

Dear All,

This Weekend's Mass arrangements:

Saturday 20 th January:	6.00pm at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 21 st January:	9.00am at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 21 st January:	11.00am at St. Oswald's Church – Christian Unity Mass

Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul:

Thursday 25 th January:	11.00am at St. Michael's Church
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CTAT (Churches Together around Tadley) Unity Service:

Sunday 21 st January:	3.00pm at Saint Mary's Church, Silchester.
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My availability & Office arrangements next week

I am not available on Tuesday 23rd January, as I am attending a Clergy Day in Winchester on Mission, Leadership and Ecology in Isaiah. As parishioners know, Monday is also my day off.

On the following day, Wednesday 24th January, I have a dental appointment, so am not available until the afternoon.

Also, please note Dan is away on Thursday 25th of January, when the Office will be closed for the day.

Christian Unity

The Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity began on Thursday 18th January and concludes on Thursday 25th January, the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul. Hopefully many of you will have been praying since last Thursday to Jesus that all his followers be one, and will plan to attend the Mass on Thursday next week at Tadley at 11:00 AM to complete the Octave (the eight days).

Also, I look forward to members of our Saint Michael's community being present at the Unity Service at Saint Mary's Church, Silchester, at 3:00 PM on Sunday, witnessing with fellow Christians to this central teaching of Christ to be truly united as His Church.

Our Bishop Philip rightly sees a commitment to the work of Christian Unity as an essential part of our Catholic Faith, not an optional extra. It is also an integral element in our Diocesan Ten Year Mission Plan, which is highlighted in the recently published update of You Will be my Witnesses (Page 49).

A brief update on the developing Plan

Our North-West Hampshire Pastoral Area, comprising the Catholic churches in Basingstoke, Hook, Tadley and Burghfield Common, is now designated as the Basingstoke Pastoral Area, in preparation to become one Parish after July 2025, alongside other Pastoral Areas in the Diocese.

The process began in July 2023, and once the new single parishes (24 in total) are established they will choose new names. Already some Pastoral Areas are, in effect single parishes; for example: Jersey in the Channel Islands, Saint Peter and the Winchester Martyrs and also Saint Swithun Wells.

From July 2024 to July 2025, Bishop Philip will be visiting each Pastoral Area to discuss local plans, and there are to be established by then Evangelization Strategy Teams (ESTs) and Transitional Finance Committees serving each Pastoral Area. More to come in future issues of our Parish News, especially as things develop in the Basingstoke Pastoral Area in this new year.

CTAT – Silchester Children's Easter Holiday Club:

Serving as yet another fine example of Christian Unity in action here locally, this club will be running as follows:

Monday 8th April to Friday 12th April at Silchester Methodist Hall

For more details & to obtain a registration form please email: gillmlawson@icloud.com

The Six Holy Habits

In his Pastoral Letter in October last year, Bishop Philip invited us to establish or pledge our commitment to the Six Holy Habits:

- Spending five minutes a day in prayer
- Attending Mass on Sunday
- Keeping Friday as a day of penance
- Paying a fortnightly visit to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament
- Going to confession once a month
- Joining a small group for formation, prayer and fellowship

Please do share something of your experience of the Six Holy Habits. How has your life been enriched? Where have you experienced renewal and change? The Diocese is encouraging us to share our stories at: communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Children's Liturgy

The dates for Children's Liturgy at the 9.00am Mass in St. Michael's up until Easter are as follows:
4th Feb, 25th Feb & 17th March

Annual Cathedral Collection

The second collection this weekend is the annual collection for the Cathedral of St John the Evangelist, Mother Church of the Diocese. Father James McAuley, Cathedral Dean, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia writes: "Never has this annual collection by parishes for the Mother Church of the Diocese been more critical or needed. Your support is vitally important to us".

Please give as generously as you can, since there are now several major works required in addition to the restoration of the West Window (upgrade of heating & electrical systems - including replacement of all three boilers, together with work required on roof & windows).

A Day with Mary

This is held at the Church of Our Lady of Peace and Blessed Dominic Barbari, Earley, Reading on Saturday 10th February 2024. It begins at 10:00 AM with the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the Rosary, and finishes at 5:30 PM, following lunch and further Devotions. Full details on the poster in Saint Michael's Church porch.

CAFOD meetings

You are warmly invited to come to a CAFOD meeting to find about the difference that your donations make on Saturday 27th January. The meeting is at Corpus Christi Church Hall 60 Sturges Road, Wokingham, RG40 2HE from 10:30am to 1:30pm... or... on Saturday 3rd February at St Philip Howard Church Hall, Bishopsfield Road, Fareham, PO14 1ND. A simple lunch will be provided at both meetings so please book your place so that we have an idea of numbers by emailing Jo on jlewry@cafod.org.uk or phone 07710 094447

Lent is rapidly approaching!!!

A reminder that Ash Wednesday is on Wednesday 14th February this year.
Please find hereunder a number of Lent related items.

CAFOD – The Big Lent Walk

A reminder that CAFOD are encouraging us all to participate in their annual Big Lent Walk. Click below for more details, or simply go to the CAFOD website:

[Challenge yourself and take on The Big Lent Walk! Walk when and where you choose over 40 days, alone or with friends. Raise money to help people as they overcome poverty.](#)

Douai Abbey – Programme of Lentern Reflection Days & Retreats

Saturday 10 February - Pre-Lent Reflection: *How can Lent bring Joy?* led by Abbot Paul Gunter

St Benedict mentions joy in his Rule solely to describe Lent! Liturgical texts & spiritual writings will provide the basis of our reflection on this season of joy.

Midweek 19-21 March - Lent Retreat: *Packing for the Wilderness.* Led by Fr Peter Bowe

A pathway through the frequent wilderness of our life, using Scripture images & texts. We shall explore real, actual challenges to living as “beloved disciples” of Christ, who died & rose for us.

Saturday 23 March - Lent Reflection Day. Led by Barbara Priest, Anglican lay minister & Douai oblate.

Reflections on supporting Jesus on his journey, called as friend. Scripture, reflection & music used for what they teach & how we can respond.

Thurs 28 - Sun 31 March - Holy Week Retreat. Led by Sr Anne Swailes OP

To enter more deeply into the Paschal Mystery, & to see the sufferings & joys of our own lives in its light. Reflection on texts, images & music inspired by Holy Week liturgy & events celebrated. Cost £250/£175 shared

- Workshops & Reflection Days: 10.30am to 4pm. (arrivals & coffee from 10am). Contribution £25 made on the day please (lunch, coffee & tea incl.); £15 bring own lunch.
- Retreats: arrive 4-5.30pm, dep. after lunch. Cost £180/shared room £140pp (unless otherwise stated)
- All Booking enquiries & Booking: Email: guestmaster@douaiabbey.org.uk
- How to arrive see: <https://www.douaiabbey.org.uk/contact-us.php>

Coming soon!!!

Pilgrimage to Walsingham The Nation Shrine to Our Lady

St. Bede's invites us to participate in this two day trip, departing from Basingstoke by coach early on Friday 31st May and returning early evening on Saturday 1st June. The estimated cost is £250 (depending on final numbers) to include the coach plus half board in a 3 star hotel. To register your interest please email Susan Beard: ssusanbeard@gmail.com. Susan will be holding a meeting in St Bede's Church hall on Saturday 27th January to outline the itinerary

Diocesan Vacancies

Pastoral Coordinator of Evangelisation, Havant - Closing date 9th February 2024

Operations Manager, Winchester - Closing date 9th February 2024

Health & Safety Officer, Portsmouth – Currently there is no closing date

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

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Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through his Church

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

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