September for a picnic tea from 3pm, followed by a game of rounders at 4pm. There will also be the opportunity to join with other CTAT churches in the marquee at 5pm for a joint worship service to round off the day. **Please bring your own picnic.** St Mary's will provide some hot and cold drinks.

Please sign up on the sheets in church porches, if you plan to come along and indicate if you would like to join in a rounders team – it would be great if we can form a parish team! No obligation to play though, spectators equally welcomed!

CTAT Ladies' and Men's Breakfasts

There will be no meetings in August. The next Ladies' Breakfast will take place on Saturday 12 September and the Men's Breakfast on Saturday 26 September, both at the Immanuel Centre, Tadley URC, RG26 3NJ, from 10am to noon.

Refreshments at St Mary the Virgin Church, Silchester in August

The church will be open for the purchase of refreshments from 3pm – 5pm every Saturday and Sunday in August – tea, coffee, cold drinks and cake. All welcome!

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FORM FR. JOHN LEE, OUR PASTORAL ARE COORDINATOR

Dear friends,

We are delighted to share some very special news.

Bishop Philip has chosen the name of the parish we are becoming: The Parish of Our Lady, Queen of Peace. This is a significant and joyful moment in the journey we have been making together.

The consultation showed just how much thought, prayer and affection went into choosing a name for our new parish. The three leading names received remarkably similar levels of support, with less than two percentage points between them. Bishop Philip has now discerned Our Lady, Queen of Peace as the name under which our communities will come together. And it is a beautiful name for the chapter ahead.

Our Lady, Queen of Peace, gives us much more than a name above the door. She points us towards her Son. She listens to God, trusts him, steps forward in faith and carries Christ into the world.

At a time of change, she also reminds us that peace does not mean standing still. The peace Christ gives allows us to move forward with faith, trusting God and keeping our eyes fixed on him.

These are exciting times. We are bringing together five churches, each with its own history, patronage, people and character, while beginning to see more clearly what God may be asking of us together.

We also know that change naturally brings questions.

The identity of our individual churches is not disappearing. Each will keep its own name, patronage and story.

- St Bede's Church and Holy Ghost Church Basingstoke, Parish of Our Lady, Queen of Peace
- St Joseph's Church Basingstoke, Parish of Our Lady, Queen of Peace
- Sacred Heart Church Hook, Parish of Our Lady, Queen of Peace
- St Michael's Church Tadley, Parish of Our Lady, Queen of Peace
- St Oswald's Church Burghfield Common, Parish of Our Lady, Queen of Peace

We are not losing the stories of our individual communities. We are bringing those stories together within one parish and one shared mission. Our Mission Plan has never simply been about changing structures. It is about renewal and mission.

We want to become missionary disciples: people who follow Jesus and, through the way they live, help others to encounter and follow him too. That starts by meeting people where they are, listening well and helping each person take their next step in faith. It means learning to see more clearly, responding when Christ calls, discovering the gifts God has given us, growing in faith and following Jesus more closely. [reference to Bartimaeus]

We use B.E.C.O.M.E. simply as a way of describing that journey:

Belong in Community. Encounter Christ. Commit to Growth. Ongoing Renewal. Missionary-Led. Evangelising Witness.

At its heart, it is a movement from belonging and encounter, through growth and renewal, towards a faith which naturally reaches out to others. That is the renewal we are seeking: not simply change around us, but lives changed through an encounter with Christ.

Mary shows us something of that journey beautifully. She sees what God is doing. She says yes. She goes where he calls. She stays close to Jesus and carries him to others.

Under the patronage of Our Lady, Queen of Peace, we want to become a parish that does the same: prayerful and welcoming, courageous in faith, generous in service and increasingly confident in carrying Christ into our communities.

And now that our parish has a name, another part of the journey can begin.

Work will now start on the visual identity and iconography of Our Lady, Queen of Peace, including how the identity of our new parish can sit alongside and celebrate the continuing identities of each of our churches. This work is only beginning, and we look forward to sharing and explaining it as it develops.

There is much more to come. Bishop Philip will write formally about his decision when he returns from leave, and in October we will share a fuller update on the next stage of our Mission Plan, what happens next and how each of us can play our part.

For today, though, let us simply receive this as a moment of joy and thanksgiving.

Today we have a name.

A name under which we can pray together, grow together, serve together and go out together.

A name which places Mary before us as a mother and disciple, always pointing towards Christ.

And a name under which our communities can begin an exciting new chapter together in faith, hope and peace.

Our Lady, Queen of Peace, pray for us.

God bless,

Fr John Lee