

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

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Pastoral Facilitation Team: Gerry Penfold (Chair)

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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	31 st Oct	All Saints (S) - Vigil	6.00pm	St. Michael's	
Sun	1 st Nov	All Saints (S)	9.00am	St. Michael's	Penfold Family RIP
			11.00am	St. Oswald's	
Mon	2 nd Nov	All Souls	10.00am	St. Michael's	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Tues	3 rd Nov	Blessed John Body (M)	12 Noon	St. Oswald's	Jim & Sadie Anderson, Family & Friends
Weds	4 th Nov	St. Charles Borromeo (M)	9.30am	St. Michael's	
Thurs	5 th Nov	Feria	9.30am	St. Michael's	
Fri	6 th Nov	Feria	7.00pm	St. Michael's	Clementine Desseignet RIP
Sat	7 th Nov	32 nd Sunday - Vigil	6.00pm	St. Michael's	
Sun	8 th Nov	32 nd Sunday	9.00am	St. Michael's	
			11.00am	St. Oswald's	

Second Collection at all Masses this Weekend: Bamenda

Children's Liturgy at St. Oswald's will take place at the 11.00am Mass this Sunday 1st November

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

Bamenda Sunday

This Sunday is Bamenda Sunday and this year we mark a very special anniversary, namely its golden jubilee.
Please see the item in this Newsletter and also the Annual Bamenda Newsletter attached.

Advance Notice: Children's Liturgy at St. Michael's will take place at the 9.00am Mass next Sunday 8th Nov.



SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

Called to Holiness.

On 1 November, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of All Saints, honouring not only those officially recognised and canonised by the Church, but also the countless men, women and children who have attained the glory of heaven without ever being formally recognised as saints.

The origins of this celebration go back to the early centuries of Christianity, when Christians commemorated those who had given their lives for Christ, particularly the martyrs. As their numbers grew, it became impossible to give every martyr an individual feast day. Consequently, the Church established a common celebration honouring them all.

In the eighth century, Pope Gregory III (731–741) dedicated a chapel in St Peter's Basilica in Rome to all the saints and established 1 November as their feast day. Later, Pope Gregory IV (827–844) extended the celebration to the universal Church.

But this solemnity is about much more than remembering holy men and women from the past. It reminds us that **we are all called to become saints!** Holiness is not reserved for a privileged few, nor does it require extraordinary achievements. It is about allowing God's grace to transform our everyday lives through faith, prayer, love, forgiveness, humility and service to others.



COMMEMORATION OF ALL SOULS

Remembering Our Faithful Departed

On 2 November, the Church commemorates all the faithful departed, particularly those souls undergoing purification in Purgatory before entering the fullness of God's presence in heaven. The tradition of a special day of prayer for the dead was formally established in 998 AD by St Odilo, Abbot of Cluny in France. He encouraged monasteries to dedicate this day to praying for all the departed, recognising our Christian duty of charity towards those who have died. The practice gradually spread throughout the Western Church.

November subsequently became associated with praying for the Holy Souls, extending this remembrance beyond one particular day. This devotion reflects our belief in the Communion of Saints: that the Church on earth can assist the faithful departed through our prayers, good works and, above all, the offering of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

During this month, let us remember our deceased relatives, friends and all those who have nobody to pray for them. Our prayers are an expression of love which does not end with death. Let us pray that they may soon enjoy the eternal happiness of heaven.

WELCOME TO VERNON JONES, TRAINEE DEACON

This weekend, we welcome Vernon Jones who will be with us for a 3-month placement (1st November – 31st January 2027). Vernon is in his 4th year studying for the diploma in Diaconal studies at Oscott seminary in Birmingham and is a parishioner at St Bede's church in Basingstoke.

During his formation, Vernon undertakes various placements e.g. hospital chaplaincy and being based in different churches, to broaden his experience of different communities and their needs.

Vernon will spend time at both St Michael's and St Oswald's. We look forward to supporting him during his time with us.

SYCAMORE COURSE

The fifth session of the course takes place at 7.00pm – 9.00pm this Tuesday 3rd November in the Parish Room of St. Michael's Church, Tadley, and is entitled:

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE CHURCH: *How the Holy Spirit can change your life. No one gets into heaven alone. Why we need signs, symbols and sacraments.*

All are welcome to attend.

ON THE WAY: ONGOING RENEWAL

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: **B**elong in Community, **E**ncounter Christ, **C**ommit to Growth, **O**ngoing Renewal, **M**issionary Led and **E**vangelising Witness.

The **O** in **B.E.C.O.M.E.** is 'Ongoing Renewal'.

'Commit to Growth' reminds us that we have a part to play in our discipleship. 'Ongoing Renewal' reminds us that God is also continually at work in us, giving healing, new sight and a deeper freedom to follow Him.

The cloak of Bartimaeus has become a helpful image for our parish. It can represent fear, habit, comfort, old structures or simply the way things have always been done. When Jesus calls, Bartimaeus throws his cloak aside, comes forward and receives new sight.

Renewal is not about discarding our inheritance or constantly looking for something new. It is about discerning what should be treasured, what should be renewed and what may now need to be laid aside.

This is true in our own lives. Through prayer, Scripture, the Eucharist, Reconciliation and the life of the Church, Christ continues to call us back to Himself. He shows us what is bearing fruit, where healing is still needed and where we may have become too comfortable or resistant to His invitation.

The Missional Prayer, our shared prayer for parish renewal and mission, is now part of our common prayer. Our Local Mission Plan is also intended to remain a living pastoral plan. The parish-wide consultation will help us listen and discern. Our priorities will help us act. The diocesan maturity work will help us look honestly at where we are and what the next faithful step might be, while a small number of measures will help us learn what is genuinely bearing fruit.

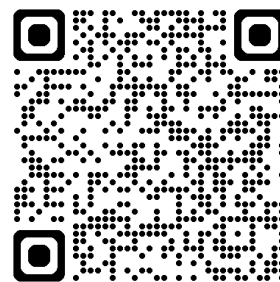
These tools do not create renewal. They help us respond more faithfully to the work of the Holy Spirit. The aim is not change for its own sake, but a parish becoming more open to Christ, more capable of mission and more willing to follow where He leads.

What in your life should be treasured, what may need renewing, and what might Christ be asking you to lay aside?

Next week: Missionary Led.

BAMENDA SUNDAY

This weekend is Bamenda Sunday, a celebration of a partnership between our two dioceses where we learn, pray and support each other. An important part of the link has been the support we have sent over the years. Your generosity has made a huge impact on the lives of many of the poorest and most vulnerable people in Bamenda, and it most sincerely appreciated by them. You can read how your donations have supported Caroline and Stephen in the attached Bamenda Sunday newsletter. Please give generously as your contributions really do transform lives. Follow this link: [Donate to Bamenda - Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth](#) or use the QR code to see the different donations options and gift aid if you can. Thank you.



DIOCESAN LAY LEADERS CONFERENCE: SATURDAY 21 November

Inspired by our ten-year Mission Plan, *You Will Be My Witnesses*, the Lay Leaders Conference will take place on Saturday 21 November the Solent Hotel Whiteley near Southampton and run from 9.00am to 3.30pm. It will offer an opportunity to share experiences, explore fresh ideas and consider how clergy and laity can work together to strengthen our parishes and bring more people to know Jesus Christ. As we look to the future of our Diocese, we want as many people as possible to be part of this important conversation.

Whether you are involved with liturgy, catechesis, pastoral councils, outreach or any other aspect of parish life, this conference is for you.

There is no charge for attending though you will need to register in advance via this link:

[Lay leaders conference 21 November 2026 registration form](#)

ARCHANGELS SOCIAL GROUP

Mingle @ St Michael's

Please join us on Wednesday 18 November in the Parish Room from 2pm to 4pm. All welcome!



People's Emergency Briefing – Thursday 12 November

A film screening and discussion with our local MP and councillors on the climate and nature crisis at St. Paul's Church, The Green, Tadley, RG26 3PB on Thursday 12 November from 7pm to 9.15pm. Tickets are free, but limited and must be booked in advance at:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/churchestogehteraroundtadley/2383608>

CTAT Ladies' Breakfast – Saturday 14 November

The next Ladies' Breakfast will take place on 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!

Tickets for the TCM Panto: Treasure Island

Tickets will go on sale at 2pm on Monday 2 November and may be booked 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.

HAMPSHIRE HOIMA HOSPITAL FUNDRAISING EVENT: FRIDAY 13th NOVEMBER

The Hampshire Hoima Hospital Charity is organising a Bollywood themed fundraising event, with dancing and Indian food, at St. Mary Hall, Overton, from 7.00pm on Friday 13th November.



You may recall that the Hoima Hospice in Uganda featured in our Newsletter for the weekend of 11th Oct, when we described Jo Mellor's visit to the Hospice where the £410.60 previously raised by our Archangels Social Group was formally handed over.

Bamenda News

1 November 2026



A year to remember

This has been a special year for Bamenda with the visit of Pope Leo in April. As Fr Rinda Emmanuel of Corpus Christi in Portsmouth saw himself (below, left), Pope Leo's message of hope to a community suffering from conflict reminded our brothers and sisters they are never alone and never forgotten.

Each year your generous support for the Bamenda Sunday appeal shows we too have not forgotten Bamenda. Last year your support made a real difference to many people's lives. You can find details of all the projects we've been able to support in the Portsmouth Bamenda Committee quarterly reports and the three stories below are examples of how you directly helped this year.



Community Health Workers

In June 2025, forty Community Health Workers (CHW) were selected from rural areas in the Archdiocese and trained in basic maternal and child care (including childhood nutrition, maternal health, infectious diseases, water sanitation, and prevention of HIV/AIDS).

Over the year since their training the CHWs have visited over 4000 homes and conducted 630 health education talks, 981 prenatal visits and 1260 postnatal visits. They've also vaccinated 3929 children; administered 397 malaria treatments; made 847 referrals to health facilities for treatment; and provided education on water, sanitation and hygiene education to nearly 8000 people.

While it's difficult to measure improvement on many health outcomes in just one year, in that time there has in fact been a significant decrease in childhood malnutrition. In the initial quarter of the project 77 children were identified as undernourished, but subsequently the numbers have fallen to single figures reflecting the extensive education work being carried out by CHWs, including teaching mothers and caregivers to prepare fortified foods. Heartfelt congratulations for the hard work.

Continued...



Economic empowerment for single mothers

Caroline Lum, a 37-year-old single mother can now provide for her children. The stigma of being a single mother makes finding work hard for Caroline and other women like her. But through your help she is getting skills and advice to help set up her own clothes-making business and so build a more secure future for her and her two children.

Archbishop's Education Fund

Thirteen-year-old Stephen Ngong is now attending school. Fighting close to his village forced his family to abandon their home and flee to a safer town. Stephen's family barely manage to survive from day to day and so could not afford to send him to school. But through the Archbishop's Education Fund which supports children orphaned or displaced by the conflict you have supported him, and 250 other children like him to attend school.





A message from Bishop Philip

The link between the Diocese of Portsmouth and the Archdiocese of Bamenda is now well over 50 years old. It remains as strong today as it was in 1974. It is a testimony to a shared Christian commitment and journey in faith. Priests from Bamenda serve across our diocese here, helping us with our current challenges of mission, outreach and falling vocations. Their contribution is sincerely appreciated. Equally, I know from Archbishop Andrew how important our spiritual and financial support is to meeting the many needs of the growing Catholic community in Bamenda at a time of continuing conflict and uncertainty in life. It is a way for us to stand with our brothers and sisters and to let them know they are not forgotten. I say to the clergy and faithful of Portsmouth: please continue to be generous and offer support with whatever you can afford, and please remember the clergy and faithful of Bamenda in your prayers.

**Bishop Philip Egan,
Bishop of Portsmouth**

A message from Archbishop Andrew

With a heart full of joy and profound gratitude of the Archdiocese of Bamenda, I praise God for the beautiful bond of faith and solidarity that unites the Archdiocese of Bamenda and the Diocese of Portsmouth. I am deeply moved by your constant generosity.

Your targeted interventions in healthcare, education, peace-building, and spiritual growth have brought transformative relief to our communities. By providing psychological healing to trauma survivors and driving sustainable economic empowerment for women, your generosity has become a profound beacon of hope to the faithful across the entire Archdiocese of Bamenda.

Amid the ongoing socioeconomic challenges in the Northwest Region of Cameroon, your charity serves as a tangible manifestation of Christ's love. Rebuilding broken lives and infrastructure is a long-term journey, and the needs on the ground remain immense. As we strive to expand these lifelines to more vulnerable families, we humbly look forward to your continued support and prayers.

Your ongoing solidarity is what allows us to keep bringing hope to places where despair often looms large. May the Lord reward your families abundantly and may He bless the works of your hands. His Grace,
**Andrew NKEA,
Archbishop of Bamenda**



Looking ahead - your support will make a difference

For next year, the Bamenda Archdiocese has asked us to support several projects. First to continue our support for the Archbishop's Education Fund. Education opens doors to a future and your generosity can make a real difference - the cost of a child attending primary school for a year is about £67, and £113 will allow a child to attend secondary school. Please help us pay to educate orphaned children and children whose parents can't afford school fees.

Secondly to support three communities in more remote rural parts of the Archdiocese to complete the construction of churches in Bamali, Wum and Njikwa. A church is a place of worship but also provides a focal point for communities to come together especially during times of trouble. In all cases the communities will use their labour and skills in the construction work but they need our help specifically to buy building materials.

Donate through your parish Bamenda Sunday collection,
[Set up a Direct Debit](#)
[Set up a standing order](#)

Make a bank transfer directly into the Bamenda Fund account:
CDP Bamenda Commission.

Account No: 00867633, Sort Code: 30-93-04

Please don't forget to gift aid if you are eligible:

[Gift Aid Declaration Form 2023](#)



Ways to give