



This Weekend's Mass arrangements (Remembrance Sunday)

Saturday 9th November: 6.00pm at St. Michael's Church, Tadley (Mass of 32nd Sunday – Year B)

Sunday 10th November: 11.00am at St. Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common (Mass for the Dead)

Note: There will be coffee & poppy cakes in the Leonard Rooms, following the St. Oswald's Mass

Note: Please be aware & take care in the car park & paths at St. Oswald's due to the autumn leaf fall. Dan has kindly volunteered to sweep the leaves on the path leading to the Leonard Rooms today, however it is more than likely that there will be a fresh covering by Sunday morning. Since Community Payback are currently unavailable to conduct such works, we are seeking availability of a contractor to professionally clear & dispose of the leaves early next week, although this is expensive, so do please let Dan know if you could consider offering some time to participate in a leaf removal rota for the next month or so.

Additionally, parishioners must refrain from using the path leading up to the church from Abbey Park, due to the build-up of moss. I have asked Dan to put up a sign on the pedestrian gate indicating that this is not to be used.

Advent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (in preparation for the Jubilee Year 2025)

St. Michael's Church on Saturdays 7th, 14th, 21st December, from 10.30am – 11.30am. Please make a note in your diaries now.

Father Patrick's availability this week

I am generally not available on Wednesday, Thursday & Friday of the coming week due to: dental surgery, the Tadley Liaison meeting, the CTAT Forum, and an Internment of Ashes.

Remembrance Cross photo

Our thanks are once again due to Mel from our Burghfield Comon community. On this occasion, for so beautifully preparing the Cross at St. Oswald's for Remembrance Sunday. An appropriate tribute to those who have fallen in the service of all of us. Our thanks also to Ellen for the excellent photo.

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Parish Office update

I have asked Dan to provide occasional updates pertaining to Health & Safety (H&S) and maintenance matters & hereunder is his first contribution. Clearly, the drive to ensure compliance with latest legislation will require significant extra work:

Dear Parishioners,

We now have the outcome of the H&S audits at both Churches, carried out by the Diocesan appointed consultancy, Worknest, a month ago. The result is 25 action items, of varying degrees of urgency, which we now need to complete. Thankfully, there were no Critical actions identified, but we do have 4 High priority items with target completion dates in early December. These are as follows:

1. Conduct a Legionella assessment.
2. Implement an Asbestos Management plan for the entire St. Michael's Site.
3. Conduct a Risk Assessment for the entire St. Michael's Site.
4. Conduct a Risk Assessment for the entire St. Oswald's Site.

The remaining Medium priority actions will need to be addressed early in the New Year & I envisage grouping them in terms of the volume of work required to get them done.

Furthermore, we will soon receive guidance from the Diocese regarding preparation of our Sites for Winter, which may also require additional work to be done within the next couple of weeks.

Please bear with me while addressing these items. There may be occasions when it might be necessary to close the Parish Office, in order to ensure sufficient progress is being made, & I hope this will only amount to an odd day or two. I trust I can count on your kind understanding in such circumstances.

I would also be grateful if any parishioners felt able to volunteer & assist with these matters. Please contact me at the Parish Office if you are interested.

Please expect further updates as and when I have more news to report.

FINAL REMINDER: Invitation to join a Parish Cell Group

Two Parish Evangelising Cell groups have been functioning over the past seven years and all those who attend have gained so much from them that we yearn for more parishioners to experience them. We warmly invite and encourage you to visit one of these Parish Cell groups - without making any commitment. Both groups start at 7.30pm and finish at approx. 9pm, followed by refreshments for those who wish to stay and chat.

They are very relaxed evenings whereby everyone feels free to be themselves. There is a time of praise, sharing, teaching, also reading and reflecting on the coming Sunday Gospel and finally, a time of prayer for the needs of our families, parishioners and others in our locality.

The Parish Cell groups, providentially, appear to be an answer to Bishop Philip's 6th "Holy Habit" - to join a small group and also to Fr Patrick's recommendation - to read and reflect on the Sunday Gospel beforehand.

For more information, please contact:

Mary Lee: 07821 254100 (Tuesday group)

Bill and Joy Reilly: 0118 981 3784 (Wednesday group)

Las Posadas – Volunteers needed!

In the years leading up to lockdown, our parishioners took part in what is known as Las Posadas, which means 'the inns'.

This is a South American tradition, whereby a statue of the pregnant Mary sitting on a donkey, along with Joseph, make their way towards Bethlehem, looking for a place to stay. Traditionally, this begins 9 days before Christmas, representing the 9 months of Mary's pregnancy. This year, it will begin on **Friday, 16th**

December ending on **Saturday, 24th December** with the statue returning to the church for the 8.30pm Vigil leading into the Christmas Night Mass at 9.00pm in St. Michael's Church on Christmas Eve. In order for this to be successful, we need **9** volunteers to host the statue and hopefully hold a small service in your home with family, friends and neighbours; an opportunity for us all to evangelise and a good reminder of what this time of year is all about!

The statue and everything you will need is provided. All **you** need to do is volunteer to cover one of the dates and be prepared to collect/receive the statue, host your own evening and then pass everything on to the next person.

If you'd like to be involved, or would like more information, please contact Pam Darroch on **07883 059 529** or pdarroch@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk to put yourself forward.

Dates will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

It would be wonderful to re-start this tradition in our parish, and I'm hopeful that you will take this opportunity to get involved.

I look forward to hearing from you. Blessings to you and yours, Pam

Knights of St Columba - Lucky Me Draw

Roy Singh writes: Dear Parishioners, I would like to tell you about the **Knights of St Columba Lucky Me Draw**. Last year we were able to donate **£1,000** collectively to great causes due to your generosity – **CAFOD, St Michael's Hospice, SPUC, SURVIVE-MIVA, Mencap, WaterAid, SPICMA, Stella Maris and Orbis and monthly prize money**, no money from your donations were used for administration. The Draw runs from December to November. **For every £12 donation you will be allocated one number in 12 monthly Draws**. This year our monthly prize money has been **doubled to £50** and our **Grand Draw** in December has further prizes of **£100** and **£200** – Please complete the donation form attached to this Newsletter and put in an envelope with the matching donation and label it as Lucky Me Knights of St Columba and either hand in to the Parish Office or directly to your parish Knights of St Columba representative. Thank you so much for your support and Good Luck in the KSC monthly Lucky Me Draw.

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Churches Together Around Tadley (CTAT)

- **REMINDER: CTAT Ladies Breakfast – Saturday 9th November, 10.00am – 12 noon**

Do come along & enjoy a breakfast in good company at the Immanuel Centre, Tadley URC. Cathie Joseph, from the Alton Clothes Bank, will be the Guest Speaker – Hear about how they rehome free pre-loved clothes to aid the local community and provide an opportunity to live more sustainably by reusing and recycling clothes.

- **CTAT Forum – Thursday 14th November, 7.00pm (for 7.30pm)**

General Business Meeting of CTAT. Everybody interested in the work of CTAT is welcome.

Venue: St. Michael's Church.

NOTE: Parishioners are encouraged to attend to progress our Christmas & New Year activities & our thanks to those providing refreshments. Please let Dan in the Parish Office know if you will be attending, so that we can keep an eye on numbers in terms of the venue capacity.

- **CTAT Men's Shed - Talk on Tax, Wills, Trusts, Powers of Attorney, etc – Friday 22nd November, 2pm**

Tadley Men's Shed have arranged an informative talk by Silvertime Legal on Friday 22nd November 2pm in St Mary's Church Hall. This meeting is open to all so please let your family, friends, neighbours know.

It would be helpful if you can let me know if you and others will be attending just so I can keep an eye on numbers.

Following text supplied by Silvertime Legal:

Our talk is called Tax, Care and The New Guy and during our talk our speakers cover essential topics such as wills, trusts and how these can protect your assets. They will also dive into the importance of lasting powers of attorney, managing care fees and touch on sideways disinheritance in case of remarriage.

When our speakers come to give the talks they do not bring business cards as we are only spreading awareness of how important this information is as we are not using it as a commercial agenda. We understand that many people don't like talking about these topics and our speakers understand that as they deliver the talk respectfully to their audience.

At the end of the talk if anyone wishes to have a chat with their speaker they are more than welcome to. After the talk if anyone would like a Free Consultation they can fill out a form and our booking team will be able to arrange that Free Consultation for them.

This meeting is open to all so please let you church, family, friends, neighbours know.

NOTE: Please let Dan in the Parish Office know if you and any others will be attending. We need to communicate numbers to the organisers so they can keep an eye on numbers in terms of the venue capacity.

NOTE: Father Patrick will not be available that afternoon as he will be attending to prepare for his forthcoming retirement.

- **ADVANCE NOTICE: CTAT Christmas Day Event – Christmas Day 25th December, 11.30am**

CTAT confirm that this popular FREE event will run again this year at 11.30am on Christmas Day, with Fun, Food & Games! Venue: The Ambrose Allen Centre, Franklin Avenue, Tadley, RG26 4ER.

For bookings & info: 07471 848 508 or tadleychristmasday@gmail.com

- **ADVANCE NOTICE: Silchester Advent Quiet Reflection**

For those who might welcome a bit of calm during the busy Advent Period, this opportunity is offered for quiet reflection. Venue: Silchester Pavilion at 6pm on the following days:

Monday November 25th, Monday December 2nd, Monday December 9th, Monday December 16th
(6.15pm - 7.00pm: 45 minutes of calm)

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Assisted Suicide Bill – Update & additional Appeal

The Right To Life charity have written to thank everyone who has contacted their MP asking them to oppose the Leadbeater assisted suicide Bill.

They tell us that, although MPs have informed the charity that they have received a large number of emails asking them to oppose this dangerous Bill, the matter is far from resolved. Assisted suicide pressure group, *Dignity in Dying*, are now spending thousands of pounds daily on advertising to try and flood MPs with emails asking them to support this extreme Bill.

Therefore, with just three weeks left to stop this Bill, it is clearly vital to ensure that MPs receive a much larger number of emails opposing this dangerous law change, so that it is crystal clear to them that a very large number of constituents want them to vote NO when this extreme Bill goes to a vote on 29 November. If you haven't already, please urgently contact your MP now. Bishop Philip's template letter can be accessed [here](#).

Also, please consider further helping by contacting family members & friends who can assist by also emailing their MP. If they would prefer not to use Bishop Philip's template, they can instead contact their MP via the Right To Life website [clicking here](#). Of course, they can always do so using their own words, if that is their preference.

ADoRE spiritual mini-retreat – 23rd November, 10.00am – 1.00pm

YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES

There is one fear that unites almost everyone in our parishes and groups – the thought of talking to someone about our faith! On **November 23rd** there is an opportunity to participate in a free mini-retreat morning that will explore in more depth why and how we can be effective witnesses through sharing our own testimonies.

This meeting, on Zoom, includes Mass, Adoration, Praise and Worship, inspired Teaching and Prayer for all participants to foster the presence of the Holy Spirit in them. The main talk is given by **Allegra Mutanda**, Director of Evangelisation and Leadership at St Peter's Winchester, where she is helping the parish fulfil its vision of bringing people closer to Jesus Christ in hope and joy. Please register for the Zoom meeting in advance at bit.ly/ADORENOV2024 More information at www.altonrenewal.com

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LOST PROPERTY at St Michael's Church

A purple-coloured retail loyalty card has been found by the door to the toilet block at St. Michael's Church. There is no name on it. Please contact the Parish Office on 0118 9814572 if you think it's yours.

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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.casoportsmouth.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 to you all, and a peaceful & reflective Remembrance Sunday, remembering the souls of those who have died over so many years in conflicts & wars.

Father Patrick.

Fr. Patrick Tansey

Parish Priest

St Michael's Church, Tadley

St Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

Tel: 0118 981 4572

Email: tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through his Church

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

A registered charity number 1199568

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

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

KNIGHTS OF ST. COLUMBA
Council 169 Basingstoke

LUCKY ME

DECEMBER 2024-NOVEMBER 2025

- *First Draw will be the “Big Draw” in December.
- *Draw made by the second Monday every month.
- *Winners will be announced in parish newsletters.
- *Funds distributable as prizes, these being:

DECEMBER BIG DRAW:
First Prize: £200.
Second Prize: £100.
Third Prize: £50.
plus
MONTHLY PRIZE: £50.

*Remainder of donations to Knights of St. Columba funds & to be available for charitable purposes.

Charitable donations during last season of “Lucky Me”: £1000

£100 each: Aid to the Church in Need; CAFOD; St Michaels Hospice; Society for the Protection of Unborn Children; Survive-MIVA; Mencap, WaterAid; SPICMA, Stella Maris and Orbis.

A DONATION OF £12 (OR MULTIPLES OF £12) ENTITLES ONE ENTRY PER £12 INTO 12 MONTHLY DRAWS. (DECEMBER 2024 TO NOVEMBER 2025 INCLUSIVE)

Retain this portion

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Please return this application form to the Knights of St. Columba Council 169 Basingstoke or return via the Parish Offertory collection in an envelope marked “Lucky Me” (Cheques made payable to Knights of St. Columba).

I wish to donate £..... with these funds to be available as above.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

POST CODE:

TELEPHONE NO:

KNIGHTS OF ST. COLUMBA CONTACT NAME:

Charitable Treasurer: Mr. R.Singh
KSC Treasurer Council 169
St Bedes Popley
Basingstoke RG24 9DX