

Parish of St. Michael, Tadley and St. Oswald, Burghfield Common

Priest-in-Charge: Father Stephen Vooght

Parish Administrator: Dan Wisniewski

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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	24 th Oct	30 th Sunday - Vigil	6.00pm	St. Michael's	Francis Brooks
Sun	25 th Oct	30 th Sunday	9.00am	St. Michael's	Brindle Family
			11.00am	St. Oswald's	
Mon	26 th Oct	NO MASS			
Tues	27 th Oct	Funeral Mass Ursula Warton RIP	12 Noon	St. Oswald's	Ursula Warton RIP
Weds	28 th Oct	NO MASS – FATHER STEPHEN AWAY			
Thurs	29 th Oct	Feria	9.30am	St. Michael's	Thomas Shennan RIP
Fri	30 th Oct	Blessed Winchester Martyrs (M)	7.00pm	St. Michael's	Maureen Murphy RIP
Sat	31 st Oct	All Saints (S) - Vigil	6.00pm	St. Michael's	
Sun	1 st Nov	All Saints (S)	9.00am	St. Michael's	Penfold Family RIP
			11.00am	St. Oswald's	

REMINDER: British Summer Time this Sunday 25th October - Clocks go back 1 hour

Harvest Festival Mass will be celebrated at St. Oswald's Church this Sunday 25th October

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

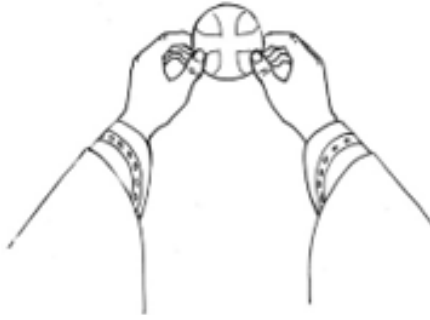
Confessions: Before Weekday Masses, Saturdays at St. Michael's 11.00am - 12 Noon, or by appointment.

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

NEXT WEEKEND 31st OCT/1st NOV

2nd Collection - Barmenda

Children's Liturgy at St. Oswald's 11.00am Sunday 1st Nov



PRAYING FOR THE HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY & The Traditional Practice of Offering up a Mass Intention

As we approach the month of November, the month dedicated to praying for the Holy Souls in Purgatory, it would seem to be a fitting time to highlight the ancient tradition of having a Mass offered for a specific intention.

Praying for the living or the dead is one of the seven acts of spiritual mercy. Offering up a Mass intention for those who have died is considered to be the most powerful and effective means of helping to hasten the release of souls from their time of purification in purgatory. The Catechism points this out: *"From the beginning the Church has honoured the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God."* (CCC 1032).

The Theology Behind Offering up a Mass Intention

The faithful generally make an offering, called a stipend, to the priest in order to apply the Mass to a specific intention. Theologically, the stipend is not what obtains the spiritual benefit. The benefit comes from Christ's sacrifice made present in the Eucharist. The offering of the stipend is a traditional act of participation and sacrifice on the part of the faithful, uniting their own gift with the offering of Christ on the altar. The Church sees it as both a spiritual act of devotion and a practical means of supporting her ministers and works. In making this offering, the faithful, by parting with something that is their own, associate themselves more intimately with Christ who offers himself in the sacred Host, and obtain thereby more abundant fruits (*Pope Paul VI's letter 'Firma in Traditione' June 13, 1974*)

Canon Law states: *"Any priest celebrating or concelebrating is permitted to receive an offering to apply the Mass for a specific intention."* (Canon 945 §1)

"The Christian faithful who give an offering to apply the Mass for their intention contribute to the good of the Church and by that offering share its concern to support its ministers and works." (Canon 946)

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS – URSULA WARTON RIP

The funeral Mass for Ursula Warton RIP will take place at St. Oswald's Church at 12 Noon this Tuesday 27th October, followed by the Committal at St Michael's Churchyard, Sulhamstead Bannister (Note: Limited parking space at the Churchyard, so lift sharing is very highly recommended).

Afterwards, there will be a Reception in the Leonard Rooms at St. Oswald's.

Parishioners are warmly invited to attend the Mass, Committal and Reception.

WELCOME TO VERNON JONES, TRAINEE DEACON

Starting next weekend, we welcome Vernon Jones who will be with us for a 3-month placement (1st November – 31st January 2027). Vernon is in his 4th year studying for the diploma in Diaconal studies at Oscott seminary in Birmingham and is a parishioner at St Bede's church in Basingstoke.

During his formation, Vernon undertakes various placements e.g. hospital chaplaincy and being based in different churches, to broaden his experience of different communities and their needs.

Vernon will spend time at both St Michael's and St Oswald's. We look forward to supporting him during his time with us.

SYCAMORE COURSE

The fourth session of the course takes place at 7.00pm – 9.00pm this Tuesday 27th October in the Parish Room of St. Michael's Church, Tadley, and is entitled:

WHO IS JESUS? He came to bring life to the world. The Saving Death of Jesus. The light of the Resurrection.
All are welcome to attend.

FIINAL REMINDER - 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.

ON THE WAY: COMMIT TO GROWTH

If you are joining the series here, **B.E.C.O.M.E.** is our simple way of describing the journey from spiritual curiosity towards following Jesus and helping others follow Him: Belong in Community, Encounter Christ, Commit to Growth, Ongoing Renewal, Missionary Led and Evangelising Witness.

The **C** in **B.E.C.O.M.E.** is Commit to Growth.

An encounter with Christ is not intended to remain a single moment. It opens a life of following Him, learning from Him and allowing Him to shape us more deeply.

Our Local Mission Plan identifies a clear challenge: what happens next? Too often somebody finishes Alpha, the course where people can explore Christian faith and ask questions, receives a Sacrament, returns to Mass or takes an important first step and is then left to work out the next stage alone.

Commit to Growth means responding to grace by taking the next faithful step. For one person that may mean beginning to pray regularly or reading Scripture. For another it may mean returning to Reconciliation, joining a small group, learning more about the faith, discovering a gift or beginning to serve.

Growth is not the same as becoming busier. It includes a deepening relationship with Christ, greater maturity in our character and relationships, and a growing willingness to place our lives at the service of others.

Our Local Mission Plan therefore proposes stronger follow-up after Alpha and clearer ways for families, newcomers and returning Catholics to continue their journey. It also proposes renewed use of Called & Gifted, a process that helps people recognise the gifts God may have given them, and better support for those who teach and accompany others in faith. Over time, prayer, small groups, preparation for becoming Catholic, volunteering and leadership should connect more naturally with one another.

The same need is particularly clear for our young Church. The developing 16+ community and our longer-term hope for a recognisable youth ministry are intended to help First Holy Communion and Confirmation become stages in discipleship rather than finishing points.

ChurchSuite, the digital system planned for parish contacts, communication and follow-up, can help us avoid losing touch and offer meaningful next steps. But relationships, prayer and discernment remain central. Our longer-term hope is that mature disciples will increasingly accompany others.

What next step would help your faith become more deeply rooted and more fruitful?

Next week: Ongoing Renewal.

DIOCESAN FORMATION DAYS

- **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/meeting/register/OXWSTvzJT-iQWiws95ad2Q>

- **Parish Evangelisation Cell Formation Day: Saturday 31st Oct. | 10:30am – 1:30pm | Christ the King, Reading**
Last chance to sign up!

You are warmly invited to join us for a morning as we explore how parish groups, one of our Diocese's Six Holy Habits, can deepen our faith and impact our parishes as they become welcoming places for all. The "Parish Cell System" (often called PECs) focuses on transforming parishes into active, missionary communities through small, home-based groups (cells) focused on fellowship, prayer and scripture. Join us **on Saturday 31st October** for an inspiring day of teaching, prayer, practical formation, and fellowship at the **Portsmouth Diocese Parish Evangelisation Formation Day**. Lunch will be provided as part of the day.

Please register by email Meghan on ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or using the link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/JGgE7zeuun> as this helps us with ensuring we have enough food and have catered for people's needs. We ask people to register by Tuesday 27th October.

CARITAS THANKSGIVING MASS AND NETWORKING DAY: SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER, ST. BEDE'S, BASINGSTOKE

All parishioners involved in charitable outreach, or who simply wish to find out more about social justice and supporting their communities, are invited to attend this Day, 10.30am -3.00pm, which includes Mass celebrated by Bishop Philip. There are also two inspiring speakers in the morning after Mass. In the afternoon, there is a time for simply networking with others from around the Diocese who are involved in charitable outreach of different kinds to share good ideas of what has made a positive impact for the poor and vulnerable. **Please see the poster at the back of this Newsletter for more details.**

HARVEST FESTIVAL MASS CELEBRATIONS

St. Michael's

Harvest Festival Mass was celebrated last Sunday. Many thanks to all those who gave generously to the Harvest Festival collection at St Michael's on Sunday for the Basingstoke Foodbank. The total weight was 67.5 Kg. If any parishioners still want to give please leave your donations at the back of Church and they will be added. Many thanks once again for all your kind donations.



St Oswald's

Harvest Festival Mass will be celebrated this Sunday 25th October. Donations will be in aid of West Berks Foodbank. As you can see from the photos, the Altar is appropriately decorated with space for parishioners to add their donations. In addition, the outside Cross is also suitably prepared. Our thanks to Mel Stevens for the wonderful decorations.



Photos courtesy of Pauline Penfold and Mel Stevens

ONLINE GIVING FOR OUR PARISH

"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.



**THANK YOU TO ALL AT ST. MICHAEL'S WHO USED THE ONLINE DONATION PLATE LAST WEEKEND.
IF YOU HAVE NOT USED IT YET, PLEASE DO GIVE IT A TRY!**

ARCHANGELS SOCIAL GROUP

Mingle @ St Michael's

Please join us on Wednesday 18 November in the Parish Room from 2pm to 4pm. All welcome!



CTAT Men's Breakfast – Saturday 24 October

The next Men's Breakfast will take place this Saturday 24 October at the Immanuel Centre, Tadley URC, RG26 3NJ, from 10am to noon, when Kath will speak about "A Channel Swim". All welcome!

Crosslink AGM – Sunday 25 October

Crosslink, the Tadley Voluntary Care Group, invites you to its Annual Meeting this Sunday 25 October at the Immanuel Centre, Tadley URC, Main Road, Tadley, RG26 3NJ, at 12.30pm, followed by a lunch of cheese and homemade soup. Volunteers, clients, families and anyone interested in the work of Crosslink are welcome. Please RSVP in advance to the Co-ordinators on 07884 016367 or crosslinktadley@gmail.com

Tickets for the TCM Panto: Treasure Island

Tickets will go on sale at 2pm on Monday 2 November and may be booked online at:

<https://www.ticketsource.com/christchurch-players>

Performances of Treasure Island will take place at Tadley Common Methodist Church, Newchurch Road, RG26 4HN on Friday 27 November from 7pm – 9.30pm; Saturday 28 November from 5pm – 7.30pm; Friday 4 December from 7pm – 9.30pm; Saturday 5 December from 5pm – 7.30pm. Tickets are £6 for under 12s and £8.50 for all others.

SAVE THE DATES:

CTAT Ladies' Breakfast: Saturday 14 November, 10am – 12 noon.

CTAT Forum: Thursday 19 November, 7pm for 7.30pm at St Michael's Church.



On the weekend of the
World Day Of The Poor

CHARITY MASS AND NETWORKING EVENT

Connect with other people in the Diocese who are passionate about social justice
and supporting their community.



Saturday 14 November 2026

**St Bede's Church
Popley Way,
Basingstoke, RG24 9DX.**

Everyone welcome!

10:30am - 3:00pm

For more information

caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



<https://portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/caritas>



'The Lord is the refuge of the Poor' PS 14:6

Caritas Portsmouth is part of the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. Registered Charity in England and Wales 1199568, Jersey 457 and Guernsey CH263