

Parish of St. Michael, Tadley (with Kingsclere) and St. Oswald, Burghfield Common

Priest-in-Charge: Father Stephen Vooght - Parish Administrator: Dan Wisniewski

Presbytery & Office: Tel. 0118 981 4572 – Email: tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Office hours: Tues, Weds, Thurs, Fri: 9.45am-2.45pm. Closed on Mondays

Website: www.stmandsto.org.uk

MASS TIMETABLE					
Day	Date	Feria, Memorial (M), Feast (F), Solemnity (S)	Time	Church	Mass Intention
Sat	10 th Jan	Baptism of the Lord – Vigil	6.00pm	St. Michael's	Patricia (Pat) Kan RIP
Sun	11 th Jan	Baptism of the Lord	9.00am	St. Michael's	Brindley Family deceased RIP
Sun	11 th Jan	Baptism of the Lord	11.00am	St. Oswald's	
Mon	12 th Jan	NO MASS			
Tues	13 th Jan	Feria	12 Noon	St. Oswald's	
Weds	14 th Jan	Feria	9.30am	St. Michael's	
Thurs	15 th Jan	Feria	9.30am	St. Michael's	Maureen (Mo) Dudgeon-Smith RIP
Fri	16 th Jan	Memorial Mass	11.00am	St. Michael's	Maureen (Mo) Dudgeon-Smith RIP
Sat	17 th Jan	2 nd Sunday – Vigil	6.00pm	St. Michael's	
Sun	18 th Jan	2 nd Sunday	9.00am	St. Michael's	Luciano Ruchelli RIP
Sun	18 th Jan	2 nd Sunday	11.00am	St. Oswald's	
<i>Weekday Masses are preceded by 30 mins of Eucharistic Adoration. Rosary prayed after each Mass</i>					



“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” (Mt 3:17)

The observance of the Baptism of the Lord marks the official end of the liturgical Christmas season, and now the Church enters into Ordinary Time briefly before Lent. Today's readings retelling the scene when Jesus was baptised in the Jordan River offer us a good opportunity to reflect on our own baptism.

Many of us were baptised when we were too young to remember it—but no matter how old you are when you're baptised, the effect is the same. It's the day of our adoption into God's family, where we receive the grace of the Holy Spirit and are welcomed as a member of the Church. When Jesus participated in St. John's baptism, He made the act sacramental: From that moment, the visible sign of being washed by water signified the invisible reality of our souls being cleansed from the stain of original sin.

Today, on the feast of Jesus' baptism, we are invited to reflect on the words from the Gospel of Matthew above: **“This is my beloved son/daughter, with whom I am well pleased.”** These words of God, the Father, are words that are also addressed to all of us who have been baptised and strive to remain faithful to our new life in Christ: Never forget that God delights in you. You are His beloved daughter/son, and He wants you to share in the joy of His abundant life.

The Great Story of Jesus Retreat

Start 2026 with a day retreat to reflect on the core of your faith, known as the 'Kerygma'. Taking place at St Bede's Church on Saturday 24th January from 10am - 3.15pm, this is for everyone and may be particularly helpful for RCIA catechumens making their journey into the Catholic Church at Easter. The day will include reflections, prayer stations and short videos. It will be led by Sr Margarida Mondral, Verbum Dei Community and the Ananias team. Contact Liz at lnahajski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk to find out more.

Douai Abbey – Reflection Days & Workshops – Spring 2026

Father Peter Bowe of Douai Abbey has kindly shared with us their listing of Reflection Days & Workshops for the next few months, which you will find attached to the back of this Newsletter. Please do review to see if there is something that you may like to consider attending.

Adore Online Mini Retreat

May we wish you every blessing for a joyful New Year and introduce you to our exciting programme for 2026: "The greatest gift is Love – the transformative power of God's love." Each month this year we explore the foundational truths of our faith, and how they reveal the amazing and powerful love of God. On 24th January from 10am to 1pm we launch the programme with "GOD IS LOVE." The Mass celebrant and guest speaker, Fr. Chris Thomas, will lead our mini retreat on Zoom and remind us how Jesus taught that God is loving and merciful and we should relate to him as "Abba," our perfect Father. We are His children, adopted into His family and unconditionally loved by Him. He wants us to love Him in return and to accept His perfect will in our lives. Please register in advance at: bit.ly/ADOREJAN2026

World Leprosy Day

On Sunday 25th January we mark World Leprosy Day, a time to pray for and stand in solidarity with people affected by leprosy around the world. We remember the work of the John Bradburne Memorial Society, inspired by John Bradburne, who devoted his life to caring for those with leprosy at the Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre in Zimbabwe. Please keep the people of Mutemwa in your prayers and consider supporting this vital work through prayer, awareness, or donation. www.johnbradburne.com, Tel: 07979 187498, Post: JBMS, PO Box 32, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 0YB, Email: info@johnbradburne.com

Basingstoke Catholic Men's Group

The Basingstoke Catholic Men's group brings Catholic Men together for fellowship, prayer and an opportunity to discuss a wide range of issues that face us today. Sessions are at St Bede's church, every other Tuesday at 7.30pm. These will involve a short input on a relevant topic, time to talk together about the issues at hand and sometime of prayer and spiritual growth. Upcoming sessions: 13/1/26, 27/1/26, 10/2/26, 24/2/26. Contact Jamie Carroll for more info: jamescarroll28@gmail.com

ARCHANGELS

Archangels' Social Group Meeting

The Archangels will be meeting on Thursday 15 January at 7pm in St Michael's Parish Room to plan the schedule of events for 2026. New members or any ideas for events are always very welcome – please do come along and join us!

Mingle at St Michael's

The next gathering will be on Wednesday 21 January from 2pm to 4pm in St Michael's Parish Room for tea, coffee, cake, conversation and laughter. A basket of craft activities will also be available for anyone who would like to have a go. All welcome!

CTAT

Christian Unity Service

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins next Sunday 18 January 2026. Please join with our fellow Christians in praying for unity, especially during the Octave of Prayer (18-25 January).

This year's CTAT Service for Christian Unity will take place at St Paul's Church, The Green, Tadley, RG26 3PB on Sunday 18 January at 10.30am. Please do attend the Service, if you are able to do so – all welcome!

Challenge for Churches in 2026

At the last CTAT Forum, it was proposed that each CTAT community be challenged to discuss hosting one event in 2026 that would have a social element to bring CTAT members together, possibly just for fun or possibly to raise funds, and to bring suggestions to the next meeting on 22 January 2026. If you have any ideas of an event St Michael's could offer to organise, please contact Mary Lee in the first instance on 07821 254100 or email:

maryt.lee@yahoo.co.uk

AGM & Forum

This will be held on Thursday 22 January 2026 at the Salvation Army Hall, 7pm refreshments for a 7.30pm start. All welcome!

Ladies' Breakfast restarts for 2026!

Come along and join us on Saturday 10 January 2026 from 10am – 12 noon. Speaker: Karen Jones, a local artist and glassworker will tell us about her work.

We usually meet on the 2nd Saturday of the month at the Immanuel Centre, Tadley URC, Main Road, Tadley, RG26 3NJ, except in August and December. All welcome!

Live Animal Nativity

Last year's CTAT Nativity experience was very well attended and enjoyed by the large number gathered outside St Michael's Church on Monday 22 December. The long procession stretching down Bishopswood Road was a great sight as the crowd journeyed on to the next Nativity scene outside Tadley Common Methodist Church and then on to St Mary's Church, where the play concluded outside at the stable with live animals. Refreshments were then enjoyed as people socialised in St Mary's Hall.

Many thanks to those parishioners who volunteered to be stewards or helped to serve refreshments or donated mulled wine, mince pies and cakes – all very much appreciated!

Christmas Day Lunch 2025

A very big 'thank you' to Kath & Trevor Eaves and their team from across the CTAT churches for organising the 2025 Christmas Day lunch at the Ambrose Allen Centre. They catered for 80 people, including the volunteers!

Many thanks to those of our parishioners who gave up their time, assisting with the wrapping of Christmas presents in advance or the set-up of the Ambrose Allen Centre on Christmas Eve or the cooking and serving of lunch on Christmas morning. Thank you for giving so many guests an enjoyable Christmas Day!

Old Missals and Religious Items

Earlier last year, several parishioners kindly responded to an invitation to donate their old Missals to be sent to the developing world. The original charity, which was the intended beneficiary, received so many donations that their shipment was full, before our donations could be sent, so we had stored the donations in the church porch. The missals have now been collected by Fr Rinda, one of our Bamenda priests, to be sent to Bamenda with a shipment of philosophy and theology books which had belonged to Mary Lee's late brother, which are being sent to a seminary in Bamenda. Fr Rinda also took the unsold donations of religious statues, rosaries and pictures, which some parishioners had kindly donated to the Archangels for a sale. Fr Rinda was very grateful for all the donations, which will be greatly appreciated in Bamenda. Many thanks to all those who donated old missals and/or religious items!

Pastoral Area Pilgrimage to Rome, 30th June – 7th July 2026

Fr John Lee is looking to organise a pilgrimage to Rome for June / July of this year, to include attending the Ordination to the Diaconate of Ryan Hawkes on Sunday 5th July. Fr John would like to know who is interested in making the trip. Can you please email the St. Bede's Parish Office office@stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk with your name(s) and contact details. More information to follow soon.

Online Gift Card Fraud

Gift card fraud is an increasingly common way of tricking victims into purchasing gift cards and sharing their details, leading to financial loss. Please be aware that there have been scam messages circulating which appear to come from priests or diocesan staff, asking people to buy gift cards or provide financial help urgently. The Diocese and its clergy will never ask for money, gift cards, vouchers, or personal details by email, text message, or social media. If you receive a message of this kind, do not respond and do not send any money. Please report it to your parish office or to the Diocese communications team so that we can alert others. Thank you for your vigilance and for helping to protect our parish communities

Headteacher Vacancy

Christ the King Catholic Primary School, Reading, are seeking to appointment a headteacher for September 2026. The details can be found at <https://www.christthekingreading.co.uk/staff-vacancies/>

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.casop Portsmouth.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/>



WORKSHOPS & REFLECTION DAYS: please request further details

- **Booking & further enquiries:** Email: pastoral@douaiabbey.org.uk
- **Programme:** 10.30 to 4pm: arrivals & coffee from 10am. Please bring own lunch.
- **How to arrive** see: <https://www.douaiabbey.org.uk/contact-us.php>
- **Contribution** £20 made on the day (coffee & tea provided)

Saturday 31 January Gospel of Matthew (Year A) – led by Fr Gervase Holdaway
Introduction to the Gospel, noting its particular character, how it differs from the others & how it enhances our understanding and the celebrations of the Sundays of this coming year. *Please note: 2-4pm only, no charge.*

Saturday 14 February Wider Horizons of the Spirit (II): (A Repeated Workshop)
Encounters of a 1980s Indian Journey – led by Peter Bowe OSB
 From a year in India in 1983, with Bede Griffiths at Shantivanam & on extensive journeys, questions arise for our Christian & spiritual journey today. How does Christ relate to Hinduism & Buddhism? Can we encounter him in other faiths? How to live by faith, Christian & otherwise, in a secular world?

Saturday 21 February Gospel of Matthew - read on Lent Sundays led by Fr Gervase Holdaway 10.30-4pm We shall examine the Lent Gospel passages from Matthew, especially those connecting with the Rite of Christian Initiation at the Easter Vigil.

Saturday 28 February Fruits of Medjugorje: Lent Reflection facilitated by Susan Smith & Br Christopher Greener Come to hear the history of Medjugorje & the messages of our Lady, testimonies of love & grace. Hear music of the Croatian Mass, pray the rosary, come to confession, celebrate Mass followed by Adoration. Invite friends to come & taste the fruits.

Saturday 7 March Reflection: Cave – Refectory – Road: A gentle, contemplative day led by Barbara Priest exploring our Lenten pilgrimage & its 3 monastic elements: the solitude of our cave, the hospitality of our table, & our journey of faith.

Saturday 28 March Awakening to the Mystery of God in the Scriptures, in our environment & each other Led by Peter Bowe OSB & Martin Webb
 To look at how our awareness of the Divine Mystery may grow, enriched over time - by the Scriptures, what is about us and through one another. How might we be more open to the Presence of God now?

Holy Week Retreat for Young People (2-5 April) Again reserved for young adults. Thank you!

Saturday 25 April Life's Fragility: Reflecting on the reality of loss, ageing, sickness & death led by Clare Carlisle & John Cottingham
 We examine attempts to come to face the fragility of life, our inevitable decline & eventual demise. Do today's solutions measure up to what older philosophical/spiritual traditions offer us?