

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

**9<sup>th</sup> March 2025 (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent)**

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



Dear All,

### **BELONGING**

Bishop Philip's Pastoral Letter last weekend brought back some happy memories of my involvement, before and after becoming a priest, in the Church groups I have been part of.

The photograph above is of a Basingstoke Catenian evening I was invited to on Monday 17th February, as has been the case in the past during my time in Tadley. I have found such events very useful in ministry, getting to know better local Catenians engaged in supporting causes local and national, and hearing their views and concerns about our Christian witness.

On this occasion, as the Catenian brothers had their meeting before an enjoyable meal for all, it was a delight to chat for some time with the wife of the President of the Guernsey Catenians. Having been on the island for three years in my early priesthood, it was good to catch up with past links, including the Catenian circle there. Our thanks to Ben Rowden for providing the photograph, a parishioner and member of the Basingstoke Circle. And it was good to meet up with Graham Palethorpe, a former Health & Safety employee of the Diocese, with whom I worked before the pandemic. He updated me on the forthcoming

celebration of the renovation of Christ the King & St. Colman, Bitterne, which is reported in the e-news this week, and for which he is praised.

Roy Singh, another local parishioner, is very involved in the Basingstoke Knights of Saint Columba, another Catholic organisation I have a great respect for. Before becoming a priest, during my time as Chairman of the Reading branch of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, they were first class supporters in those early years of opposing the 1967 Abortion Act. Again, I had a good relationship with them on Guernsey - always available to do the ordinary, but essential, work of ensuring that various events went well in the Parish.

Not forgetting my three years with our Portsmouth Diocese Union of Catholic Mothers, who asked Bishop Crispian to appoint me as their Chaplain. A group committed to building up family life, especially concerned about fellow mothers in Bamenda, Cameroon, who were being discriminated against for speaking out about the situation there long before virtual civil war and a refugee problem developed. It was a delight to be at the Jubilee Mass celebrating the link between our two Dioceses in July 2024, which the UCM had supported way back. A time also of appreciation for the powerful role women can play in the Church. The Bishop mentioned the Saint Vincent de Paul Society as one group Catholics might like to join, and I owe a great deal to that body. As a teenager, I was a member of a youth group of the Society whilst a Sixth Former. Mentored by adults committed to social justice and a Christian concern for the elderly, the unwell and the needy, supported by prayer and the Eucharist, it left its mark!

Yet all these bodies are struggling because of a lack of members, and as a Catenian remarked "We are getting older!"

As our Bishop states in his Letter to our Parishes: "This Lent, I want to ask you to think about how you belong to Christ's Church, what it means to be a member, and how you can support the Mission. Don't be a passive receiver; be a proactive member!"

So, pray that our young people especially will respond generously to the call.

### **Not Available**

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

- Monday (My usual day off)
- Tuesday (Theresa Geddis Funeral)
- Thursday (Retirement planning meeting)

Many apologies for any inconvenience.

### **This Weekend's Mass arrangements (The Jubilee of Volunteers)**

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March: 6.00pm at St. Michael's Church, Tadley

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March: 9.00am at St. Michael's Church, Tadley

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March: 11.00am at St. Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

### **Weekday Mass**

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March, Funeral Mass for Theresa Geddis: 12.00 Noon at St. Oswald's Church, Burghfield C.

### **Lent Celebration Masses**

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March, The Feast of St. Patrick: 11.00am at St. Michael's Church, Tadley

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March, Solemnity of St. Joseph: 11.00am at St. Michael's Church, Tadley

### **First Holy Communion – Next preparation meeting**

Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March, 4.30pm – 5.15pm at St. Michael's Church, Tadley

## **REMINDER: 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.

## **Message from our Parish Administrator, Dan**

### **• Restricted availability**

Please bear with me on Tuesday & Wednesday next week, when I may be in meetings with potential volunteers.

### **• An appeal to all parishioners**

Unfortunately, there have been a number of instances recently, in our various Parish buildings, of lights not being switched off, windows left open, doors left unlocked. May I therefore request everybody's kind cooperation to ensure that we all maintain a razor-sharp focus on "housekeeping" matters when using the Parish buildings, including the churches, to ensure that: If you have opened or unlocked something, switched something on, please ensure it is restored to its previous condition when you leave.

Also, following every Mass, it would be very helpful for Father Patrick if parishioners could assist by ensuring that the churches & halls are properly shut-down & locked up when the last person leaves. This would allow Father peace-of-mind to enable him to be more focused on communicating with parishioners (as time permits) and also his own logistics. This is especially so on Sunday's at St. Michael's, where he needs to leave promptly to travel to the St. Oswald's Mass.

Many thanks for everybody's kind understanding and support in these matters.

### **• Thank you**

Many thanks again to all those parishioners who came forward to declare an interest in volunteering for the various positions previously advertised. Father Patrick and I now hope to have detailed conversations with a number of individuals. We will keep you updated.

On a related note, Father Patrick writes: As part of the Jubilee Year, the Jubilee of Volunteers is being celebrated this weekend **8th - 9th March**. Pope Francis said of volunteers that "*Your presence is the hand of Christ held out to all, and reaching all.*" As mentioned in this week's Diocesan e-news "Volunteering can deepen your relationship with Jesus and evangelise through presence and relationship".

In Brazil, Pope Francis said of the volunteers "*This is the most beautiful service we can give as missionary disciples. To prepare the way so that all people may know, meet and love the Lord. May you always be generous with God and with others: one loses nothing thereby, but gains great enrichment in life.*"

### **• Good news!**

The 5 year EICR electrical inspections at St. Michael's - Church, Parish Room, Presbytery - were carried out recently and I'm very pleased to confirm that the electrical installations in all three were classified as Satisfactory.

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## **Lent – Events & resources**

### **FINAL REMINDER: "The Joy of Hope" - FREE online Lenten course**

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

## **REMINDER: CAFOD Lent Appeal – Family Fast Day collection**

This year's CAFOD Family Fast Day is on 14<sup>th</sup> March. There will be talks & collections at all our Masses that weekend 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> 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](https://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>

## **FINAL REMINDER: Lent Courses at Silchester**

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

or...

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

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

## **REMINDER: Lenten afternoon of recollection at St. Joseph's, Basingstoke - Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## **REMINDER: 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](#).

## **REMINDER: 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/>

## **REMINDER: CATECHISTS LENT DAYS OF PRAYER, FORMATION AND NETWORKING**

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

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, as follows:

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March (Children's Liturgy and First Holy Communion)

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March (Marriage Preparation and Baptism)

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April (Confirmation and RCIA)

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

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### **Archangels' Events**

#### **Mingle at St. Michael's**

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**

#### **FINAL REMINDER: CTAT Ladies' Breakfast - Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> 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!

#### **CTAT Youth Worker, Sam Dunn**

- First of all, a message from Sam:

"I just wanted to express my sincerest thanks to everyone that has been involved with the love our schools campaign last month.

We served over 200 staff members and gave out more than 300 scones and many more cakes and treats! The staff were consistently overwhelmed by our efforts and the love we showed.

Incredibly, the week we chose to do this campaign, 2 schools had off-stead come and visit. After speaking with one head teacher after their visit and saying we had been praying for them, she said "well it obviously worked!".

It was such a great opportunity to share our gratitude for all our schools do for our children and youth as well as chat and build relationship with those in our community. The deputy head at the Hurst loved the Pray Tadley cards so much that she took a whole load to put in staff pigeonholes!

We also had 2 brilliant worship and prayer nights which we will continue to do in the near future.

Another way that we can carry on blessing and loving our schools in the near future is at Silchester school where Rev Karen and I will be launching a weeklong prayer space for the children to enjoy. We'll communicate more details when we have them.

Thank you for your prayers and support! Sam"

- Our Collection for Sam, taken at the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service at St. Michael's on 28<sup>th</sup> January

The "love our Schools" campaign has clearly been a great initiative by Sam. What better way of saying thank you for everything he does for the youth in Tadley, than by announcing that our collection for him raised a grand total of £163.00!

Well done, Sam! Keep up the good work!

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### **Caritas Survey**

Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) is conducting a survey to understand the impact of the two-child benefit cap and the current economic climate on Catholic families in England and Wales. Please consider sharing your experience by completing the survey at [csan.org.uk/news/familysurvey](https://csan.org.uk/news/familysurvey) where you'll also find further information about the survey. The survey will close on 25th March.

## **REMINDER: Significant Wedding Anniversaries – Celebration Mass, 21<sup>st</sup> June**

Are you celebrating a 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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 your envelope Significant Wedding Mass

## **ADoRE spiritual mini-retreat – 22<sup>nd</sup> March – PILGRIMS OF HOPE – THE BIBLE IS A 'LAMP FOR OUR FEET'**

We continue our 2025 journey as Pilgrims of Hope by considering, this month, how important **the Bible** is as a roadmap for our journey of faith. We need to become familiar with God's Word in Scripture and practise listening to and trusting in what God is saying. With the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and the guidance of Church teaching, we can discern God's word for us and apply it in our lives.

Our Keynote speaker is **Ros Powell**, a Catholic Evangelist with a healing, deliverance and prophetic ministry. She also has a powerful prison ministry: along with her team she speaks and ministers healing and restoration to inmates throughout the UK.

Including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prophecy, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring guest speaker Ros Powell. Please register for the free Zoom meeting in advance at [bit.ly/ADOREMAR2025](https://bit.ly/ADOREMAR2025) More information at [www.altonrenewal.com](http://www.altonrenewal.com)

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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 &, once again, for a truly fruitful Lent, Father Patrick

**Fr. Patrick Tansey**

**Parish Priest**

Email: [tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through his Church

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

A registered charity number 1199568

St Michael's Church, Tadley

St Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

Tel: 0118 981 4572

Registered office: Diocesan Office, St Edmund House, Bishop Crispian Way, Portsmouth PO1 3QA

[www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



## **FREE Lenten course - New Monday night online course – 4 weeks starting 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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>