

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

2nd March 2025 (8th 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,

Assisted suicide petition

Hopefully, following our Newsletter of 16th February this year, many of you have written to your MP's concerning the Bill allowing people to kill themselves, possibly assisted by medical personnel, which is going through Parliament. This proposed legislation is extremely dangerous in respect of care for the vulnerable, disabled and those suffering from terminal illnesses, and many believe it threatens the development of palliative care and the work of the hospice movement. All people of goodwill are asked to oppose it for the common good of our society.

There is growing concern, expressed in the national press and news broadcasts, on the work of the Scrutiny Committee. Right to Life points out that over 80 amendments, proposed by MP's not happy that safeguards in the Bill are strong enough, have been rejected.

This included the amendment by Sarah Boo MP, who has diabetes, which would have prevented this condition and others that can be managed by treatment, from being acceptable as a terminal illness eligible for assisted suicide. Also, an amendment requiring consultation about palliative care options before having assisted suicide being available was rejected.

The scrapping of the amendment to require a High Court Judge to approve assisted suicide applications, resulted in The Independent, The Times, The Telegraph, The Daily Mail and The Sun newspapers running editorials raising serious concerns over the legislation. The government's chief suicide prevention adviser, Professor Louis Appleby, writing in The Guardian, also expressed concerns about the effect on suicide prevention work nationally. Also, it appears that 142 MPs who backed the Bill at its First Reading might consider withdrawing their support because of safeguarding concerns. The Bill can still be defeated when it comes before Parliament in late April for its Third Reading. Next weekend there is an opportunity to sign the Care Not Killing petition which will be available in all of our churches. Please do so. See the posters in our churches about this, and pray for our MPs is to recognise the moral danger threatening us.

Becoming One Parish Area

I outlined some general points about the meeting with Bishop Philip on 18th February about all of our local Parishes in this Pastoral Area becoming a Single Parish in two or three years in last week's Newsletter.

On 24th February, the Bishop sent a very positive letter to Father John Lee, our Pastoral Area Coordinator, concerning the discussions and the way forward. Our recent Diocesan e-news also addresses the meeting, so please read its report. Let us use Lent as a special time of prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to prepare us as Missionary Disciples in a new form of church. More updates will follow before I retire.

Not Available

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

- Monday (My usual day off & still needed to take it easy after being ill)
- Friday (Pat Welsh Funeral)

Many apologies for any inconvenience.

This Weekend's Mass arrangements

Saturday 1st March: 6.00pm at St. Michael's Church, Tadley
Sunday 2nd March: 9.00am at St. Michael's Church, Tadley – **With Children's Liturgy!**
Sunday 2nd March: 11.00am at St. Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

Note: There will be a Pastoral Letter from Bishop Philip read out at all Masses (a copy will be sent out via email on Sunday afternoon)

Note: Tea/Coffee will be available after Mass at St. Oswald's this Sunday

Ash Wednesday Masses, 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.

Friday 7th March:

Funeral Mass for Pat Welsh 12.00 Noon at St. Michael's Church, Tadley

REMINDER: First Holy Communion – Reconciliation is TOMORROW (Saturday)!

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

Pat Welsh RIP

Please could any parishioners wishing to attend the burial & reception following the Funeral please let the Parish Office know ASAP. This will help Cecilia & Ursula with their planning in terms of numbers.

As a reminder, all those parishioners who knew Pat are invited to attend the burial at Tadley Cemetery, directly after the Funeral Mass, together with the Reception at Bishopswood Golf Course (starting at 1.30pm with tea/coffee, followed by a buffet).

Appeal to St. Oswald's parishioners – Can you help?

The Parish Office has received an enquiry from the daughter of an elderly lady who lives in Burghfield Village. She is looking for someone who could help give her mother a lift to/from Sunday Mass, on those occasions when she is unable to do so. Her mother is mobile with the aid of a walking stick.

Please do let the Parish Office know if you feel able to help & we'll put you in touch with the lady's daughter.

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Lent – Events & resources

NEW! *Walk With Me* for Lent booklet

There are copies available of the *Walk With Me* booklet for Lent in both churches. These are a good spiritual guide – liturgically & reflectively – starting on Ash Wednesday up until Easter Sunday. There is no charge. Our thanks to Hugh Lobo for providing these free of charge to our Parish.

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.

NEW! - CAFOD Lent Appeal – Family Fast Day collection

This year’s CAFOD Family Fast Day is on 14th March. There will be talks & collections at all our Masses that weekend 15th/16th March. Please donate to the Family Fast Day parish collection and be a pilgrim of hope with CAFOD this Jubilee Year. You’ll be supporting communities experiencing the impacts of war, poverty and climate change to find solutions and hope. Donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call us on 0303 303 3030. You can also text: CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.

The QR code below links you straight to CAFOD’s virtual envelope where you can also donate.

NOTE: Gift Aid envelopes will be available for those who wish to use them (please ensure you are able to Gift Aid after assuring yourselves that you are in compliance with the HMRC tax limits).



To access CAFOD’s Lent prayer video: <https://youtu.be/oEtpTxt3Pag?si=qQbCUJTFgX7FeBG>

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.

NEW! Lenten afternoon of recollection at St. Joseph’s, Basingstoke - Sunday 23rd March

Times: 2.00pm – 5.00pm. In the light of God’s Word and of the call to grow in hope in this Jubilee Year, this Pastoral Area afternoon Lent retreat wants to help us live Lent as a journey of hope, rooted in Christ. The retreat will include a reflection meditation, time for personal prayer, opportunity to avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and sharing.

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/>

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Archangels' Events

The Archangels Social Group looks forward to welcoming you to the next Mingle on Wednesday 19 March from 2 - 4pm in the Parish Room for conversation and laughter over tea, coffee and cake.

CTAT Events

REMINDER: 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 fuelled, 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!

REMINDER: 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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Taking Liturgy Seriously – Online Course

Our Diocesan Liturgical Formation team draws our attention to the next three session module online course from the Society of St Gregory, Taking Liturgy Seriously. The next module begins on Thursday 13th March.

This year, the focus will be on liturgical spirituality. The aim of the course is to enable personal reflection on what it means to be a member of the worshipping community, how others are worshipping with you, and how ministering in all its forms is a part of our own worship and prayer. It will develop a clear understanding of how the Church's liturgy expresses her theology and spirituality.

The course will run online (Zoom) and each module runs for three consecutive Thursday evenings from 7.30 to 8.45pm. The next Module is on Prayer and the Liturgical texts: The words we speak with Rev Kevin McGinnell on Thursdays 13th, 20th and 27th March. The cost is £30 per module. For further information and to book your place, please contact courses@ssg.org.uk or visit the [Society of St Gregory website](#)

CATECHISTS LENT DAYS OF PRAYER, FORMATION AND NETWORKING

For the attention of all the various Catechists in our Parish:

The Vicariate for Evangelisation will be hosting three online events during Lent for Catechists across the diocese. These events offer a chance to connect with other catechists, share experiences, and find inspiration to hand on the faith in our parishes. Each event will begin at 7:30 PM and last for one hour. Catechists can choose from the three events based on their area of catechesis:

Thursday 13th March (Children's Liturgy and First Holy Communion)

Thursday 20th March (Marriage Preparation and Baptism)

Thursday 3rd April (Confirmation and RCIA)

To sign up for these events, please go to <https://forms.office.com/e/VkCdj1SWzA>

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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 & a truly fruitful Lent,

Father Patrick.

Fr. Patrick Tansey

Parish Priest

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St Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

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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 meditate 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>