

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

Priest-in-Charge: Father Stephen Vooght

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Pastoral Facilitation Team: Gerry Penfold (Chair)

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

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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	19 th Sept	25 th Sunday - Vigil	6.00pm	St. Michael's	Luke Conlon RIP
Sun	20 th Sept	25 th Sunday	9.00am	St. Michael's	Terry & Norman Lee RIP
			11.00am	St. Oswald's	
Mon	21 st Sept	NO MASS			
Tues	22 nd Sept	Feria	12 Noon	St. Oswald's	
Weds	23 rd Sept	NO MASSES – FR. STEPHEN AWAY ON THE PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE			
Thurs	24 th Sept				
Fri	25 th Sept				
Sat	26 th Sept	26 th Sunday - Vigil	6.00pm	St. Michael's	
Sun	27 th Sept	26 th Sunday - Vigil	9.00am	St. Michael's	Repose of the Soul of Helen Warner RIP
			11.00am	St. Oswald's	

Second Collection at all Masses this Weekend: Home Missions

Fr. Paul Lyons will celebrate all three weekend Masses on 26th/27th September

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

Home Missions - 2nd Collection

Click [HERE](#) for information about the Home Missions.

Advance Notice: The CAFOD Harvest Day Collection will be at the weekend of 3rd/4th October

**"FOR MY THOUGHTS ARE
NOT YOUR THOUGHTS,
NEITHER ARE YOUR WAYS
MY WAYS," DECLARES THE
LORD.**

- ISAIAH 55:8

This Sunday, in the first reading from the prophet Isaiah, the Lord's words: ***"My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways"***, help to provide the key to understanding the meaning of our Gospel, the parable of the workers in the vineyard.

At first, the landowner's behaviour may seem unfair. Those who have worked in his vineyard throughout the heat of the day receive the same wage as those who have worked only for the final hour. Yet the landowner has not treated the first workers unjustly: he has given them exactly what he promised. What troubles them is not that they have received too little, but that he has been so generous to others.

Jesus uses the parable to reveal something about the Kingdom of Heaven. God's grace is not a wage that we can demand as though God were in our debt. Eternal life is ultimately his free and generous gift. God continually calls people into his vineyard, even those who respond only at the eleventh hour. His generosity is not governed by our calculations of who deserves what.

This challenges us because we naturally think in terms of fairness, comparison and reward. We may sometimes feel that those who have served God faithfully for many years should receive more than those who turn to him late in life. Our response should be gratitude, not envy. We should rejoice rather than resent God's generosity.

The question for us is therefore: Can we rejoice when God is generous to others, even when his generosity exceeds our own sense of what they deserve?

SYCAMORE



A Teaching Course on the Catholic Faith

We will be running a Sycamore programme that will be **open to anyone** interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith.

Sycamore is presented by Fr Stephen Wang [recently named as the next Bishop of Arundel & Brighton]. It uses a series of 20 teaching videos to explore Christianity and the Catholic Faith. Each session will start with some nibbles and bites and a drink in a relaxed atmosphere. The teaching video will then be shown and set questions, based on the video, will be discussed in small groups. You will be free to take part in the discussions or to simply listen without any pressure

For those who would like to become Catholic, or for those who are already Catholic and wish to complete the Sacraments, or for anyone who would just like to acquire a clearer and deeper understanding of Catholic Catechism, there is something on this course for everyone.

**The course will be held weekly at St Michael's, Tadley
on Tuesday evenings from 7pm – 9pm, starting on 6th October**

Please contact the Parish Office to confirm your place on 01189814572 or by
email tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Alternatively: Please see our Welcomers after Mass if you wish to register your interest
Copies of the course outline are also available from our Welcomers

ON THE WAY: OUR PARISH RENEWAL, ONE STEP AT A TIME

What is our Guiding Star?

As we become one parish, there will be many decisions, opportunities and changes ahead. Some will be straightforward. Others will be messy because change can be difficult, especially when it touches things we value deeply.

Whether the route is easy or difficult, we need to know what we are steering towards. That is the purpose of a Guiding Star.

A Guiding Star is a fixed point that gives us direction. We return to it again and again to ask whether what we are doing is taking us towards the kind of parish Christ is calling us to become.

Our Guiding Star is the story of Bartimaeus.

Bartimaeus is sitting by the roadside when Jesus passes. He cries out. At first the crowd tries to silence him. Then Jesus stops and calls him. The crowd changes too:

“Take heart. Get up. He is calling you.”

Bartimaeus throws aside his cloak, comes to Jesus, receives new sight and follows Him on the way.

Our Guiding Star statement:

As one parish, we answer Christ’s call with openness and trust, helping one another encounter Him, letting go of what holds us back, receiving His healing and new sight, and following Jesus together as missionary disciples.

Next week: what does this story mean for us personally, for our families and friends, and for the way our parish makes decisions?

DIOCESAN FORMATION DAYS

- **Catechist Day: Saturday 10 October | 9:30am–1:30pm | St Bede's, Basingstoke**

Whether you are a parish catechist, sacramental preparation leader, RCIA team member, children's liturgy volunteer, youth catechist, or involved in any ministry of faith formation, you are warmly invited to the **Portsmouth Diocese Catechists' Formation Day**. We will be joined by Fr Emmanuel Mansford of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal and Dr Káren North from St Mary's University Twickenham as we come together from across the Diocese for a morning of prayer, inspiration, and practical formation as we reflect on our shared mission to **form missionary disciples**. Starting with Mass before we move into our sessions, there will also be a time for prayer and reflection as well as hearing from each other before we finish with a shared lunch (provided). To register go to <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/RFGROzEzDh> or email Meghan ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

- **Formation Day for Readers: 17th October 2026 | 9:00am–1:30pm | Pastoral Centre, Winchester**

It is not too late to sign up for the Formation Day for Readers being organised by the Diocesan Liturgy. Details can be found on the attached PDF. Anyone wishing to attend is kindly asked to email liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org

- **Parish Evangelisation Cell Formation Day: Saturday 31st Oct. | 9:30am – 1:30pm | Christ the King, Reading**

How can we grow in faith and share the joy of the Gospel?

Join us for a morning of prayer, inspiration, teaching and fellowship as we discover how Parish Evangelisation Cells (PECs) can enrich parish life. PECs are small, welcoming groups of parishioners who meet regularly to pray, reflect on Scripture, build friendships and encourage one another to live and share their faith. They offer a simple way to help people grow closer to Jesus, support one another and reach out to others with friendship and faith. Come and discover how PECs can deepen prayer, friendship and faith, strengthen parish community and mission; and build our confidence in our faith. Everyone is welcome, whether you are curious, active in parish life, or wondering whether PECs could benefit your parish.

To register go to <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/JGgE7zeuun> or email Meghan ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

- **Spiritual Direction Unpacked: Saturday 21st November | 10.00am – 1.00pm | ONLINE using Zoom**

An excellent opportunity to explore what ‘spiritual direction’ means and to ask questions and share your thoughts with others. Members of the Spiritual Direction Team will offer their insights, including those who are currently receiving direction. The keynote speaker for the conference is Nicola Smedley, a highly experienced spiritual director who leads courses with the Ignatian School of Spiritual Direction. Below is the hyperlink for the registration page. The system will automatically send a confirmation email to the provided email address:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9804812345>

REMINDERS

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2027

Parents of children who will be aged 8 in August 2027 are invited to declare their interest in our 2027 First Holy Communion programme. To do so, please kindly contact the Parish Office by the end of October. An initial meeting for parents is anticipated for December, with preparation sessions for candidates beginning in January.

YOUTH GROUP - FIRST MEETING

*On **September 23rd** we will meet to form our parish youth group. We will meet **at 7:30pm** in the Parish room at St Michael's. We will be contacting the three people from St. Oswald's to discuss transport arrangements for them.*

Regards Marjorie and Karolina.

ONLINE GIVING

"And this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house; and of all that you give me I will surely give one-tenth to you" - Genesis 28:22

In support of our churches, and in alignment with the Catechism of the Catholic Church fifth precept (cc 2043) that we shall help to provide for the needs of the Church, the following QR Code has been established for scanning to enable us to give easily online.



ARCHANGELS SOCIAL GROUP

Patronal Feast Day Mass of St Michael, the Archangel – 7.00pm, Tuesday 29 September

This year, Fr Stephen will be away on the pilgrimage to Medjugorje on our Tadley Patronal Feast Day; however, Fr. Peter Codd has kindly offered to celebrate a Mass at 7.00pm in St Michael's Church. There will be the opportunity to socialise afterwards in the Parish Room and toast the Parish. All welcome! We will be organising some savoury nibbles and cake, so, to help us prepare, please register on the sign-up sheets in our church porches if you intend to stay for the refreshments. Many thanks.

Mingle @ St Michael's

The next gathering will be on Wednesday 21 October in the Parish Room from 2pm to 4pm. All welcome!

CTAT

The Bible Through Glass Eyes

An exhibition of stained-glass panels and poems by local stained-glass artisan Rob Young will take place at St Paul's Church, The Green, RG26 3PB, on Saturday 19 September from 10.30am to 4pm and on Sunday 20 September from 11.30am to 4pm. Entrance free and all welcome to view.

CTAT Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will take place on Saturday 26 September at the Immanuel Centre, Tadley URC, RG26 3NJ, from 10am to noon. All welcome!

CTAT Ladies' Breakfast

The next Ladies' Breakfast will take place on Saturday 10 October at the Immanuel Centre, Tadley URC, RG26 3NJ, from 10am to noon. All welcome!

Musical Showcase Event – Calling Musicians and Singers!

Tadley URC will be hosting a Musical Showcase Evening as part of the Tadley Arts Festival on Saturday 17 October from 7.30pm, raising funds for Adonai UK, supporting the work of schools in Uganda. The church is eager to hear from musicians and/or singers who would like to take part! All abilities welcome, but participants will have to register beforehand at tadleyurc@gmail.com - there will be no facility to perform without having registered in advance.

SAVE THE DATES - The Tadley Arts Festival, organised by CTAT, takes place over the weekend of Saturday 17 Oct – Sunday 18 Oct. See poster at the back of the Church for details.