

**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
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**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
10th DECEMBER 2017**



A PUBLICATION OF PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE TRUST
REGISTERED CHARITY No. 246871

Tadley and Kingsclere and Burghfield Common Masses

Sundays:	6.00pm	Saturday Vigil Mass	Tadley
	9.15am	Sunday Parish Mass	Tadley
	11.15am	Sunday Parish Mass	Burghfield Common

Week commencing 10 December 2017

12noon Thu 14 Dec **Tadley**

St John of the Cross (Memorial)

12noon Fri 15 Dec **Tadley**

Advent Mass

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Entrance Antiphon: O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

Response to the Psalm: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord. Make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

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

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11, St Paul, 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

This continues on Saturday, 16th December, when 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 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

This is taken at all Masses this weekend, so that each community in our Parish Area will provide for its Christmas flowers.

BISHOP PHILIP'S CHRISTMAS GIFT!

Our Bishop has been provided by a generous donor with 40,000 copies of Matthew Kelly's best selling book, **Rediscover Jesus**, for distribution to Catholics of our Diocese for Christmas. These will be distributed in our Parish Area on the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday).

Matthew Kelly is from Australia and is a New York Times best-selling author. Over twenty of his books have been published in thirty languages. **Rediscover Jesus** is a collection of 40 short chapters, 3-8 pages each, that focus on a particular way to know Jesus. Each reading concludes with a point to ponder, a verse to live, a Question to consider and a short prayer. In Lent, Fr Patrick hopes to enable parishioners to come together to discuss the issues raised in this book. In the meantime happy reading!

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 23rd December 2017 and 30th December.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

25/26 Nov

£298.15

CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA

We are looking for donations for raffle prizes for the Tea on 12th 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: Please sign the sheet covering the 9 nights from 16th—24th December in St Michael's Church as soon as possible. Please contact Pam Darroch on (0118) 981 1105 if you have any queries

CAMAREDERIE: A Christmas Tea & Entertainment will take place on Wednesday 13th December at 2:30pm in the Methodist Church Hall, Kingsclere. ALL WELCOME!

FLO & FRIENDS: A special Christmas Raffle & Party at St Oswald's Church Hall on Friday 15th December from 12:00-2:15pm. Details on the Posters in our Churches.

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

NATIVITY FESTIVAL: This is held on Saturday 16th December and Sunday 17th December. Full details about this event at Tadley Common Methodist Church are on the poster at St Michael's Church.

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

LIVING NATIVITY: Churches Together Around Tadley invite you to this event on Thursday 21st 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 23rd December at 4:00pm, followed by a Children's Party, with mulled wine for adults afterwards and mince pies for all. Parishioners from Tadley & Kingsclere are warmly invited to this but are asked to bring a plate of suitable food and a named gift. Full details on the posters in our Churches.

WALK WITH ME BOOKLETS

Your last opportunity to buy a copy of a booklet which leads you through Advent. They have sold extremely well at Tadley. A donation of £1.00 is requested, and profits go to CAFOD.

CHURCH CLEANING AT TADLEY

This will be from 10:30 am—12:30pm on Thursday 21st 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.

CHRISTMAS CARD BOARD

Those wishing to send a communal card to all their friends may use this facility in St Michael's Church. Money saved from not buying individual cards will be given to the Little Hospice in Hoima, Uganda. The donation box will be near the board.

FR PATRICK NEEDS TRANSPORT!

Particularly demanding for all Christian clergy this year is the fact that Christmas Eve is a Sunday, followed by Christmas Day on the Monday. Fr Patrick would appreciate offers of transport to our St Oswald's Masses at 11:15am on the Sunday and Monday (24th & 25th) with offers from the St Oswald community to return him to Tadley. ASAP please, otherwise he will have to order taxis!

CONVOCATION OF THE CLERGY MEETING— UPDATE

A second meeting of priests interested in developing themes from the Convocation took place with Fr Mark Hogan in Winchester on Tuesday 28th November. Again, the attendance was small, although Fr Mark was unaware of any apologies because his Secretary was not available that morning! However, it was an extremely good meeting, which those present appreciated, including one of our retired priests, who contributed greatly. It was agreed that these meetings should be continued.

The discussion looked at developments from the previous meeting in October, one of the priests having agreed with others from his Pastoral Area that from mid—2018 those seeking Baptism would have to attend the Sunday Liturgies for six months before any discussion of Baptism would take place. Similar policies will apply to the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation. This caused upset to some parishioners, echoed by another priest who is also developing a similar policy. On the other hand, others have recognised that Sacraments require a responsible response from parents: requiring a deeper commitment to the promises to God which they involve. It was generally agreed that, as Fr Mallon pointed out, these developments will result in priests experiencing even more stress from parishioners who have a limited understanding of the importance of the Sacraments! This is an area which needs consideration in the Diocese in respect of the health of our clergy. It was felt that there is a need for Bishop Philip to recognise that those who wish to develop ideas of the Convocation need support in various ways from the Diocese. Otherwise, priests who commit themselves will become disillusioned and be tempted to be "Caretakers" rather than "Risk Takers". There is also the question of the Bishop supporting parishes developing the Convocation ideas with priests engaged, rather than new priests arriving who may not be interested in the ideas.

Fr Mark asked that his best wishes be extended to all who know him in the Parish Area.

When Fr Patrick met with Bishop Philip on Thursday/Friday last week at Marwell, they discussed progress in the Parish Area. The Bishop felt that the idea of using Advent as a time of prayer for the progress of the Convocation in the Parish was sensible—that there are many areas to be considered and all parishioners need to engage in the process.

The transition period is over, and St Oswald's community is now united with that at Tadley and Kingsclere, although distinctive communities need to be respected. He will be exploring these matters in 2018 with Fr Patrick, whom he wishes to continue, at the present time, as Parish Priest of the communities.

FIRST COMMUNION MEETING

This will be held on Thursday 14th December at 7:30pm in St Michael's Parish Room. ALL parents seeking First Communion for their children in the Parish Area in 2018 have been informed and must attend this meeting.

FOODBANK THANKS!

Basingstoke Food Bank would like to thank St Michael's Catholic Church, Tadley for the generous donations of food throughout 2017 weighing 214.96kg, which equals 512 meals.

From January—November 2017, with your help. We have fed 2,120 people of whom 968 were children.

We are currently distributing on average 2.8 tonnes of food per month to people in crisis in the Basingstoke and Deane Region.