

12th November 2023 (32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME) PARISH NEWS

Dear all,

Advent approaches - Time to get ready!

My recent shopping trips in Tadley have given me the impression that Christmas (The Mass of Christ) has already arrived – “Happy Christmas” signs all over the place and other shoppers talking about the things needed for Christmas dinner!

However, before Christmas there is Advent, a time of preparation and reflection enabling Christians to engage in the true meaning of the actual Christmas Season. A time to stop and consider that Jesus, our Saviour and Brother, is becoming one of us, without sin, to die for us, so that whilst rejoicing in His birth we are also looking forward to His Second Coming to bring us into the Resurrection. *Adventus*, the Latin title from which comes the English Advent, is about that which is to come, which is approaching. And the Lord does not arrive for his First Coming until Christmas Day, to prepare us to await the blessed hope of His coming again at the end of time. It is also the beginning of a new Church Year and starts on the weekend of 2nd and 3rd December this year.

One good way of getting ready would be to attend the Forum of Churches Together Around Tadley (CTAT) if you live in that part of the Parish. Learn of the CTAT Toy Collection, of the Tadley Living Nativity on Wednesday the 20th of December at 4:00 PM not to forget the Flight of the Christmas Angels in the preceding days! The Forum is held next Thursday 16th of December 7:00 PM for 7:30 PM, at Saint Mary's Church, just up the road from Saint Michael's Church.

Remembrance Sunday

This weekend there is only one Sunday Mass in the Parish, at Saint Michael's church at 10:00 AM, The Mass for the Dead. Please arrive in good time for the two minutes silence. There will be no coffee morning after the Mass. The 6:00 PM Saturday evening Mass is celebrated as normal.

Weekend Mass arrangements:

Saturday 11 th November:	6.00pm at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 12 th November:	10.00am at St. Michael's Church

Missio News – Tadley

Sue Tull, our Tadley Missio Secretary, requests that all Red Mission Boxes be returned to her for counting purposes. Please bring them to St. Michael's Church for her to collect.

Also, the Missio Calendars for 2024 are available in St. Michael's Church, free of charge, so please collect as required.

REMINDER: Formation Day for Readers – St. Bede's - Saturday, 18th November.

Many thanks indeed to all our Readers who have so far confirmed that they will be attending this invaluable event. For any Readers who have not done so already, please consider participating.

As a reminder, this day will consist of reflecting on the theology of the Liturgy of the Word, the actual Lectionary itself, and practicalities of celebrating the Liturgy of the Word. Fr. Anthony Fyk, the Director of Liturgical Formation for the Diocese will give these reflections. The day will begin with Mass at 9.30am, will include a buffet lunch & will end by 4pm.

To book a place, please contact the Parish Office at St Bede's on 01256 465214 OR email: office@stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk

Please also kindly let me know, via Dan, if you are able to attend. I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

Winter Night Shelter for the homeless

Plans are well underway for this winter's night shelter. We are very grateful to Fr John Lee for agreeing to allow use of Holy Ghost Hall for Tuesday evenings / Wednesday mornings between 1st December 2023 and 29th February 2024. There are also opportunities to help at different venues in the Town on other nights of the week. If you feel you can respond to God's call to help the marginalised in our local community, please contact Pat Murphy (07785 312486) who can tell you how you could help, directly in the shelter, or indirectly by cooking meals at home or items for breakfast, helping with laundry or donating warm clothes. Full training will be arranged for anyone who has not been involved before. Do please pray for the success of the project.

West Berks Food Bank

Sheila Moore, Churches Collections Manager, writes to inform that the support received by the Food Bank for its Harvest Appeal from churches and schools in West Berkshire has been exceptional. The warehouse shelves are looking much better stocked and better able to meet the expected increase in demand as we enter the winter months.

Please continue to support the Food Bank by leaving items at St. Oswald's. The attached "Reverse Advent Calendar" (instead of receiving a gift, you donate a gift of an essential item of food or toiletries - a lovely idea to use with children or grandchildren and so show the spirit of giving to those less fortunate at Christmas) & "12 Days of Christmas" (suggesting 12 festive treats that can be donated to make Christmas a little more comfortable and enjoyable for Food Bank clients), are provided as guides.

Finally, please do get in touch with the Food Bank if you are aware of anybody who you feel might be in need.

CTAT Christmas Day Event

CTAT will be running their Christmas Day Event on 25th December from 11.30 AM at the Ambrose Allen Centre, Tadley. This is a FREE event, offering fun, food & games.

To book a place or for more information please call 07918 118245 or email tadleychristmasday@gmail.com

Analogue phone line switch-off

CTAT have requested we draw your attention to this event:

Analogue phone lines will be switched off in the not too distant future. To find out what this will mean for everyone, Tadley Men's Shed are having an **open** meeting on Friday 1st December 2pm at St Mary's Church Hall, Newchurch Road, RG26 4HQ. Everyone welcome.

CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have

been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your generosity & prayers.

ADoRE spiritual mini-retreat 25th November 10.00am-1.00pm "Rivers of living water – being a channel of Jesus’ blessing."

The thought of evangelising usually fills us with fear, but that is because we focus on our own feelings and inadequacies instead of relying on the Holy Spirit. Jesus calls on us to be channels of His blessing. He gives us the Holy Spirit to inspire & equip us for the task of sharing His Good News. Including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring guest speaker Russ Fairman. Please register for the Zoom meeting in advance at bit.ly/ADORENOV2023
More information at www.altonrenewal.com

Pro-Life news

The Right To Life pro-life charity <https://righttolife.org.uk/> informs us that three pro-life Private Members’ Bills will be introduced to the House of Lords in the coming weeks:

- Baroness O’Loan’s Abortion (Gestational Time Limit Reduction) Bill 2023 - First Reading on Thursday 7 December.
- Baroness Eaton’s At Home Early Medical Abortion (Review) Bill - First Reading on Wednesday 29 November.
- Lord Moylan’s Foetal Sentience Committee Bill - First Reading on Monday 27 November.

Please pray for the success of these Bills. It is good to know that no pro-Abortion Bills have been introduced in the House of Lords so far in this new Parliamentary Session.

Diocesan Vacancies

Schools Estates Manager - Please note there is no closing date on this role.

For these & other vacancies visit: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs/>

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/>

Enjoy your weekend,
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