Parish of St. Michael, Tadley and St. Oswald, Burghfield Common

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

Day	Date	Feria, Memorial (M), Feast (F), Solemnity (S)	Time	Church	Mass Intention
Sat	14th Nov	33rd Sunday - Vigil	6.00pm	St. Michael's	
Sun	15th Nov	33rd Sunday	9.00am	St. Michael's	Rowan & Oliver Helm
			11.00am	St. Oswald's	Patricia Butler & Frank Fallon
Mon	16th Nov	NO MASS			
Tues	17th Nov	Feria	12 Noon	St. Oswald's	
Weds	18th Nov	Feria	9.30am	St. Michael's	
Thurs	19th Nov	Feria	9.30am	St. Michael's	
Fri	20th Nov	Feria	7.00pm	St. Michael's	
Sat	21st Nov	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe - Vigil	6.00pm	St. Michael's	
Sun	22nd Nov	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe	9.00am	St. Michael's	Sue Elliot RIP
			11.00am	St. Oswald's	Souls of the Hennessy family of County Cork & their descendants the Husher family of Chelsea

2nd Collection at all Masses this weekend: Priests' Retirement Fund.
A limited number of Gift Aid envelopes are available at both churches.

Weekday Masses preceded by 30 mins of Eucharistic Adoration and Rosary after Mass.

Confessions: Before Weekday Masses, Saturdays at St. Michael's 11.00am - 12 Noon, or by appointment.

Mass Intentions: If you would like a Mass Intention, please contact Dan in the Parish Office

For more information about the Priests' Retirement Fund, please click HERE



THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

As we approach the end of the liturgical year, the Liturgy of the Word continues to focus on the end of time. We are being reminded that our earthly life and the world as we know it will not last forever. At a time known only to God, this present age will come to an end, and we will enter into the eternal reality of God's Kingdom, where time itself will be no more.

In our second reading, taken from First Letter to the Thessalonians, St Paul speaks about "the Day of the Lord". This refers to the second coming of Jesus Christ, which we profess in the Creed: *"He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead."* It is a reminder that each of us will one day stand before the Lord and give an account of our lives.

In the Gospel, Jesus uses the parable of the talents to explain how God has entrusted each of us with different gifts and abilities, and that we have a responsibility to use them faithfully for His glory and for the building up of His Kingdom here on earth. We must not be like the lazy and wicked servant who buried his talent and did nothing with what had been entrusted to him. Rather, we are called to be faithful and fruitful servants, making the most of whatever God has given us.

The first reading from the Book of Proverbs, describes the qualities of a good and faithful wife. She is neither idle nor complacent, but *"does her work with eager hands"*. This image connects with the Gospel message because it is a reflection of the Church herself, who is the Bride of Christ. Just as a faithful wife lovingly devotes herself to the service of her husband and household, so too must we, the Church, the Bride of Christ, devote ourselves wholeheartedly to the service of Christ, our head. Just as the woman in Proverbs uses her gifts and abilities diligently for the good of her household, so too are we called to use the gifts God has entrusted to us faithfully and generously in building up His Kingdom.

Ultimately, the question the readings leave us with is this: when the Lord returns, will He find us faithfully using the gifts He has entrusted to us, or will we have buried them?

SYCAMORE COURSE

The seventh session of the course takes place at 7.00pm – 9.00pm this Tuesday 17th November in the Parish Room of St. Michael's Church, Tadley, and is entitled:

THE GIFT OF FAITH: ***What is faith? Are Christians just stupid or are there good reason to believe? How to take a step of faith.*** All are welcome to attend.

MISSIO RED BOXES

Calling all parishioners at St. Michael's with Misson Red Boxes. If you have not already returned your box, please kindly return it to Sue Tull ASAP. If you are unable to see Sue after Mass, you can leave your box in the porch area where the Missio leaflets are kept, next to the Welcomers' table. Alternatively, you can deliver it to the Parish Office during the usual Office hours, 9.45am - 2.45pm, Tuesday - Friday.

PRAYER AND REFLECTON FOR ADVENT - ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, BASINGSTOKE: SUNDAY 29th Nov., 2pm - 4pm

All parishioners in our Pastoral Area are invited to this event, which will be led by Sr. Issy from the Verbum Dei community, with reflections on MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS, Mark 1: 1-8 (Gospel for the second Sunday of Advent: Proclamation of John the Baptist: Prepare the way) and Psalm 80 (psalm of the first Sunday of Advent: Let your face shine on us, that we may be saved).

ON THE WAY: EVANGELISING WITNESS

If you are joining the series here, **B.E.C.O.M.E.** is our simple way of describing the journey from spiritual curiosity towards following Jesus and helping others follow Him: Belong in Community, Encounter Christ, Commit to Growth, Ongoing Renewal, Missionary Led and Evangelising Witness.

The **final E** in **B.E.C.O.M.E.** is Evangelising Witness.

When people belong, encounter Christ, grow in faith, remain open to renewal and discover their part in the mission, something begins to overflow. Faith becomes visible in the way we live, serve, speak and invite.

Our Local Mission Plan recognises that personal invitation should become part of normal parish culture. Testimony matters too. People are often moved more deeply by hearing what Jesus has done in another person's life than by hearing an explanation of a programme.

Evangelising witness therefore includes both life and words. Love, hope, integrity, forgiveness and service can awaken questions. At the right moment, a simple account of why faith matters to us, an offer to pray or an invitation to come with us can help someone take a first step.

There is already considerable service beyond our church buildings. Parishioners support the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, usually known as CAFOD, the Church's Caritas network, the St Vincent de Paul Society, local food banks, vulnerable people, the sick and housebound, bereavement work, partnerships with other Christian churches and many other forms of outreach. Much of this good work, however, remains disconnected or almost invisible.

The developing Volunteer Hub is not a building, but a parish-wide way of understanding what is already happening and helping people find opportunities to serve. We also want to strengthen links with OneChurchBasingstoke, the local network of Christian churches, and other partners. By listening together, we hope to identify needs where the new parish might make a sustained difference, involve more young people and families, and deepen our response to Laudato Si', Pope Francis's call to care for our common home.

Our communications work describes a journey from Street to Door to Home to Sent. People first see something of parish life, find a door which is easy to enter, become known and cared for, and eventually discover how they themselves are called to serve and witness. When they are sent, their witness may become the beginning of another person's journey.

Bartimaeus receives new sight and follows Jesus on the way. That remains our pattern too.

Who might be encouraged by the hope you carry, the story you share or the invitation you offer?

Take heart. Get up. He is calling you.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY DISPLAY



Our sincere thanks to Mel Stevens for the stunning and deeply moving decoration at St. Oswald's last Sunday.

To the right of the altar are dead trees, barbed wire and a shelled tank, representing the darkness and devastation of War.

To the left of the altar are white lilies, representing the light, hope and peace that Christ brings to our divided world.

In the middle, Mel's painting shows Christ on the Cross, shedding tears of blood which flow out from Him and then transform into a great river of poppies that we all now wear in remembrance of all those who died for us.

Over 100 years after the great war that was supposed to end all wars, sadly, there still remains much conflict in the world today.
Our Lady Queen of Peace, pray for us!

ARCHANGELS SOCIAL GROUP

Mingle @ St Michael's

Please join us on Wednesday 18 November in the Parish Room from 2pm to 4pm, to catch up over tea/coffee and cake. All welcome!

CTAT

CTAT Ladies' Breakfast – Saturday 14 November

The next Ladies' Breakfast will take place this Saturday 14 November at the Immanuel Centre, Tadley URC, RG26 3NJ, from 10am to noon, when Nick Bhugeloo of A&N Wellbeing Services will speak about "The Art of Looking After You": *Small changes, healthier boundaries, a more balanced life.* If you missed his May session on "The Sandwich Generation", you can view it on his YouTube channel at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bSrrv4uQqWg All welcome!

CTAT Forum - Thursday 19 November

We will be hosting the next CTAT Forum at St Michael's on Thursday 19 November, refreshments in the Parish Room from 7pm for the meeting to start at 7.30pm. All welcome!

Discover the Missing Piece – Saturday 21 November

Advent begins this year on 29 November and with it the busyness of the run-up to Christmas, but, amidst all the activity, an important piece of the jigsaw can easily go missing! We are invited to discover the missing piece on Saturday 21 November. Choose from a range of ways designed to help us reflect on the true meaning of Christmas in the peace of Silchester Methodist Church, Pamber Road, RG7 2NY (opposite Soke Road). All welcome from 10am to 12.30pm - please drop in for an hour or go for the whole morning. There is no charge to experience this oasis of peace in preparation for Advent.



Tickets for the TCM Panto: Treasure Island

Tickets went on sale at 2pm on Monday 2 November and online at: https://www.ticketsource.com/christchurch-players

Performances of Treasure Island will take place at Tadley Common Methodist Church, Newchurch Road, RG26 4HN on Friday 27 November from 7pm – 9.30pm; Saturday 28 November from 5pm – 7.30pm; Friday 4 December from 7pm – 9.30pm; Saturday 5 December from 5pm – 7.30pm. Tickets are £6 for under 12s and £8.50 for all others.

CTAT Live Nativity – Calling all actors!

Follow the Star, the CTAT Live Nativity Trail, returns on Monday 21st December at 4.00pm, starting at St. Michael's Church. We need adult actors to perfroom the Nativity roles, so please contact Mark Ward on 07849 546894, or mandjward@hotmail.co.uk as soon as possible if you are willing and able to help. There will be a rehersal on the evening of Thursday 17th December.