

**NORTH WEST  
HAMPSHIRE**

**PASTORAL AREA**

SERVING THE PARISHES OF  
ANDOVER, BASINGSTOKE,  
HOOK, TADLEY AND  
BURGHFIELD COMMON



**St Michael's Parish, Tadley,  
Kingsclere,  
and St Oswald's Church,  
Burghfield Common**

**St. Michael's Church**  
Bishopswood Road, Tadley,  
RG26 4HG

**St. Oswald's Church**  
Abbey Park, Burghfield Common,  
RG7 3HQ

**Parish Priest:**

Rev Fr. Patrick Tansey:  
0118 981 4572

**Deacon:**

Dcn Anthony Cairns:  
0118 982 1511

**Safeguarding Officers:**

Mrs Kathy Murtagh (Tadley)  
0118 981 4658  
Mrs Ellen Goodall (Burghfield Common)  
0118 983 3332

**Parish Secretary:**

Mrs Shelley Winsper  
Email:  
Tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk  
Website:  
www.stmandsto.org.uk

**COVENANT TO THE PEOPLE**

If you would like help from the Covenant to the People scheme, please call Bill Reilly on (0118) 981 3784

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

The Sacrament is celebrated on most Saturdays in St Michael's Church from 5pm to 5.30pm, but not on Saturdays 2nd December, 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2017 and 30<sup>th</sup> December.

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION**

25/26 Nov £326.21



**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
03<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER 2017**

A PUBLICATION OF PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE TRUST  
REGISTERED CHARITY No. 246871

**Tadley and Kingsclere and Burghfield Common Masses**

<b>Sundays:</b>	6.00pm	Saturday Vigil Mass	<b>Tadley</b>
	9.15am	Sunday Parish Mass	<b>Tadley</b>
	11.15am	Sunday Parish Mass	<b>Burghfield Common</b>

**Week commencing 03 December 2017**

12noon	Mon 04 Dec	<b>Tadley</b>	<i>St John Damascene (Memorial)</i>
12noon	Fri 08 Dec	<b>Tadley</b>	<i>The Immaculate Conception (Solemnity)</i>

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Entrance Antiphon:** To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

**Response to the Psalm:** God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

**Next Sunday's Readings: (SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT—Year B)**

Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11. St Peter. 3:8-14. Mark 1:1-8.

**Fr Patrick celebrates 35 years of Priesthood on Monday. Please remember him in prayer**

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Our Advent Time of Prayer before our Saviour in the Sacrament of the Altar begins next Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> December, at 9:45am until 4:45pm in St Michael's Church, Tadley. Fr Patrick is pleased to see that all the hourly watch slots have been filled.

Fr Patrick will start the time of prayer, and Dcn Anthony will conclude it before Reconciliation at 5:00pm and the Vigil Mass at 6:00pm.

Our primary purpose is to prepare for the Birthday of our Saviour and for His coming to judge us at the end of time. We are also praying as a Parish Area during Advent for our Bishop and those priests considering the implications of the June Convocation of the Clergy, especially for the forwarding of the ideas in our Diocese and our Parish Area in 2018.

The following Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> December, the Time of Prayer will be from 9:45pm until 12:45pm. It is hoped that there will be a good gathering of parishioners from both our communities at both opportunities for Adoration, when shopping and the purely secular side of Advent is left aside for time with Jesus, who comes as our Saviour at Christmas and at the end of time.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER COLLECTIONS**

These will be taken at both our churches next weekend of 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> December for Christmas flowers at our churches.

## **PROTECT OUR RIGHT TO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS!**

The Bishops of England & Wales have launched an urgent appeal to Catholics to put political pressure on Mrs May's Government to honour its pledge to lift the 50% cap on faith admission to new free schools.

Bishop Philip writes:

In 2010 the Coalition Government placed a faith-based admissions cap on new free schools. In practice, this means that only 50% of oversubscribed places can be allocated on the basis of faith. This has precluded the opening of new Catholic schools as it would require Catholic schools to turn away Catholic pupils in favour of other applicants. The Government has acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and it is vital that the Catholic community makes its voice heard on this issue.

The Church has been working with Parliament and the Government on this issue since 2010. The Prime Minister reiterated her belief that the cap should be removed in 2016, and the 2017 Conservative Party Manifesto promised to do so. However, the Secretary of State for Education may be about to reverse this decision. If she does, it will rob parents of the right to give their children a Catholic education, and of their children to receive one.

The Bishop asks priests to draw your specific attention to the following:

The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to U-turn on their promise to Catholics.

Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

PLEASE ACT NOW—NOT TOMORROW!

## **THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

On Friday, we celebrate Our Lady's Immaculate Conception, remembering that she was conceived in the womb of Anne, her mother, through the love of her father, Joachim, without Original Sin. So she would be a worthy mother of Our Saviour, who is without sin, as part of God's eternal plan to save our sinful humanity. As Christ is called the Second Adam, so Mary conceived without sin is called the Second Eve.

As it is celebrated this year on a Friday, it is not a Day of Abstinence from meat in England & Wales. There is a Mass in St Michael's Church on 8<sup>th</sup> December at 12noon. Hopefully there will be a good attendance from across our Parish Area, especially as Mary Conceived without Sin is Patroness of the Diocese of Portsmouth.

## **NIGHT LIGHT WINTER SHELTER**

Thank you for responding in great numbers to the appeal for the Catholic community in our Pastoral Area to get involved with this year's winter shelters. As you know the time is rapidly approaching for the start of the shelter and we are very short on a number of items. Please could you see if it would be possible to go to your church communities to see if they would be willing to donate any of the following items for the shelter?

•Small bottles of water •Jams and Marmalades •Brown sauce •Ketchup •UHT Fruit Juice •Squash •Instant Coffee •UHT Milk •Soft Sweets or chocolate •UHT custard •Breakfast bars •Biscuits

Please do not bring the items to St Michael's or St Oswald's, without first contacting Tony Darroch at [torrisdale\\_tony@awe.co.uk](mailto:torrisdale_tony@awe.co.uk) or 07723763767, who will make arrangements with you to receive them.

## **CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA**

We are looking for donations for raffle prizes for the Tea on 12<sup>th</sup> December. Please contact Gina Poulter 01256 541 052, if you have any items you can donate.

## **JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS DAY**

You will be welcome at the new venue of the Ambrose Allen Centre, Franklin Ave, Tadley at 12noon for coffee, drinks & biscuits when the festivities will begin. Afterwards enjoy the Christmas atmosphere in good company, with conversation and soft music as Christmas dinner is prepared, served and enjoyed! Then relax with an afternoon of fun, music and easy entertainment. There is no cost for this day. For more details please contact Mark and Julie on (0118) 970 1125.

## **TIME TO GET READY FOR JESUS!**

**LAS POSADAS:** At the beginning of December a rota will be placed at the back of St Michael's Church covering 16<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> December. This covers 9 nights, representative of Mary's 9 month pregnancy. By signing it, parishioners will be able to volunteer to host a simple service in their own homes over the 9 nights; one service in one home per night. Service sheets and advice will be provided.

The idea is that friends, family and neighbours are invited to your home on the applicable night for a simple service. Afterwards, hospitality may be offered (sandwiches, a light supper etc.) but this is not obligatory. Whom you invite is your choice, but this is an excellent opportunity for simple evangelising of neighbours and lapsed Catholics.

Pam and Tony Darroch have made available a fine representation of Joseph and a pregnant Mary on a donkey, which will travel from home to home according to the rota. If you have any questions about this, please contact Pam Darroch (0118) 981 1105.

There will be a special ceremony within our Saturday Evening Vigil Mass on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December, when the representation of Joseph and Mary will be blessed by Fr Patrick to begin its Advent journey.

**HEALING MASS:** This is at St Joseph's Church, Basingstoke on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 10:30am. Full details on the poster in St Michael's Church

**RECONCILIATION SERVICE:** With individual Confession for our Pastoral Area at St Bede's Church on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 2:30pm.

**LIVING NATIVITY:** Churches Together Around Tadley invite you to this event on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December, to hear the true story of Christmas and to gather around the crib with live animals. We gather at St Paul's Church on the Green at 3:30pm for our Lantern Procession to the URC Church at 4:15pm. Spiced punch, hot chocolate and mince pies are available afterwards. Full details on the poster in St Michael's Church.

## **CAROLS AT ST OSWALD'S CHURCH:**

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 4:00pm, followed by a Children's Party, with mulled wine for adults afterwards and mince pies for all. Full details on the posters in our Churches.

## **WALK WITH ME BOOKLETS**

These will be available for sale at both our churches from the 2<sup>nd</sup> December, and are a helpful guide for our journey through Advent preparing for the Lord's Birthday. There will be a charge of £1.00 per booklet and any profit will go to CAFOD.

## **CHURCH CLEANING AT TADLEY**

This will be from 10:30 am—12:30pm on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December to prepare for the Christmas Celebrations. Please contact Helen Warner (0118) 981 2107 as soon as possible if you can help, even if only for an hour. There will be a need to straighten the pews so able-bodied people are needed.