

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

Safeguarding Officers:

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

Parish Secretary:

Kathryn Garden
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 Gerry Penfold during October. His number is 0118 9811247.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Sacrament is celebrated on request at the present time in the Parish Room at Tadley. Please book with Fr Tansey by telephone.

NEWSLETTER

The Twenty-Seventh Sunday

in Ordinary Time

3rd October 2021

A PUBLICATION OF PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE TRUST REGISTERED CHARITY NO 246871

Tadley, Kingsclere and Burghfield Common Masses

6:00 pm	Saturday Vigil Mass	Tadley
9:00 am	Sunday Parish Mass	Tadley
11:00 am	Sunday Parish Mass	Burghfield Common

Weekday Mass:

12 noon 7 Oct	Our Lady of the Rosary	Tadley
12 noon 13 Oct	St Edward the Confessor	Tadley
12 noon 20 Oct	Feria	Tadley

Advance booking is not required for weekend Masses but please telephone or email to advise if attending so Father Patrick can ensure we keep within acceptable numbers.

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27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

Entrance Antiphon: Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

Responsorial Psalm: May the Lord bless us all the days of our life.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Your word is truth, O Lord, consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Though many, we are one bread, one body, for we all partake of the one Bread and one Chalice..

Next Sunday's Reading (28th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Wisdom 7:7-11. Hebrews 4:12-13. Mark 10:17-30

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Diocesan Collections

There will be an Optional Collection for CAFOD this weekend, 2/3rd October. This Collection is for the money saved by fasting or self-sacrifice on the Autumn Fast Day, Friday 1st October.

Autumn Mass Counts

These will be taken at all weekend Masses on 2/3rd and 9/10th October.

PARISH CONDOLENCES

Father Patrick extends our Parish prayers and support to Pauline Penfold and all members of her family on the recent death of her mother, Kathleen Brindle. Her mother was a very pleasant lady who attended Mass at Saint Michael's Church with Pauline and her husband Gerry when visiting Tadley. May she rest in peace.

THE POPE'S GAMBLE?

The global synod for a synodal Church begins in Rome on Saturday and Sunday 9th and 10th October. On 17th October it begins in every diocese across the world, including the Diocese of Portsmouth. The diocesan phase should run until April 2022, and will be a time of listening to all and consulting the people of each diocese. Bishop Philip calls us to engage in the process.

However, not every bishop is rushing to engage and some bishops appear to be lukewarm or not really interested. Pope Francis is well aware of resistance to a process he wants to be irreversible. And which he sees as central to the spirit of Vatican II in its correct meaning.

On Saturday 18th September, as Bishop of Rome, he addressed clergy and laity of his own diocese on the path he is calling the Church to follow. He sees the Church as journeying as it did from the beginning, as outlined in the Acts of the Apostles, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Should the Church remain stationary, he declared that it is "no longer the Church, but a beautiful, pious association, because it cages the Holy Spirit".

There is an echo here of his words during the pandemic about the uncertain future of the Church in the post-coronavirus world, as he faces the challenges he sees ahead. As stated in our Parish Newsletter of 20th and 27th September 2020, he spoke of The Holy Spirit removing that which is "no longer of use" in the Church and bringing into being a different Church, of a "tension between disorder and harmony" emerging from the crisis, of choppy waters yet to come! Did those words make any impact on you last September 2020?

In his own Diocese of Rome that Saturday he stated that the synodal process involves everyone - cardinals, bishops, priests, deacons, religious communities and the laity. They should be prepared to listen to each other and honestly share their hopes and fears. But he also warned that Catholics must be attentive to the "gentle breeze of God" and avoid turning the synodal process into a parliament or making it a factional forum. An echo of his words at the Synod on the Amazon in 2019, as reported in last week's Newsletter. We are called to listen to everyone, but especially those on the margins, and also to those who "sometimes insult you" or even "chase you away". Time to start praying for the "gentle breeze of God"! To quote the boy Samuel in The Old Testament: "Speak Lord, your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3, v10). Are we?

Father Patrick
(with acknowledgements to View From Rome
(Christopher Lamb) - The Tablet, 25.9.2021)

WRAP UP FOR CHURCH!

As the weather changes, it is even more important that our churches are properly ventilated if being used for public worship. The coronavirus is an airborne disease, which spreads in confined spaces, hosting sizeable numbers of people without adequate ventilation. Whilst our churches will not be 'freezers' during the coming

months, it is also important to have continuing airflow with doors and windows being open within reason. So wrap up, sanitise and don't forget your masks so that you protect others. The new normality continues! Please do not attend if you have a bad cold or flu symptoms. Masses will be cancelled if Father Patrick is unwell.

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WHEN DOES HUMAN LIFE BEGIN? HOW SHOULD IT END?

President Biden of the United States of America is a regular attendee at Sunday Mass and says that he is a committed Catholic. His Catholic faith has brought him through some difficult times, but there are a number of American Bishops who feel that he should be refused the Eucharist. Why? Because he supports strongly the 1973 Roe vs Wade Supreme Court ruling in favour of abortion, and direct abortion is opposed by the Catholic Church as the taking of innocent, unborn life.

Recently the President intervened in the decision of the State of Texas to ban the procuring of an abortion after six weeks of pregnancy and allowing private citizens to sue those violating the law, claiming a US\$ 10,000 bounty if they prevailed in a court case! Whatever the rights and wrongs of the bounty matter, President Biden declared "I have been and continue to be a strong supporter of Rose vs Wade" and stated his belief that human life does not begin at conception.

The American Supreme Court, in a 5-4 vote, refused to block the Texas law. Whilst not ruling on the legality of abortion, the Court felt that the new law did not justify the Court's intervention and that irreparable harm would not be caused to those calling for a stay in its implementation. The Court is awaiting a case which, however, will give it the opportunity to overthrow Rose vs Wade in the near future. As in the United Kingdom, the morality of abortion is still a major issue confronting politicians and legislators. When does human life begin?

Washington Cardinal Wilton Gregory reaffirmed the Church's teaching at the National Press Club, when he declared that President Biden "was not demonstrating Catholic teaching".

However, the most direct statement on the beginning and end of human life was made by Pope Francis a short time before the furor: "It's a life. A human life. Some say 'It's not a person'. It is a human life! So, in front of a human life I ask myself two questions - is it licit to eliminate a human life to solve a problem? Second question—is it fair to hire a contract killer to solve a problem? And with these two questions, what about the cases of elimination of people (the unborn or the elderly) because they are a burden to society?".

The importance of respect for human life, as God-given from the moment of conception to natural death, is an area of Catholic teaching which the present Pope is forthright about. This was also the case when he was Archbishop in Argentina, clashing with the Government over abortion quite openly. It is an area which the media seems to avoid addressing in following his statements. Possibly because this teaching does not agree with the projection of him as a 'liberal' Pope?

At the present time there is another attempt being made in our country to override the teachings that human life is God's gift, not a disposable commodity. So far, the House of Commons has consistently rejected the legalisation of

euthanasia and assisting people to die with medication to kill them rather than alleviate pain and suffering.

Bishop John Sherrington, our lead bishop for life issues, has alerted the Catholic community of the Assisted Dying Bill which will be debated in the House of Lords in October. If passed, it will go to the House of Commons for debate.

As he states, "the term 'assisted dying' is euphemistic, the truth is that this bill seeks to introduce assisted suicide".

The defeat of this dangerous proposal should be at the centre of our prayers in the coming weeks.

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APOLOGIES TO EVIE AND MUM AND DAD!

Father Patrick extends his sincere apologies to Emma and Liam Weston, and to Evie Marilyn, for the ridiculous mistake he made in last week's Newsletter about Evie's Baptism on Saturday 25th September.

Whilst he got Evie's name right, he spelt it the wrong way, as 'Yve'. Then, for some reason, he gave her the surname Emmerson instead of Weston!

Emma found it all rather amusing before the ceremony, and thankfully the Baptism went very well. Again, many thanks to Evie's family for arranging seating in respect of the COVID regulations.

As Father Patrick often says, "The Lord has a sense of humour!" But not too often please Lord!

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LEST WE FORGET

Following Evie's Baptism, Father Patrick attended the Unveiling of the Information Board at the Tadley Memorial Garden, at the invitation of the Chair of the Tadley and District History Society. The Board can be found across the pavement from the bus-stop on the road out of Basingstoke, just before the large roundabout near the swimming pool.

The small gathering was joined by Councillor Avril Burdett, Chair of the Council, who exchanged a few words with Father Patrick, as they had met at the CTAT 'Tadley Remembers' in July, a time of reflection for our local COVID dead. She introduced the ceremony and the Reverend Richard Harlow led the prayers. He spoke also of how ideas of Remembrance change. Speaking some time ago to a group of schoolchildren, they found it difficult to understand why our war memorials list the dead from senior officer to enlisted men, rather than alphabetically. Had they not all died together to preserve our freedoms? The nodding of heads present suggested agreement with this sentiment.

As the ceremony ended, a bus stopped, enabling Father Patrick to get back to prepare for the 6:00pm Mass! The Lord was good!

LIVING WITH LOSS CAFE

There will be a meeting at Tadley Common Methodist Church on Monday 11th October at 2pm for anyone who is interested in volunteering to run the Living with Loss Cafe which we hope to restart shortly. This previously met fortnightly on Thursday afternoons but one of the items for discussion will be the timing and this may change dependent on the availability of volunteers who come forward.

For more information or to express interest (even if you cannot attend the meeting) please contact Revd Dr Ruth Midcalf on 0118 970 0139 or via email: ruth.midcalf@methodist.org.uk.

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THE HAPPINESS LAB RETURNS

This course is for anybody who wants to make their life happier, and begins on Tuesday 19th October at 7:30pm at Saint Paul's Hall, The Green, Tadley, RG26 3PB

The cost is £7.00 for all six sessions and includes a workbook.

Advanced registration is essential on 0118 9814860 or email richard73harlow@aol.com Information and course outline can be found at www.thehappineslab.org. All welcome!

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FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Those wishing to have youngsters enter the First Communion preparation for 2022 must return the form properly completed by Sunday 24th October 2021 to the Presbytery, having read carefully the details on it. Those not returned by this date cannot be accepted!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2022

Father Patrick would like to know by Sunday 24th October 2021 the names of all those who wish to receive the Sacrament of the Altar in 2022. They must be aged 8 years by the end of August 2022 and should be regular Church attendees.

Name of Candidate:

Address:

Telephone Number:

Email Address:

Date of Birth:

Names of Parents: (who agree to participate in the Preparation Programme)

Completed forms should be returned in an envelope addressed to:

**Father Patrick Tansey
St Michael's Presbytery
Bishopswood Road
Tadley RG26 4HG**