

**This Weekend's Mass arrangements**

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November: 6.00pm at St. Michael's Church, Tadley  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November: 9.00am at St. Michael's Church, Tadley  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November: 11.00am at St. Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

**Note:**

At St. Oswald's, we have arranged for a contractor to clear the leaf fall from the car park, however, please be aware that the storm expected on Saturday evening may deposit a fresh covering in places, which can be expected to be slippery due to the rain. Additionally, parishioners must continue to refrain from using the path leading up to the church from Abbey Park, due to the build-up of moss.

**Advance Notices**

- **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**  
St. Michael's Church on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 11.00am.
- **Advent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (in preparation for the Jubilee Year 2025)**  
St. Michael's Church on Saturdays 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> December, from 10.30am – 11.30am.
- **Basingstoke Hospital - Holy Communion on Christmas Day**  
Deacon Tony will be taking Holy Communion to patients on Christmas Day between 09:30 and 12:30, together with any staff who are working on Christmas Day.  
Staff will need to make him aware of which ward they are working on and he will bring Holy Communion to them. To help with planning, would staff who wish to receive Holy Communion please contact him by Friday 20th December at the latest on [adarroch@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:adarroch@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)
- **Basingstoke Hospital - Carol Service**  
There will be Christmas Carols around the wards at Basingstoke Hospital on Wednesday 18th December, starting at 5:45 pm meeting at the Hospital Chapel.  
Those wishing to participate please meet Deacon Tony at the Chapel at 5:45pm.

**Father Patrick's availability this week**

I am generally not available on Wednesday & Thursday of the coming week due to: Medical appointment & Secular Common Clergy Fund meeting in London.

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Dear All,

ALL HANDS ON DECK!

On Thursday afternoon this week, there was a two hour meeting at Saint Paul's Church of our Churches Together Around Tadley (CTAT) Church Leaders, to progress matters agreed by the CTAT Forum the week before. For these to be successful there will need to be involvement by members of all our churches locally as outlined below:

- **CTAT Living Nativity – Follow the Star**

This will be held on Thursday 19th December from 4:00 PM till 6:00 PM, beginning at Saint Mary's Church, involving celebrations at Tadley Common Methodist Church, St. Michaels Church and concluding at St. Mary's Church. The format will be similar to last year's event, as people who were not able to attend asked for a repeat because of news spreading about how outstanding it was. Stewards will be required to marshal the various celebrations as people move from church to church, and helpers for the refreshments afterwards.

The contribution at St. Michael's Church will be led by myself and the Reverend Karen West of St. Mary's Church, Silchester. I need 2 volunteers to be Wise Men and stewards to ensure space capacity within the church and in our car park area are observed, alongside health and safety and fire risk requirements. Outside lighting will be organised by CTAT ensuring a safe entry and exit during the darkness.

So, please let Dan know next week if you are able to be volunteers or helpers for the refreshments. Also if you would like to contribute mince pies and mulled wine.

- **CTAT Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

The Church Service for our local churches will be on Sunday 26th January 2025 at 3:00 PM in St. Michael's church. Again, stewards will be needed and refreshments will follow the Service. Any volunteers, please let Dan know by Tuesday 17th December, before he takes his Christmas/New Year Holiday.

- **CTAT Pray Tadley**

During Advent we shall be launching this opportunity for all members of our churches to pray for our local community. Organised by Pastor Pete Hay of the Community Church, the four weeks of Advent offer us a time of hope, love, peace and joy for those around us, especially those struggling in various ways. There will be 12 “zones” for prayer, and a coordinator in each “zone” to enable all Christians in that “zone” to engage.

Things are moving forward well as we prepare for this important Advent initiative, and I shall say more about it at our Masses on the 1st Sunday of Advent. If you are prepared to engage in this Missionary Discipleship, let Dan know next week please.

- **Christmas Tree Festival**

This is being organised by Tadley Common Methodist Church on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th December. All churches, groups and organisations in Tadley are encouraged decorate a tree to display for the Festival. Setting up will be Friday 13th December 10.00am- 4.00pm. Any person(s) willing to prepare a tree on behalf of St. Michael's Church?

### **Christmas matters at St. Michael's & St. Oswald's**

Finally, when I returned from Saint Oswald's Church last Sunday in the late afternoon, my check of the Saint Michael's Church found that the church door had not been locked! Also, that weekend, there seemed to be confusion at both Masses about who was welcoming. The Welcoming Rota seems to be having empty spaces over the Christmas period for Christmas Eve and Sunday 28th December, which is the time when we have visitors and people who do not regularly attend. Any volunteers for 8:30 PM on Christmas Eve (Tuesday 24th December) and Sunday 29th December at 9:00 AM? Please let Dan know as soon as possible. Also, for 11:00 AM Mass at Burghfield Common on Christmas Day. It would be good to have a Welcome at the Inn for the Saviour of the World!

### **Lifts needed**

You will appreciate that on Christmas Day I am grateful for a lift from Tadley to Burghfield Common and back to Tadley afterwards. Again, please let Dan in the Parish Office know as soon as possible if you are able to help.

**A sincere thank you to all who engage so well in both communities enabling our Parish to be a vibrant expression of Christian witness.**

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### **REMINDER: Misso Red Boxes – Please return them ASAP**

For those who have kindly participated in the Misso 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.

### **REMINDER: Las Posadas**

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. Starts on **Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> December** ending on **Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

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](mailto:pdarroch@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) to put yourself forward.

### **REMINDER: 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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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### **ADVANCE NOTICE: CTAT Ladies Breakfast – 14<sup>th</sup> December, 10.00am**

The next CTAT Ladies Breakfast will be on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December

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

Bookings: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/christchurch-players](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/christchurch-players) or Tel. 0333 666 3366

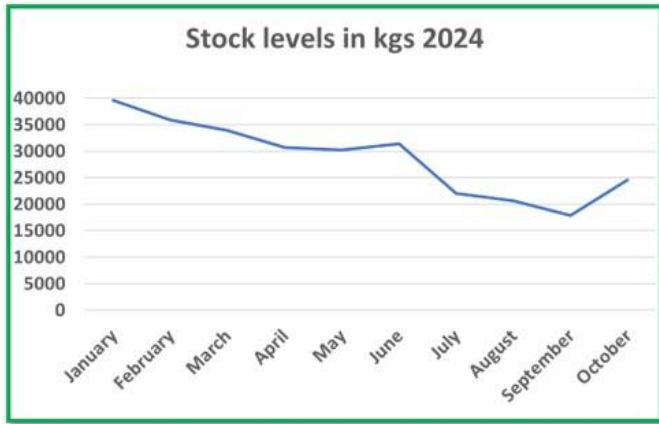
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### **REMINDER: CAFOD World Gifts**

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

### **Foodbank update**

The West Berks Foodbank writes: “The support you have shown us over Harvest time has been a real answer to prayer. The stock levels in the warehouse have been gradually falling all year but the response from church communities and schools in West Berkshire has reversed this trend” .... However.... “The graph below shows that our current stock levels are 15 tonnes or 40% below the level at the beginning of the year. We appeal for your help this Christmas to close that gap”.



As in previous years, WB Foodbank have produced a reverse Advent Calendar. The aim this time is to help to re-stock their empty shelves, so, instead of receiving a gift, you donate a gift of an essential item of food or toiletries. It can be started any time and runs for 25 days, suggesting a different item every day that you might like to donate to the Foodbank. Donations are to be taken to the warehouse by Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December – the warehouse will be closed over Christmas.

There is also another document called the 12 days of Christmas. This suggests 12 festive treats that can be donated to make Christmas a little more comfortable and enjoyable for the Foodbank's clients. These would need to be delivered to the warehouse by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December so that they can be included in every parcel sent out.

Please email Dan in the Parish Office if you would like him to send you a copy of the Advent Calendar or the 12 days of Christmas resources.

In addition, for those in Tadley, please kindly remember the Basingstoke Foodbank at this time of Year.

### **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.casop Portsmouth.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 & a great celebration of Christ The King as we enter the last week of this Church Year.

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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