



This Weekend's Mass arrangements

Saturday 16th November: 6.00pm at St. Michael's Church, Tadley
Sunday 17th November: 9.00am at St. Michael's Church, Tadley – **With Children's Liturgy!**
Sunday 17th November: 11.00am at St. Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

Note:

At St. Oswald's, please continue to be aware & take care in the car park & paths at St. Oswald's due to the autumn leaf fall. Additionally, parishioners must refrain from using the path leading up to the church from Abbey Park, due to the build-up of moss.

World Day of the Poor – 17th November

The thirty third Sunday of the year is the eighth World Day of the Poor. In this year dedicated to prayer in anticipation of the Ordinary Jubilee of 2025, Pope Francis has used scripture from the book of Sirach "The prayer of the poor rises up to God". The message from His Holiness Pope Francis can be found here: [Eighth World Day of the Poor, 2024: The prayer of the poor rises up to God \(cf. Sir 21:5\) | Francis](#)
See also: [HOME - Caritas Portsmouth](#)

Advance Notice

- **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**
St. Michael's Church on Monday 9th December 11.00am.
- **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.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception – Monday 9th December

Mary, conceived without sin, is patron of our Diocese alongside St. Edmund of Abingdon. Her Solemnity is celebrated on 8th December, but transferred to Monday 9th December this year, as the second Sunday of Advent Mass takes precedence. Our Mass in Saint Michael's Church that Monday at 11:00 AM, will celebrate God's choice of her to be the Mother of Jesus, whose Birth we shall soon be preparing for.

Father Patrick's availability this week

I am generally not available on Tuesday, Thursday & Friday of the coming week due to: Clergy Study Day, CTAT Leaders' Meeting, and the CTAT Men's Shed Event.

Remembrance Sunday photos

Thanks to Ben Rowden for the above photo of the Coffee Morning following our Remembrance Mass for the Dead at St. Oswald's Church last Sunday. It was an enjoyable coming together of members of both our Church communities. Many thanks to all who assisted, especially Mel Stevens, who presented all with delicious & wonderfully appropriate poppy cakes (pictured), together with some fine Bakewell Tart slices. Also, our thanks to Rick Wallis for the fine music of the Mass & to his music group, joined by Sarah Davis from our Tadley Choir (sadly Ben had lost his voice so could not sing!).

CTAT Forum

We had a very good Churches Together Around Tadley (CTAT) Forum this Thursday in Saint Michael's Church, following coffee, tea & cakes in the Parish Room from 7:00 PM until the meeting start at 7:30 PM (thanks to Marion Evans, Mary Lee & Sue Tull for organising the refreshments. Also, to Ben Rowden (Tadley) & Peter Hughes (Silchester) for joining Mary & Sue in the meeting. A full report on our planned CTAT Christmas and New Year activities in a future issue of this Newsletter.

Assisted Suicide Bill

At the end of the meeting, I addressed the issue of the proposed Assisted Suicide Bill, officially entitled Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life Bill), which will be debated in Parliament on 29th November, little time having been given for detailed scrutiny. Both the Reverend Steve Mackay, one of our CTAT moderators, and I have received cards to be sent to MP's from Not Dead Yet UK, a network of disabled people who oppose legalising assisted suicide - Apparently, not one organisation of disabled people has called for this Bill or supports it. It is also interesting to note that Wes Streeting, our Health Minister, has stated publicly that he will not be supporting the Bill, as it distracts attention from inadequate palliative care and the need for a better funded Hospice system. He is an Anglican - The cards were made available for those present and included in our CTAT packs for the church representatives attending. I shall be addressing this initiative on Sunday at our Masses, and I hope all of you have been in contact with your MPs as part of our Christian witness as disciples of Jesus.

Red Wednesday

We are also called to speak and act publicly in defence of persecuted Christians across our world. Aid To The Church In Need, since the end of the Second World War, has been supporting these, and in recent years has been promoting a annual Red Wednesday at this time of year. This year it is held on Wednesday 20th November at Brompton Oratory, London. See here for more details: [Aid to the Church in Need | RedWednesday Events](#)

For example, over the last 12 years 43,000 Christians have been killed and 17,500 churches attacked by religious extremists in Nigeria. Christians are the most persecuted people across the world. Remember them on 20th November in prayer.

Missio Red Boxes – Please return them ASAP

For those who have kindly participated in the Missio Red Box initiative, it is now time to please return your Boxes to Sue Tull ASAP. If you don't attend the same Mass as Sue, please kindly leave your Box with Father Patrick in the Sacristy after Mass.

Las Posadas – Erratum

Many thanks indeed to those parishioners who pointed out the incorrect & confusing day/dates in last week's Newsletter item regarding this tradition. It should have read as follows:

This year, it will begin on **Monday, 16th December** ending on **Tuesday, 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.

As a reminder.... Las Posadas 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. We need **9 volunteers** to host the statue and hopefully hold a small service in your home with family, friends and neighbours. 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.

First Aid course – Call for volunteers

In light of the current focus on Health & Safety issues, we are hoping to enhance our provision of First Aid coverage, so that a suitably qualified person is, ideally, present at all of our Masses. As a result, we have secured two places on a formal Emergency First Aid Course on Saturday 1st February 2025, which gives participants a Health and Safety Executive 'Appointed Person' level qualification. This course has been organised by CTAT & will take place in the Immanuel Centre of the Tadley URC.

We are therefore seeking two regular Mass attendees as volunteers - one from each of our two church communities - who would be willing to undertake this training (the cost of which will be covered by the Parish). Please contact Dan in the Parish Office if you are interested.

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REMINDER: CTAT Men's Shed - 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 we can keep an eye on numbers.

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.

ADVANCE NOTICE: CTAT Ladies Breakfast – 14th December, 10.00am

The next CTAT Ladies Breakfast will be on Saturday 14th December, from 10.00am – 12 noon, at the Immanuel Centre, Tadley URC, Main Road, RG26 3NJ

"Knight Fever" Pantomime – Christchurch Players

We are invited to attend this production which will be at the Tadley Common Methodist Church on the following dates:

Friday 29th & Saturday 30th November

Friday 6th & Saturday 7th December

Performances will start as follows: Fridays 7.00pm, Saturdays 5.00pm

Bookings: www.ticketsource.co.uk/christchurch-players or Tel. 0333 666 3366

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New Psalm Setting for Mass

Fr Andrew Moore, from our Diocese, a graduate of the Royal Academy of Music, who is also an accomplished musician and composer, has extensively written new music for the Abbey psalms and canticles which will be used as part of the new translations of the Lectionary, which are available for free download.

Until now, the Responsorial Psalms in the Roman Catholic Lectionary have essentially been the same across the whole English-speaking world, using the Grail translation. From Advent 2024, with the introduction of the New Lectionary, the translation used for the Responsorial Psalms will differ according to the decision of each individual Bishops' Conference. A new translation of the Responsorial Psalms (the Abbey Psalter) will be introduced in England and Wales and also used in Scotland. It may be noted that, in England and Wales,

there is a three-year grace period during which musical settings using the Grail translation may continue to be used. (This grace period only applies when the Responsorial Psalm is sung, not read.)

Fr Andrew has revised a complete set of psalms of his own composition for the new translation providing straightforward and easy-to-learn settings, with simple keyboard accompaniment, for every Sunday and major feast of the three-year cycle – 195 psalms! This collection has been approved for use in England, Wales and Scotland. Whilst the previous cycle was available for purchase, he has generously made this new collection available in PDF at no cost. Copies may be made as necessary, with due acknowledgement. Find out more on his [website](#).

CAFOD World Gifts

In Advent, let's share the promise of hope that has been made to us with our sisters and brothers around the world. You can buy CAFOD's World Gifts for family and friends this Christmas online at <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/> or pick up a catalogue in church. World Gifts such as "watering can", "trees for life", or "water for a family" will help transform lives in a world filled with challenges

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LAST REMINDER: 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

Father Patrick.

Fr. Patrick Tansey

Parish Priest

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St Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

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Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through his Church

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