

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-Eighth Sunday

in Ordinary Time

10th 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	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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28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

Entrance Antiphon: If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who would stand? But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel.

Responsorial Psalm: Fill us with your love that we may rejoice.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: The rich suffer want and go hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

Next Sunday's Reading (29th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Isaiah 53:10-11. Hebrews 4:14-16. Mark 10:35-45

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Diocesan Collections

There will be an Obligatory Collection for The Foreign Missions which involves the work of Missio, on the weekend of 16th/17th October. Please see the Newsletter item on this.

Autumn Mass Counts

The final Mass Count is taken this weekend 9th/10th October for our Diocesan statistics.

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TIME TO COME BACK?

Our Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales is considering whether to reintroduce the obligation that all Catholics, unless there is a good reason for being unable to do so, return to Sunday Mass each week, accepting that if they do not they are entering into a seriously sinful situation necessitating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The obligation was removed during the start of the pandemic in early 2020 when churches were obliged to close and the decision has not been rescinded at present.

The bishops are debating whether or not to reintroduce the Sunday Obligation at Advent, which begins on Sunday 28th November this year. Obviously, there is a need to accept that many may not return because of legitimate medical conditions or fear for their health as the pandemic will still be with us. No doubt our bishops will address these issues so that some do not assume that they are in serious sin because they are unable, mentally or physically, to return. I know parishioners have worried about this and were assured they were not obliged to attend yet.

The Sunday Obligation, when in force, is a reminder to all Catholics that they should join the worshipping community each Sunday, witnessing to the Resurrection of Our Saviour, being fed spiritually on Sacred Scripture leading us into the Eucharistic Feast, preparing us for Resurrection. It is sad that this obligation has to be in force, but the reality is that many Catholics do not arrange each Sunday around the Mass and many regard it as an optional extra. The law is a reminder that if you claim to be a Catholic, like the Early Church, you recognise the importance of the Day of Resurrection and the honour due to Christ, who died to save us from sin and to call us into His Resurrection. This is what we do on Sunday if we are able to!

It might be said that the coronavirus pandemic has challenged us to reconsider our attitude to the Eucharist. Is it of importance? If so, why? If a Mass was available, would I walk miles to go to it, as many do in parts of the world where there is no regular Sunday Mass? Would I be prepared to die for going to Mass, which has been the reality for many persecuted Christian communities over the centuries? How would I survive spiritually if I was not able to attend Mass for many weeks because of no priest being available - a reality for some in Finland and Norway, parts of Europe?

We now have three Masses available for a Sunday - 6:00pm on Saturday evening at Tadley, 9:00am on Sunday morning at Tadley and 11:00am on Sunday morning at Burghfield Common. These are organised in accordance with the guidance of our bishops, people being asked to sanitise their hands when entering and leaving church, wearing masks during the celebration, keeping at least one metre distance and, if necessary, people being clear that they may wish for two metres to be kept in their place. I am grateful to people for letting me know if they wish to attend one of these Masses, so that the accepted guidance in capacity may be adhered to, as it is not all back to 'normal', whatever that is now! Merely send an email or leave a telephone message before Friday. My thanks also to those who continue to let me know that illness or unforeseen circumstances prevent them attending, enabling more places to be available.

The following Mass Count figures, taken for our national Catholic records, over the last three weeks may be of interest:

18th/19th September:

Tadley 6pm: 43 Burghfield Common 10:30am: 33

25th/26th September:

Tadley 6:00pm: 36 Burghfield Common 10:30am: 25

2nd/3rd October:

Tadley 6:00pm: 36 Tadley 9:00am: 15 Burghfield Common 11:00am: 22

As a matter of interest, there were five unused benches and one unused single chair at the 9:00am Tadley Mass last Sunday, which I had arranged to be available for people arriving late or visiting, at the rear of the church. Also, one front bench was left unused. The average weekly attendance at all Masses in the 2019 count was 113.

Father Patrick

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BLESSED ARE YOU LORD, GOD OF ALL CREATION!

Normally Saint Oswald's Church would have a Harvest Celebration at this time of the year and, before lockdown, a fine floral display would be provided by Angieszka Michalec to highlight the fruits of creation. Our thanks to 'Aggie' for the continuing flower arrangements for our Sunday liturgies at Burghfield Common, using her own flowers and vegetation, which many comment upon. Also to Eileen Smith in Tadley for her arrangements, especially those for the Easter Candle at recent Baptisms in Saint Michael's Church. The arrangements at both churches have brought colour during the pandemic and added to our continuing praise to God the Creator in difficult times.

This year at Saint Oswald's Church Father Patrick is responding to The West Berks Foodbank Harvest Appeal, reported in our 12th September Newsletter. The Foodbank hopes to return to the Leonard Rooms in November.

The Harvest Appeal is to replenish the urgent need for provisions as the demand in West Berkshire has grown during the continuing pandemic. The following items are asked for, and on Sunday 17th October you are asked to bring them to our 11:00am Mass at Burghfield Common for our liturgical celebration:

- Tinned Meals
- Tinned Fish
- Tinned Soup
- Sponge Puddings
- Shower Gel/Shampoo
- Coffee
- Biscuits
- Instant Mash
- Pasta Sauce
- Tinned Vegetables

MORE MAINTENANCE THAN MISSION!

Following the easing of lockdown restrictions, the Finance Committee of our Parish has been assisting Father Patrick in the completion of important works delayed by lockdown. The Parish Priest is obliged to ensure that church premises are safe areas, in accordance with the Health and Safety and Diocesan regulations. For most parish priests this area is a stumbling block to ongoing Mission, as documentation and rules increase; however it is the priest who will go to court should there be a serious accident and if he has not done all he can to address them. Also, most parishes cannot afford to employ an Administrator to oversee these areas for him.

At present we are in need of a Health and Safety volunteer for both our churches, who will agree to advise Father Patrick and the Finance Committee of Civil and Diocesan regulations which should be followed. Our thanks to Deacon Tony Darroch for doing this for some time, but his own employment and increasing Diaconal commitments make this difficult and he has resigned from the post. Father Patrick and the Finance Committee were deeply appreciative of his work, which has saved the Parish money, when he announced this. Thank you Deacon Tony - and also for all your good advice to the Parish during lockdown and the reopening of our churches, alongside that you gave to our Basingstoke churches! During that time he also cooperated with the Parish Office in liaising with our Diocesan Health and Safety Officer, Stewart Cripps. The Diocese is still trying to find a replacement for Stewart at present!

A question asked of Father Patrick is, "Are you back in your bedroom?" The answer is "No!" Since late 2019 he has been sleeping in the guest bedroom, following a massive ingress of water into his bathroom and bedroom area and into his kitchen. Very little could be done during lockdown, although the insurance claim was processed just before it came into force.

Through the persistence of Mrs Davis, work was eventually started this Summer, but there are still problems with water coming in, preventing completion of the work. The Diocese is trying to progress this, with a report of July not provided to the Parish or the Diocese until September!

In September the Presbytery boiler was condemned and our thanks to Ashley Allan, who is overseeing the bathroom/bedroom work on behalf of the Diocese and Parish, for installing a new one on Sunday 12th September. The boiler in St Michael's Church and those in St Oswald's Church and Hall all passed.

Thanks also to Barry Rockhill of our St Oswald's community and a member of the Finance Committee for overseeing the tree surgery work at Burghfield Common in September. Again, held up by lockdown, this was urgent work as trees were overhanging the main road, causing concern for neighbours and posing a danger and the possibility of claims of liability. Father Patrick expresses his thanks to neighbours of St Oswald's Church for their help and patience during lockdown. Barry is now

arranging for a shattered safety window in the Leonard Rooms to be removed, to avoid any hurt to users, both parishioners and hirers!

Helen Warner has arranged for the hedges in the Presbytery area to be pruned as their growth in the lockdown was turning the Parish Office and kitchen into 'dark areas'; as Autumn began. The hedges alongside the main road will be dealt with in November, preventing any problems in their growing above the pavement area.

Robert May and Andy Hunneman will be addressing the pot-holes in St Michael's car park in November, as we are unable to pay for a complete refurbishment of the area. They are regarded as becoming a Health and Safety problem by the Diocese as winter approaches.

Denis Murtagh, our Finance Committee Secretary, is pursuing the clearing of the Church and Presbytery guttering, also impeded by lockdown. Barry Rockhill attended to this work in respect of St Oswald's Church.

As one Surveyor, who has worked with Father Patrick in his last Parish and in Tadley, said to him some time ago: "You are running a small business!"

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CATCHING UP!

During the period Monday 25th October to Saturday 30th October, Father Patrick will not be available as he requires time to study in detail Diocesan documentation about how, as a Diocese, we are to develop as, hopefully, the pandemic continues to ease. Also, Let Us Dream (The Path to a Better Future) by Pope Francis, to form the basis of our Clergy Meeting in November. If possible, he will also try to attend a Formation Day on Saint Luke's Gospel in Winchester that week. He still has considerable holiday time to come but that will have to wait.

The Parish Office will be open from Tuesday 26th October to Friday 29th October, from 9:30am to 2:30pm each day and Kathryn will deal with any queries as far as possible. The weekend Masses on 30th and 31st October are celebrated as usual.

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MISSION SUNDAY MASS

We keep Foreign Missions Sunday on the weekend of 16th/17th October 2021. This is one of the most important Collections of the year, and engages every Catholic Parish from the poorest to the richest, throughout the world. Through the Collection, support is given to those Mission territories which struggle to provide religious and material support to fellow Catholics because of their lack of financial and other resources. Many of these have been hit hard by Covid and, unlike our country, do not have the vaccination programme which is, at the moment, keeping many of us alive. But they also need our prayers and Bishop Philip requests that the following be put in Parish Newsletters:

"Bishop Philip will be celebrating Mission Mass (Universal Mission Sunday) on Tuesday 19th October at 12:15pm at Saint John's Cathedral, Portsmouth. This will be followed by refreshments in the Cathedral Discovery Centre.

There will be a Mission talk after Mass. You are very welcome. For more details please contact Father Innaiah Maddineni (telephone 023 9237 6151 or email: scsp@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

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MARRIAGE SUPPORT

During the pandemic and after, MARRIAGE CARE and RETROUVAILLE have been in contact by email and post with Father Patrick offering support during these difficult times to couples hoping to marry or experiencing difficulties in marriage.

Retrouvaille is offering help to couples whose marriages are struggling. The next programme is on 21st - 24th October 2021. Telephone or text (with confidentiality assured on 0788 729 6983 or 0797 388 0443, or email via retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com or find them at www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Please contact Deacon Tony Darroch for further information as he suggested in his homily last weekend.

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CREATING SAFE SPACES FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE FOSTERED OR ADOPTED

As already advertised in a previous Newsletter, this meeting takes place on Thursday 14th October from 7:00pm at Saint Paul's Church, Tadley. Its aim is to help look after fostered and adopted children better in our churches and schools.

Father Patrick wishes to know if any parishioner is happy to represent our Parish at this important meeting. Please let him know by Tuesday 12th October if you are willing to be our representative .

To book a place at the meeting please contact Reverend Richard Harlow on 0787 5969 128 or email: richard73harlow@aol.com

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PRISONERS' SUNDAY

This is kept this weekend and leads into the Week of Prayer until Saturday 16th October.

PACT (Prison Advice and Care Trust) is our Catholic organisation which does invaluable work in this area, especially supporting the families of prisoners and working to ensure that proper rehabilitation is provided so that people do not return to prison.

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought many challenges to our prisons, little of which received media attention during the lockdown, especially the work of warders and prison chaplains.

Father Patrick will be addressing this important area of Catholic Social Teaching in his homilies this weekend.

If you would like more information their website is www.prisonadvice.org.uk and donation cheques may be made payable to PACT and sent to:

Pact - Prison Advice & Care Trust
29 Peckham Road
London SE5 8UA

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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**