

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

27th April 2025 (2nd Sunday of Easter – Divine Mercy)

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,

First, a sincere “Thank you!” to all across our Parish who made the celebration of the Easter Triduum and the Easter Day Masses a time of fine Liturgical Solemnity and Resurrection Joy. The Easter Gardens in our churches, with a notable decorated cross outside St. Oswald’s church, alongside the floral decorations for Easter, were very well done. Attendances across the Parish for our celebrations were good. Being my final Easter as Parish Priest, I felt a great joy, tinged with some sadness, that all came together so well as the result of the commitment of so many.

I am most grateful for those parishioners who gave me lifts on Palm Sunday & Easter Day to/from our churches, especially as my tiredness at the end of Easter Day morning did not merit me driving myself!

A special thanks to the Choir Group, involving members of both our churches coming together for the Sacred Triduum. A number of people have commented on the music, as well as the dignity of the Liturgies. Our Music Groups at both churches provided very good liturgical music for Palm Sunday and Easter Day.

Finally, I express my thanks for your Easter offerings, cards and gifts, and my acknowledgement of the silent, behind the scenes work of Hugh Lobo. From Palm Sunday until the end of the Triduum he was constantly available for ensuring the Tadley sound system functioned well, that the Easter Candles for both our churches were prepared and that the Liturgy for the Easter Vigil was well ordered.

Mass for the soul of Pope Francis

This will be celebrated at 9.00am this Sunday at Tadley.

Solemnity of Saint George, Patron of England

This Solemnity has been transferred from 23rd April, as it gave way to the celebration of the Easter Octave, which concludes this Sunday. It will be celebrated at 11.00am in St. Michael's Church, Tadley, on Monday 28th April, with the Mass of St. George.

Marriage Service of Karen Mortby and Daniel Wilmot

This will take place in St. Michael's Church on Saturday 3rd May at 11.00am. Karen and Daniel are from Park Gate Parish, but their Wedding Reception is in our Parish Area. I have been liaising with their Parish Priest, Father Ansel D'Mello, to facilitate an unhurried, memorable day, agreeing to celebrate their marriage in St. Michael's Church. I am not available on Wednesday evening because of their Wedding Practice. Keep them in your prayers, please.

Requiem Mass for Barry Rockhill

This will take place at St. Oswald’s church at 12.00 Noon, Thursday 22nd May.

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This Weekend’s Mass arrangements

Saturday 26th April: 6.00pm at St. Michael’s Church, Tadley

Sunday 27th April: 9.00am at St. Michael’s Church, Tadley

Sunday 27th April: 11.00am at St. Oswald’s Church, Burghfield Common

Note: There will be a Pastoral Letter from Bishop Philip read out at all Masses this weekend

Weekday Mass

Monday 28th April: Solemnity of St. George 11.00am at St. Michael's Church, Tadley

Not available next week

This coming week I shall not be generally available because of a full diary and the need to get over the bad cold which developed after Easter. Also, I will have a further meeting on retirement preparation - From now onwards my attention needs to be directed more towards this, so my apologies if you find me less available, particularly after 11th June when my retirement from active ministry occurs.

The Parish Office will be open as normal during the coming week.

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Parish Office update

Fire Safety:

Father Patrick & I are delighted to announce that Mick Breslin has very kindly agreed to volunteer as Fire Warden at St. Oswald's. Alongside Christine Caren & Ben Rowden at St. Michael's, he will receive relevant training to equip him for this role.

We still have a requirement for additional Fire Wardens at both Churches, to ensure there is cover for all weekend Masses in cases of absence or sickness. Do please let me know ASAP if you are interested, so that we can arrange one single session of training for all our Fire Wardens at the earliest opportunity.

UPDATE: Roof repair – St. Michael's church

Unfortunately, we were unable to secure a contractor to effect repairs prior to Easter, since we have been advised that the work required needs to be of a larger scope, requiring remaking the concrete undercloak along the entire verge at the back of the church. Additional contractors have visited the site this week & we await their quotes.

REMINDER: Tree surgery works – St. Oswald's Site

These major works will take place on two separate days: Monday 28th April & Wednesday 30th April. PLEASE AVOID THE SITE ON THESE DAYS.

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Archangels Social Group Events

Parish Cake Sale & Tombola for Christian Aid on Sunday 11 May: The Archangels are organising this after the 9am Mass in the Parish Room on the first day of Christian Aid Week, as we no longer undertake the door-to-door collections in the parish. Please bake a cake to donate for the sale on 11 May or donate gifts for the tombola this weekend or next in the boxes or bags marked 'Donations for Christian Aid' in our church porches. Please put donations for the Foodbank in the normal Foodbank container. Many thanks in anticipation!

Mingle at St Michael's: The next Mingle will be on Wednesday 14 May and thereafter will be held on the third Wednesday afternoon of the month from 2pm to 4pm in the Parish Room or hopefully out on the patio, weather permitting!

Volunteers to help organise our Parish Farewell for Fr Patrick: As you know, Fr Patrick will be retiring this year after nearly 17 years as our Parish Priest!

The proposal is to hold a **Farewell Party at Heath End Village Hall on Friday 29 August** from 7pm to approx 10pm (we will have to clear and vacate the Hall by 11pm). **Fr Patrick's Farewell Mass will be on Sunday 7 September in Tadley**, followed by the chance to socialise over tea/coffee and cake. There will be only the one morning Mass in the Parish that Sunday.

The Archangels are small in number, so if YOU are willing to join **a team to help organise these Farewell Gatherings**, your help would be much appreciated – please call or text Mary Lee on 07821 254100 or email her at maryt.lee@yahoo.co.uk to register your willingness to help. Thank you!

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CTAT Events

CTAT Ladies' Breakfast – Saturday 10 May: Dina Haywood will be our guest speaker, describing her experience of volunteering at the Basingstoke Night Light Winter Shelter, a pop-up shelter run by the churches to provide food and overnight accommodation for rough sleepers in the coldest months of the year. The Ladies' Breakfast is held on the 2nd Saturday of the month at the Immanuel Centre, Tadley URC, Main Road, RG26 3NJ from 10am to noon. All welcome!

REMINDER: Alive 4U, a church service for Children & Families, 11th May at 10.30am

Venue: URC, Main Road, Tadley. Info: Mark 07849546894

REMINDER: The Bible Society's Romans Course – Starting 12th May

7.30pm on Mondays from 12th May – 21st July.

Venue: Tadley URC Immanuel Centre, Tadley URC, Main Road, Tadley, RG26 3NJ.

Info & reservations: tadleyurc@gmail.com

Plant sale & Coffee morning - Saturday 17th May

10am to 12 noon At Silchester Methodist Church Hall

Also, on the topic of plants, Green Health Tadley (allotment project on Rowan Road site) is in need of extra volunteers, particularly during the summer whilst so many plants are needing attention. If you can help in any way, for any amount of time, please call Dave Lupton on 07519 586407 for a chat.

Men's Breakfast – Saturday 24th May

The next Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday 24th May, at **10.00am – Noon**. Full English breakfast, good company & conversation. Venue: Tadley URC Immanuel Centre, Tadley URC, Main Road, Tadley, RG26 3NJ. Our speaker will be Michael Laizans on "Stratfield Saye: Some historical highlights".

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REMINDER: SIGNIFICANT WEDDINGS ANNIVERSARY MASS

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 on Saturday 21st June at 11am and be followed by a buffet lunch. Please contact Liz Murphy in the Parish Office or email: anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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.

IS YOUR CALLING TO THE DIACONATE?

Fr Dominic Adeiza, Diocesan Director of the Permanent Diaconate asks, "have you ever wondered what it's all about but something has held you back from finding out more about it? We'll be holding an information event on Saturday, 3rd May, 2025 at The English Martyrs Church, Didcot from 9am-3pm, where you'll get to hear first hand, from those who are involved and what it's been like for them. If you'd like to attend, or find out more, please call Pam Darroch on 07883 059529 or email: diaconate@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

CHARIS Portsmouth - Life in the Spirit course online

Thursday evenings at 7.30pm, starting Thursday 8th May. There are seven sessions (with a week off over half-term at the end of May) and a Holy Spirit Day live at English Martyrs Church in Reading on Saturday 7th June.

Registration is now open - to register, please [click here](#). If you would like to contribute towards the expenses of the course, your donations would be gratefully accepted. Look out for the logo above. You can make a donation [here](#).

Douai Abbey Pastoral Programme for May

Further to the listing of Douai Abbey Reflection Days & Workshops in our Newsletter of 26th January 2025, we have been asked to remind parishioners of the following Days available in May:

Saturday 10 May Reflection Day: *The Sabbath Day and the Lord's Day*'.
Led by Caroline Farey. The day will focus on bible texts to see how links with the Lord's Day open up unexpected riches & to Sunday Mass. For anyone interested: no previous knowledge needed.

Saturday 17 May Workshop: *Living in a Sainted Land* led by Br Simon Hill OSB
Discovering great saints of the Thames Valley & Wessex: Birinus, bishop of Dorchester; Frideswide, foundress of an Oxford monastery c.700; Swithun, Anglo-Saxon bishop of Winchester; Edmund Rich of Abingdon, archbishop of Canterbury c.1250 & Hugh Cook Farringdon, last abbot of Reading.

Saturday 31 May Reflection Day: *Bible Alive—Scripture Speaks: Contemplating Mary's visit to Elizabeth*: Led by Br Aidan Messenger OSB Come & ponder, like Mary, on her visit to Elizabeth which we celebrate today, so we can discern once again Christ's saving action for us. In *Lectio Divina* we find we can discern with the Scriptures how this Word plays out in our lives.

Flyers with details & more information on request - ALL WELCOME !

DOUAI ABBEY RG7 5TQ

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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.casopportsmouth.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**

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Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through his Church

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

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