

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

23rd February 2025 (7th 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,

First my apologies for no Mass at Saint Oswald's church this weekend. On Wednesday evening, I felt extremely tired, with sore bones and a fuzzy head, and spent most of Thursday in bed. Today, I'm still in my pyjamas and am only up this morning to ensure, with Dan, that our Parish Newsletter goes out and any outstanding items before the weekend are addressed. Hopefully, I shall be alright for the Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses at Tadley, but Dan will let you know via email if there is a problem on Saturday morning. Obviously, I shall be trying to rest & recuperate after the weekend Masses.

Not Available

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

- Monday (My usual day off & still recuperating!)
- Tuesday (Meeting in the morning & First Communion prep later & probably still recuperating!)
- Thursday (Another appointment with the dentist!)

Many apologies for any inconvenience.

Becoming one parish in a couple of years

As all parishioners should be aware, our Basingstoke Area, embracing the Parishes of Holy Ghost and St. Bede's, St. Joseph's, Sacred Heart (Hook), together with our own Parish churches, are moving towards being one Parish, with one Parish Priest, assisted by other priests, in the near future.

On Tuesday evening, 17th February, Bishop Philip met with local clergy, and those parishioners involved in this initiative, at St. Bede's church to progress this union. He was joined by Heather Hauschild and Eleanor Belton (Diocesan Curia), Canon David Hopgood (Department for Clergy) and Father Mark Hogan (Episcopal Vicar).

The Bishop introduced the meeting by stating that the merging of Parishes across the Diocese, very developed already in some areas, is not primarily about new structures. All, clergy and laity, are now called to be Missionary Disciples, reaching out to a country which has essentially lost its Christian Faith. This outreach must be Christ-centred, and will depend for its success on the involvement of committed, dedicated laity supporting fewer priests. Inevitably some churches may have to close, and this will no doubt result in some pain. There are various challenges ahead, including the ageing nature of some congregations.

Father John Lee, our Pastoral Area Coordinator, outlined progress, hampered by the ill health of priests in the area recently, and problems of maintenance in some of our churches. This was a good presentation, outlining that which is being done in our present Parishes, but with the need for people to recognise the call to continue and develop these as one Parish.

Heather Hauschild felt that the vision was good, but suggested a focus on two or three established outreaches to be further developed, involving engagement by all in the Pastoral Area as a future parish community.

Gerry Penfold of our Tadley area, was asked to outline the importance of Called and Gifted, for which he is responsible in our Diocese. This offers people discernment of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in their lives, empowering them to grow as Missionary Disciples in their communities and empowering others to do so.

Bishop Philip felt this area of discernment is important - we are not merely called to be volunteers as it suits us, at a particular moment of time, but to become permanently engaged with Christ's Mission.

Denis Murtagh, Chair of our Tadley and Burghfield Common Finance Committee, has been asked to lead the integration of Parish Finance Committees to become one Committee. He explained that he would be asking all involved in this area to begin looking at what buildings we have and whether we can maintain them all as we become one Parish, linked to our joint financial resources and good stewardship of them.

There is to be a meeting on 5th April to further progress matters, and I shall, in due course, be contacting those I wish to be involved. Now is the time for all to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit about how they can be engaged.

Thank God!

This was the general utterance of local clergy when we heard last weekend that Father John Chadwick's tumours are benign. He will still need surgery for their removal, so from March will only be available for weekend Masses at Hook and will be resting during the week. Continue, please, to pray for his complete recovery.

Theo Fernandez RIP

Theodora Fernandez, known to her family as Theo, died last Sunday in Cherry Blossom Care Home, Bramley, after a long illness. Her daughter, Ingrid Rowlands, regularly attends Douai Abbey, but is a member of our Parish and I have been caring for Theo over the last few months with her.

Cherry Blossom Home is in the St. Bede's part of our Pastoral Area, and Father John Lee kindly gave me permission to authorise Ingrid to bring Holy Communion regularly to her mother in recent months. I anointed her on two occasions, the second time a few days before her death. Both events were filled with the sense of a person facing death without fear and in close contact with our merciful God. They were particular moments of grace for both me and her family.

Ingrid is also very grateful for the support given by Father John and the monks of Douai Abbey during this journey to the Lord. Please keep Theo's soul in your prayers and all the family in prayer at this time. Not forgetting, Ingrid's son, who has recently been ordained a Deacon on the journey to priesthood as a Dominican.

The Funeral Mass will be at Douai Abbey, which I have said I shall attend, Parish commitments permitting.

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This Weekend's Mass arrangements

Saturday 22nd February: 6.00pm at St. Michael's Church, Tadley

Sunday 23rd February: 9.00am at St. Michael's Church, Tadley

**** Note: No Mass at St. Oswald's, Burghfield Common, this Sunday ****

First Holy Communion

A busy week beckons for our candidates! All parents please take note.

Next preparation session: Tuesday, 25th February at 4.30pm - 5.30pm, St. Michael's Church, Tadley

1st Reconciliation: Saturday, 1st March at 9.45am, St. Michael's Church, Tadley

Pat Welsh RIP

As highlighted last week, the Funeral Mass for Pat will be at 12 noon in St. Michael's Church on Friday 7th March. Pat's daughters, Cecilia & Ursula, would like to sincerely invite all those parishioners who knew Pat to also attend the burial at Tadley Cemetery, directly after the Mass, together with the Reception at Bishopswood Golf Course (starting at 1.30pm with tea/coffee, followed by a buffet).

Theresa Geddis RIP

The Funeral Mass for Theresa Geddis will be at 12 noon in Saint Oswald's Church on Tuesday 11th March.

Beginning of Lent – Masses & Events

Ash Wednesday, 5th March

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.

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

“The Joy of Hope” - FREE online Lenten course

Monday evenings for 4 weeks starting 10th March AT 7.30PM. Full details in the attachment to this Newsletter.

Lent Courses at Silchester

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

or...

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

Everyone is welcome. Poster available in St. Michael's Church.

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](#).

Join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk in the Jubilee Year

You are invited to join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk and journey together with Catholics in England, Wales and Scotland as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year - walking 200km over 40 days during Lent. Journey to one of the churches or shrines designated as places of pilgrimage in our diocese as part of your Big Lent Walk. Every £1 you raise will support communities like Lokho's in Kenya, experiencing the worst impact of the climate crisis, to rebuild their lives in hope. Sign up here: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

Archangels' Events

Arrangements for the Skittles Evening

All places have been sold for the Skittles Evening next Friday 28 February at AWE RecSoc, commencing at 7pm, so we have a full house! The Skittle Alley is in the room to the right on entering the premises, where we shall be based for the evening. We usually start the first round of skittles fairly early and the bar meals are served in batches from about 7.45pm. **Please remember that AWE RecSoc is now a cashless venue, so please bring a debit or credit card to purchase any drinks from the bar.** The Archangels Social Group looks forward to welcoming participants to this fun event!

CTAT Events

REMINDER! CTAT Men's Breakfast – TOMORROW 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.

CTAT Children & Families Service – Sunday 2nd March

CTAT are having another special Children and Families service on Sunday 2nd March at Tadley URC at 10:30am. As before this will be a fun fueled, fast paced service.... full of stories, excitement and games... and worship and wonder! Everyone is welcome to join us for this active service... just come ready to enjoy yourselves - whatever your age... and please do let any young families you know with children in the 0-12 ages (or older up to 99 years) know! All welcome!

CTAT Ladies' Breakfast - Saturday 8th March

The next CTAT Ladies' Breakfast is from 10am to 12 noon on Saturday 8 March at the Immanuel Centre, Tadley URC, Main Road, RG26 3NJ. Guest speaker will be Rosie Harle, a Community Ambassador for St Michael's Hospice. Please come along and join us for a friendly chat over a Continental Breakfast. All welcome!

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Significant Wedding Anniversaries – Celebration Mass, 21st June

Are you celebrating a 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or anniversary over 60 years? If so, Bishop Philip would like to invite you to a Mass of celebration. This will take place at St Bede's church in Basingstoke on Saturday 21st June at 11am. This will be followed by a buffet lunch. It is a wonderful occasion to celebrate and witness to Marriage.

Please contact our Parish Office or send an email to anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk to request a form for you to complete and return (please note the email address is not monitored daily and you may have to wait for a reply).

To help celebrate the occasion please could you provide a *COPY* of your Wedding photograph, you can upload it when you return the form.

If you have no access to the internet you can post a *COPY* along with completed form by post to the following address:

St Bede's Parish Office
Popley Way
Basingstoke
RG24 9DX

Please mark envelope Significant Wedding Mass

Hope for the World – CHARIS online event, 25th February

On Tuesday 25th February at 7.30pm the next CHARIS Portsmouth Charismatic Renewal event takes place with the theme of *Hope for the World* online via Zoom hosted by Portsmouth Diocese Charismatic Diocesan Service of Communion (Portsmouth CDSC) supporting the work of the [Catholic Charismatic Renewal Service \(CHARIS\)](#).

This event starts promptly at 7:30pm (participants are asked to log on at least 10mins in advance). To register please click [here](#). You will be sent a unique Zoom login, so please encourage others to register independently and do not share your personal link with others.

Details of the evening as follows:

- Speaker: Rosanne Walker to lead us as on the main theme. (Rosanne is based in Winchester and is a Part Time Co-Ordinator and Advisor for Catechesis and Formation (Family and Children), leading/overseeing the Baptism, FHC and Youth formation programmes, outreach to families and service initiatives/projects for the children/youth...along with music and prayer ministry.
- Host: Judith Aylmer (CHARIS CDSC Lead for Portsmouth)
- Praise and worship; Small group intercession & prophecy - *praying into 'Pilgrims of Hope 2025'*
- Prophecy: An update by Russ Fairman on CHARIS supported ecumenical Prophetic Networking in our Diocese.

2025 Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

As promised last week, hereunder are the details:

Our 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. In Lourdes we will reside (full board) at the 4* hotel, La Solitude where all rooms are ensuite, and fitted with tea/coffee making facilities. Our pilgrimage will follow a full program of events led by Bishop Philip and Canon PJ Smith including visits to places of importance to St Bernadette, the Torchlight and Blessed Sacrament Processions, International Mass and opportunities to receive the Sacraments of the Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation, as well as take of the water as Mary instructed. During this jubilee year it will also be possible to take part in The Jubilee Way, a journey through the Sanctuary meditating on the Gospel of the disciples of Emmaus and perhaps also receive the grace of a plenary indulgence.

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 complete an [application form](#), [email](#), telephone 07780 221686 or write to Canon PJ Smith at St Edmund's House, Bishop Crispian Way, Portsmouth PO1 3QA.

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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.casoposmouth.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://caritasposmouth.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

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FREE Lenten course - New Monday night online course – 4 weeks starting 10th March AT 7.30PM.

The concept of "Jubilee" has its origins in the Book of Leviticus (chapter 25) as a special year of reconciliation, pilgrimage, and coming home. Pope Francis has designated the 2025 Holy Year as a time to renew ourselves as "Pilgrims of Hope."

As we are quickly approaching Lent – what better way to prepare our hearts and mind for Easter than to join in fellowship and reflect, and mediate on the deeper aspects of faith and explore deeper the message of Easter.

In this 4 week online course via zoom we will be reflecting on uplifting and practical insight into the joy of living now with hope in the future blessing of Eternal Life with God in Heaven, contemplating John's revelation in the cave of Patmos and how we can help people experience the joy of hope.

The theme of Hope runs through all four sessions, so you will get the most out of the course by attending all four evenings. However, each of the four sessions is standalone so if you can't attend them all, please still sign up and attend the sessions you can. The sessions will run from 7.30pm to 8.45pm, starting with prayer followed by an engaging video then we will break out into small group discussions led by an experienced facilitator.

10 March - Session 1 - Hope in the Risen and glorified Jesus

17 March - Session 2 - Heaven, the fulfilment of our deepest longings

24 March - Session 3 - Heaven on Earth

31 March -Session 4 - The Holy Spirit, the River of Life.

What better way to start the year and reflect on how we could live joyfully with the hope of eternal life. We hope you can join us and together journey as pilgrims of hope. Please EMAIL Joan Kent at jkent@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk if you wish to join us for this Lenten course. Please see below a trailer for the course if you wish to find out more. Please feel free to invite your friends and family and anyone else who you think may be interested in joining us.

<https://vimeo.com/788226129>