

NOTE: Next Newsletter will be weekend of 8th September

This Weekend's Mass arrangements

Saturday 10th August: 6.00pm at St. Michael's Church, Tadley

Sunday 11th August: 9.00am at St. Michael's Church, Tadley

Sunday 11th August: 11.00am at St. Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - 15th August - Mass arrangements

Thursday 15th August: 11.00am at St. Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

Thursday 15th August: 7.00pm at St. Michael's Church, Tadley

Weekend Mass arrangements up to & including 1st September

All being well, we will continue to have the usual three Masses each weekend as normal.

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Parish Office arrangements in August

Dan, our Parish Administrator, will soon be taking his family on holiday. As a result:

The Parish Office will be CLOSED on Friday 16th August & will REOPEN on Tuesday 3rd September

- During his absence, in case of an emergency, please call me on 0118 981 4572. If I do not answer, please leave a message & I will return your call as soon as I am able. Please be aware that **I shall not be available on the following days: Tuesday 20th August & Tuesday 27th August**. A summary of alternative emergency contacts is shown hereunder:
- It is unlikely that emails will be checked during his absence.
- For any **urgent** matters which need to be addressed by the end of August, please kindly communicate them to Dan as soon as possible next week, so that they can be catered for prior to his absence.

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Dear All,

In Catholic devotion, England is known as Our Lady's Dowry (The Gift of Mary), emphasizing the deep devotion of Christian England over the past centuries to Our Saviours Mother. Sadly, our country seems to be losing its Christian heritage, slowly but surely, but we should never forget the Shrine of Walsingham in Norfolk which gave rise to this title. It is the most famous Marian Shrine in England.

It dates from the 11th Century, when a lady of the Anglo-Saxon nobility built a replica of the Holy House of Nazareth, in response to dreams of requests to do so by Our Lady. For four hundred years, respected by Norman conquerors and defeated Anglo-Saxons, it became a centre of pilgrimage and prayer for thousands across the Catholic world, including kings and the historically great, amongst them the great Dutch scholar, Erasmus of Rotterdam, the friend of Thomas More. However, after the visit of Erasmus and the execution of More for refusing to accept that King Henry VIII be head of the English Church, it was destroyed by Henry as he broke with the Pope. The statue of Our Lady was burnt, around the same time as the destruction of the statue of Mary at the pilgrimage site of Caversham, near Reading, also now restored.

For three hundred years it was virtually forgotten, except for secret visits by Catholics. However, in the 19th century it was resurrected by Anglicans, engaged in recovering devotions and teachings lost in the English Reformation. A Catholic shrine followed at the old Slipper Chapel. So, the two shrines stand together.

I was brought to Walsingham by Quakers, when I was doing my teaching practice at their famous school in Reading, Leighton Park. A teacher invited me to join him and a group of students to visit there on a cold weekend, with few people around. It was a moment of great grace, and I have led two pilgrimages there as a priest, one as Diocesan Chaplain to the Union of Catholic Mothers. It was pleasing to hear that from the 24th September this year, the celebration of Our Lady of Walsingham becomes a Feast in England, at the request of our Bishops. Bishop Philip will no doubt be pleased, as it was the day in 2012 when he was consecrated Bishop of Portsmouth. And I shall always be grateful to my Quaker companions for their company many years ago.

SPUC Petition Cards on Two-Child Benefit Cap

These are available this weekend and next weekend for those who wish to sign. Many politicians and social commentators agree that a major contribution to child poverty in the UK is the two child benefit cap and Catholic and Anglican leaders have also expressed their concerns.

SPUC (Society for the Protection of Unborn Children) is concerned that it is also a factor in causing some women to choose abortion, which is also suggested by BPAS (British Pregnancy Advisory Service) research, a major abortion provider.

The Petition Cards call for an end to the Government's two-child benefit cap, and they will be sent to our Prime Minister. The petition is launched this weekend.

1. Please fill in your card clearly. Illegible or incomplete details are not valid.
2. Cards may be taken away and posted back, but if they can be collected after each Mass & given to me, I can return them in the pre-paid envelope provided by SPUC.

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Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – Sunday 14th September

As per Bishop Philip's request to every Parish in the Diocese, there will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Michael's Church on **Sunday 14th September from 4.30pm – 5.30pm**. Feel free to arrive or leave at any time quietly, however, please do so with due respect not only for the Blessed Sacrament, but also for fellow parishioners engaged in quiet prayer. Also note that the Adoration will be feature occasional scriptural readings & reflections. **Please make a note in your diary of this important Parish/Diocesan event.**

Our Adoration will coincide with the Adoration conducted at the *Adoremus* National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress, which occurs over the same weekend St. Mary's College, Oscott.

At *Adoremus*, the Church in England and Wales will renew and deepen its love for the Holy Eucharist. Bishops, clergy and people from all over the country will be gathering.

St Mary's College, Oscott was the venue for the first Eucharistic Procession since the Reformation and this time in 2024 the Eucharistic Procession will lead the Church in preparation for the Jubilee Year.

Silchester Ecumenical “Songs of Praise” – Sunday 8th September

This joyous event of celebration & public witness takes place on the Village Green, Silchester, starting at **10.30am on Sunday 8th September**. Tadley Brass Band will be providing the musical accompaniment. Please do consider attending if you are able, after taking into account your own Mass obligation.

CTAT Ladies Weekend – 27th to 29th September

Our CTAT friends have written to us as follows. Sounds like a great opportunity for our lady parishioners:

“We have 5 spaces left on our Community Church Ladies Weekend at The Greenhouse Christian Centre, in Poole, Dorset from 6pm Friday 27th September to 2pm Sunday 29 September & these are available on a first come, first serve, basis. This is an invitation to come away, to dwell and be immersed in God’s presence, and leave refreshed. You can participate in a programme which will encourage you to receive, worship and encounter God together, whilst allowing freedom for personal time to breathe and rest in His presence.

We are excited to be having **Cathy Madavan** to come and speak to us, she is a regular speaker at Spring Harvest. Cathy is an accomplished speaker, author and broadcaster, who has been teaching about priorities, resilience, relationships and purpose for over 20 years. Her ability to combine hard-earned wisdom with practicality, honesty, memorable stories and sparkling humour has helped countless individuals, audiences and organisations, giving them time-tested tools and implementable advice for their personal and professional lives. We will be led in worship by **Val Wallbank**.

Feedback from our Last Weekend away:

“I’m really looking forward to it as it was such blessing when we went in 2022. I’m still using the advice and encouragement learned from Cathy Madavan - nearly two years on”

If you are not able to make the weekend then come for the day on Saturday, we will be starting at 9:30am, Refreshments, Lunch and Evening Meal are included within the price. The cost for the whole weekend is £210 fully inclusive, £70 for Saturday.

Call us on 07854 277603 or you can book online at [Ladies Weekend \(27-Sep-2024\) · ChurchSuite Events](#)

For more information, please contact Shirly shirlv@bccnet.org.uk or Marian marianh@bccnet.org.uk

Season of Creation – 1st September to 4th October

The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration that calls us together each year to pray and respond jointly to the cry of Creation: the ecumenical family from around the world comes together to listen to and care for our common home. The “Celebration” begins on September 1st, the Feast of Creation, and concludes on October 4th, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology.

Please access this link to our Diocesan webpage, full of resources dedicated to this celebration:

[Season of Creation - Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth, \(portsmouthdiocese.org.uk\)](https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Diocesan Vacancies

For current vacancies visit: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/people/careers/>

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/>

EMERGENCY COVER ON DAYS WHEN FATHER PATRICK IS UNAVAILABLE:

If a serious need arises to contact a priest, please use the emergency contact details below:

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY CONTACTS:

*** Basingstoke Hospital Chaplaincy Team**

Office Hours: 01256 314901

Urgent & Outside of office hours: Via the Hospital Switchboard 01256 473202

(Alternatively, St. Bede's Parish Office during Office Hours only: 01256 465214)

*** Royal Berkshire Hospital Chaplaincy Team**

Monday-Friday 8 am-4 pm: 0118 322 7105

Urgent & Outside of office hours: contact switchboard 0118 322 5111 to ask for the on-call chaplain.

Note: When contacting Hospital Chaplaincies, please clearly state you require a Roman Catholic priest. It is the responsibility of the family to request a Chaplain to attend.

FOR INFO:

Deacon Tony Darroch: 07723763767

St. Bede's, Basingstoke: 01256 465214 – Rev. John Lee

St. Joseph, Basingstoke: 01256 323595 - Rev. Paul Leonard

Douai Abbey (Woolhampton Parish): 0118 9715350

Note - Some of these clergy and /or their Administrators might also be taking a break at this time.

Best wishes to you all,

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