

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

6th April 2025 (5th Sunday of Lent)

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Office hours: Tues, Weds, Thurs, Fri: 9.45am-2.45pm. Closed on Mondays

Dear All,

This is my final contribution to the Parish newsletter before Holy Week, so please read it carefully, especially in respect of Masses and Services during that most sacred time, leading into Easter.

The Sacred Triduum begins with Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday 17th April and culminates with the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening 19th April, which ushers in the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord. All Catholics are encouraged to attend all the Liturgical Celebrations of Holy week as one event if possible. The Vigil leads into the First Mass of Easter.

Note: Easter Mass arrangements for our Parish are detailed in a separate section later in this Newsletter

A Final Push!

During the Octave of Easter, those days following Easter Sunday, on Friday 25th April the Assisted Suicide Bill has its third reading in Parliament. Should it pass this reading, it will probably become law. Many MP's and medical professionals believe it does not contain the safeguards promised when it was introduced i.e. to protect the vulnerable, disabled and others, and is worse than expected compared with its First Reading.

Not Dead Yet UK, a network of disabled and terminally ill people, are asking us to send the cards available in our churches to our MP's, asking them to vote against the Bill. Full details are in both our churches on the notice boards, and cards are available for you to sign and post to our local MPs. Please do so as soon as possible. Thank you to all in the parish who have responded so well in the previously, sending cards and signing the recent petition.

In addition, the Diocese has asked us to advertise the following event: **Assisted Dying Bill: Faith Reflections - 22nd April 2025** organised by Southampton Council of Faiths. For more details and to book click the link: <https://tinyurl.com/mzv9xa9f>

Haley, Ola and Maria's experiences from the Jubilee Pilgrimage

Our thanks to these young members of our Parish for the following interesting account of their visit to Assisi and Rome, as part of the Bishop Challoner school pilgrimage, led by teachers and Father John Lee. I asked them to put together this reflection for our Newsletter upon their return and it brought back memories of my Jubilee visit 25 years ago!:

Between the 22nd- 26th March, we had the opportunity to explore Rome and Assisi and visit many places which helped to deepen our understanding of the worldwide Catholic faith. In Assisi, we visited the Basilica of Saint Francis and the shrine of Blessed Carlo Acutis. The stories of these role models were inspiring, especially the one of Carlo Acutis which is an example for the younger generation.

In Rome, we visited the Sistine Chapel and we saw the beautiful frescos, which allowed us to reflect on the dedication and time that people are willing to give, to allow others to visualise scenes from the Bible. We especially enjoyed seeing the Creation of Adam and Last Judgement frescos as we study them in RE.

We also made a pilgrimage to the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica which allowed us to be truly grateful for the opportunity to be a Pilgrim of Hope and to acknowledge all those who had been there during previous Jubilee years.

Another impressive place which we visited was the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls which was built over his burial place. Above the arches in the Church, there were paintings of every Pope that had ever guided the people as the head of the Church on Earth. This allowed us to comprehend how long the Catholic faith has existed and how the tradition of apostolic succession has continued since Peter was given the keys to Heaven.

Finally, we also enjoyed the tour around the Basilica of Saint Mary Major which still houses the remains of Jesus' manger. This place inspired us to be open to God's will like Mary was at the Annunciation.

This trip was not only a time for spiritual growth but also a time where many of us built new friendships with people from different year groups. Also, it allowed us to experience God's work in our lives through the miracle that allowed us to successfully arrive in Italy, despite the setback caused by the issues at Heathrow. We thank everyone who prayed for our Pilgrimage and hope that this Jubilee year of Hope will also be a special one for you.

Letter concerning Basingstoke Pastoral Area becoming one Parish in a couple of years

Father John Lee, our Coordinating Pastor for the Basingstoke Pastoral Area, has sent this to our local Parishes and it is attached to this Newsletter.

This Saturday, it had been planned to have a major meeting at Saint Bede's church to address the recent visit of Bishop Philip and others to the Area, to forward the establishment of one Parish.

Sadly, Father John was diagnosed with COVID on Friday and has been required to isolate for 10 days following hospital treatment in Basingstoke. Please keep him in your prayers, especially at this time of preparation for the Death and Resurrection of the Lord.

My thanks to those parishioners from Tadley and Burghfield Common who had agreed to attend. The meeting will be rearranged after Easter.

New Chief Executive Officer needed for Secular Clergy Common Fund

Parishioners may be interested in the advert below as many of you know I am the Portsmouth Administrator of this Fund, which covers also the Archdioceses of Westminster and Southwark, and the Dioceses of Arundel and Brighton and Brentwood. I take this opportunity to thank Angela Rowe, who's now retiring, for her excellent administrative work and concern for so many sick and retired clergy:

The Secular Clergy Common Fund ('Big M') is looking to appoint a new CEO. It makes grants to our sick and retired priests and looks after two Catholic cemeteries in London.

The role is 0.6FTE and offers flexible working and a salary of £50k-£60k pro rata. For further details contact Angela Rowe secretary@secularclergy.org.uk Closing date 28th April 2025.

In Prayer

Please keep in your prayers Barry Rockhill of our Burghfield Common community and a member of our Parish Finance Committee, who is unwell at this time. He has contributed significantly to the Parish over the last few years, always being available to cover issues at Saint Oswald's church if Dan or I were unavailable. Also, we keep Peg, his wife in our prayers at this difficult time.

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This Weekend's Mass arrangements

Saturday 5th April: 6.00pm at St. Michael's Church, Tadley
Sunday 6th April: 9.00am at St. Michael's Church, Tadley
Sunday 6th April: 11.00am at St. Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

There will be Tea & Coffee after Mass this Sunday at St. Oswald's.

Note: A Pastoral Letter from Cardinal Vincent Nichols, on behalf of the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales, will be read at all Masses this weekend.

Note: Easter Mass arrangements are shown in a separate section later in this Newsletter.

Stations of the Cross at St. Michael's church

Many thanks to all who attended last Friday's Stations of the Cross. The next opportunity for parishioners to participate in Stations of the Cross will again be at St. Michael's church, **next Friday 11th April at 7.00pm**.

Once again, sincere thanks to Bill & Joy Reilly for organising & leading parishioners in this Lenten observance.

Pastoral Area Lenten Reconciliation Service

This will take place **TODAY**, Friday 4th April at 7.30 pm in St. Bede's Church, Basingstoke.

Gift Aid Envelopes – New Tax Year

The Envelopes for the new Tax Year will be available for collection at our Masses **THIS** weekend.

Gift Aid on Easter Offerings

All donations, including Gift Aid where applicable, given at Masses on Easter Sunday (including the Easter Vigil), other than those by regular standing order, will be used exclusively to support the priest(s) appointed to the parish.

Not available next week

For the upcoming week, from Monday until Saturday evening, I shall be unavailable since I will be taking a much needed break in order to conserve my energies for Holy Week & the Easter Triduum.

Dan will be working his usual Office hours as shown at the top of the Newsletter & will send a separate notification, by Monday, with out-of-hours emergency contact details.

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Holy Week – Other events & resources

Palm Sunday Silchester Walk

This begins at 9.30am on Sunday 13th April, at Silchester Village Hall, or at Walls carpark at 10.00am if the weather is wet.

REMINDER: Maundy Thursday Service & simple supper – Silchester Village Hall

Everyone welcome THURSDAY APRIL 17TH @ 6.30PM.

Please e-mail Eve to register your interest for catering purposes on eve_baker2003@yahoo.co.uk

CTAT Good Friday Service

This takes place at 10.30am outside St. Mary's Church, Tadley. ALL WELCOME.

REMINDER: Passion Play – Reading, 18th & 19th April

Following last year's success, Rise Theatre CIC, a local professional Christian theatre company, are again performing their Passion Play in Forbury Gardens (RG1 3BB) in central Reading on **Good Friday 18th April (3.30pm)** and **Saturday 19th April (3.00pm)**. It is a **FREE** event. Bring a blanket or outdoor chair to sit on! The play includes a dramatic interpretation of the crucifixion so parental guidance is advised. See www.risetheatre.co.uk/passionplay for more information and to WATCH THE VIDEO TRAILER. Please support this local initiative during the Easter weekend and invite your friends too!

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HOLY WEEK & EASTER LITURGIES IN OUR PARISH

PALM SUNDAY

Saturday 12th April: 6.00pm Mass at St. Michael's Church, Tadley
Sunday 13th April: 9.00am Mass at St. Michael's Church, Tadley
Including Solemn Procession with Blessed Palms
Sunday 13th April: 11.00am Mass at St. Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

HOLY THURSDAY

Thursday 17th April: 7.30pm at St. Michael's Church, Tadley
Mass of The Lord's Supper
Followed by Watching Before The Blessed Sacrament until 10.30pm

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday 18th April: 3.00pm at St. Michael's Church, Tadley
Liturgy of the Passion & Death of The Lord
The Diocesan Holy Places collection will be taken
Reminder: Good Friday is a day of fasting & abstinence

HOLY SATURDAY

Saturday 19th April: 9.00pm at St. Michael's Church, Tadley
The Easter Vigil, with the lighting of the Easter Fire, Sacred Readings & the First Mass of Easter

EASTER DAY

Sunday 20th April: 9.00am Mass at St. Michael's Church, Tadley
Sunday 20th April: 11.00am Mass at St. Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common
Note: No evening Mass

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Archangels' Events

Mingle at St. Michael's – Wednesday 14th May

The Archangels Social Group looks forward to welcoming you to the next Mingle on Wednesday 14th May from **2.00pm – 4.00pm** in the Parish Room for conversation and laughter over tea, coffee and cake.

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CTAT Events

REMINDER: Ladies' Breakfast – Saturday 12th April

All are welcome! 10.00am - 12 noon, Immanuel Centre, Tadley URC, Main Road, Tadley, RG26 3NJ Speaker: Jon Morris, a Money Coach from Christians Against Poverty, who will talk about services to help people manage their money.

Men's Breakfast – Saturday 26th April

The next Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday 26th April, 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 Roger from Yeldall Manor, a residential drug and alcohol treatment centre near Reading for men struggling with addiction. It should be a really interesting morning! Spread the word!

Men's Shed

The Men's Shed is now open every Friday (except Good Friday) starting at 2.00pm, at St. Mary's Church, Newchurch Road, Tadley, RG26 4 HQ. www.tadleymensshed.org.uk email: tadleymensshed@gmail.com

Save the Date! – Alive 4U, a church service for Children & Families, 11th May at 10.30am

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

Save the Date! – 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

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Additional formation sessions for EMHC, Readers & Ministers of Children's Liturgy.

The **EMHC day on 3rd May, 10.00am – 2.00pm** will include a session on taking Holy Communion to the sick and house bound.

The **Readers' day on 18th October, 10.00am – 2.00pm** will include a session on Lectio Divina.

The **Ministers of Children's Liturgy day on 6th September, 10.30 am - 1 pm.** The programme will include prayer and reflection, sharing good practice; working collaboratively; how to grow and communicate as Liturgical Catechists; Music suggestions; and a wish list for future support, networking and how to find more helpers.

ALL sessions will take place at **St Bede's Church/Hall in Basingstoke**.

Anyone involved in any of the above is encouraged to register via liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

The sessions are open to both new and experienced Ministers.

CAFOD Myanmar earthquake appeal (from CAFOD)

Please give to CAFOD's Myanmar Earthquake Appeal to provide water, food, solar lights, mosquito nets and water purification tablets to those devastated by this disaster. Your generosity will extend far and wide and will help the Catholic Church in Myanmar bring comfort and relief to families who are in urgent need.

Donate at www.cafod.org.uk/myanmar

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.casoportsmouth.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

St Michael's Church, Tadley

St Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

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LETTER FROM FR. JOHN LEE – Basingstoke Pastoral Area Coordinator

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

Dear Friends

Journeying together, becoming one in mind, heart and vision

My prayerful best wishes to one and all for this holy season of Lent.

In these days we share the company of Our Lady and the disciples journeying towards Jerusalem with Our Lord. In a few days' time we will recall again the saving events of Our Lord's mission and ministry culminating with the triumphal entry into Jerusalem; the betrayal; the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper; the washing of the feet; the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. Always a momentous, sacred journey and one that involves each one of us.

With this message I want to announce to you that we have begun to implement our Local Mission Plan for Basingstoke Pastoral Area. The plan is entitled *Journeying together, becoming one in mind, heart and vision*. Our Local Mission Plan (LMP) is closely aligned with the Diocesan Mission Plan *You Will Be My Witnesses*. Bishop Philip Egan has directed each Pastoral Area to produce plans promoting personal renewal, conversion and a new energy for evangelization and the making of disciples. The communities that make up our Pastoral Area – Holy Ghost & St Bede's, Basingstoke; St Joseph's, Basingstoke; Sacred Heart, Hook; St Michael's, Tadley and St Oswald's Burghfield Common – will in time merge to become a new Parish with a new name. The new name will be decided on in time following a process of consultation with the clergy and laity of our Pastoral Area.

I want to assure everyone that the word 'merge' is not one to be feared. As Bishop Philip has said: 'It's easy to change the structures, and structural change is one part of the plan. But *You Will Be My Witnesses*' is about the hardest change of all: changing ourselves'. This renewal will be brought about partly through a greater sharing of resources and giftedness resulting in our communities *merging* to form one parish, a community of communities.

Our Local Mission Plan which is rooted in *You Will Be My Witnesses* will become our 'guiding star' for the next few years. This project will afford us some wonderful opportunities to share faith and experience more powerfully renewal at a personal and parish level. Let us remember the words spoken repeatedly to us by Almighty God in the sacred scriptures: *Do not be afraid*.

I will keep you updated on the progress of our Local Mission Plan. For now, in these early days can I ask you please to pray for the success of our Local Mission Plan. Pray too for myself, brother clergy and those others who are assisting me with this work of rolling out and progressing our LMP. To quote our Shepherd Bishop Philip once again: *Pray for renewal in our Church, talk about your faith and what it means to you, give some time to serve those in need to truly be the Church beyond walls, serve in one of the many ministries on which your parish depends, welcome new people and get to know others in your local community to build the family of faith*.

Please take some time to read *You Will Be My Witnesses*. You will find the link on the diocesan website.

Happy Easter!

With my prayerful best wishes

Fr John Lee
Coordinating Pastor for Basingstoke PA
Dean of Blessed John Body Deanery