

NORTH WEST

HAMPSHIRE

PASTORAL AREA

Serving the Parishes of

ANDOVER, BASINGSTOKE, HOOK,
TADLEY AND BURGHFIELD COMMON



**St Michael's Parish, Tadley,
Kingsclere,
and St Oswald's Church,
Burghfield Common**

St Michael's Church

Bishopswood Road, Tadley
RG26 4HG

St Oswald's Church

Abbey Park, Burghfield Common,
RG7 3HQ

Parish Priest:

Rev Fr Patrick Tansey
0118 981 4572

Safeguarding Officers:

Mrs Kath Murtagh (Tadley)
0118 981 4658
Mrs Ellen Goodall (Burghfield Common)
0118 983 3332

Parish Secretary:

Kathryn Garden
Email: tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Website: www.stmandsto.org.uk

Covenant to the People

If you would like help from the Covenant to the People scheme, please call Bill Reilly on (0118) 9813784 during September.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Sacrament is celebrated on request at the present time in the Parish Room at Tadley. Please book with Fr Tansey by telephone.

NEWSLETTER

The Twenty-Sixth Sunday

in Ordinary Time

26th September 2021

A PUBLICATION OF PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE TRUST REGISTERED CHARITY NO 246871

Tadley, Kingsclere and Burghfield Common Masses

6:00 pm Saturday Vigil Mass Tadley
10:30 am Sunday Parish Mass Burghfield Common

Weekday Mass:

12 noon 29 Sep Saints Michael, Gabriel & Raphael Tadley
12 noon 7 Oct Our Lady of the Rosary Tadley

Advance booking is not required for Masses but please telephone or email to advise if attending so Father Patrick can ensure we keep within acceptable numbers.

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26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

Entrance Antiphon: All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy..

Responsorial Psalm: The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Your word is truth, O Lord, consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

Next Sunday's Reading (27th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Genesis 2:18-24. Hebrews 2:9-11. Mark 10:2-16

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Diocesan Collections

There will be an Optional Collection for CAFOD next weekend, 2nd/3rd October. This Collection is for the money saved by fasting or self-sacrifice on the Autumn Fast Day, Friday 1st October.

Autumn Mass Counts

These will be taken at all weekend Masses on 25/26th September and 2/3rd and 9/10th October.

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Welcome in Baptism

Yve Emmerson on 25th September at Saint Michael's Church.

Patronal Feast

On Wednesday 29th September we celebrate The Solemnity of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael at 12 noon in Saint Michael's Church. It is everything except a Holy Day of Obligation in our Parish.

THE TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGING

As from the weekend of 2nd/3rd October the following Mass times come into operation. The Saturday evening Mass remains at 6:00pm. There will be a Sunday morning Mass at Tadley starting at 9:00am and the Mass on Sunday at Burghfield Common will begin at 11:00am.

This arrangement will be provisional until the end of the year, when I shall consider how it is working and whether there is a return of parishioners to weekend Masses justifying three in the context of the continuing cleaning and sanitisation required by our Bishops. Obviously things may change if the pandemic and other illnesses create problems during the winter season.

I am grateful to Tina van Ewyk for her support in ensuring that proper sanitisation and cleaning measures will be in place to enable two Masses to be celebrated each weekend in Tadley. This will demand support from the Tadley community to prevent unreasonable burdens being placed on myself and on a small group of parishioners. As our Bishops point out in their recent guidance, it is now the responsibility of the Parish Priest alongside his parishioners to move forward in respect of making our churches safe places to worship.

The Sunday Mass is the centre of our weekend, and the day should be arranged around it, even if this involves rearrangement of our activities to attend and self-sacrifice at times. "This is what we do", as some of the early martyrs said in respect of the celebration of the Resurrection being the centre of every Sunday. It should not be an optional extra.

The following requests will facilitate our going forward:

- (i) Please read the Newsletter each week to keep in touch with developments or changes, both locally and nationally.
- (ii) There will be no booking for Masses from the beginning of October, but please telephone or email the Presbytery advising if you are going to one of the weekend Masses so that I have an idea of numbers attending. Also to state whether you would prefer to distance socially by two metres. Most of those attending at present are happy that I am proceeding in keeping with their wishes. However, from time to time it may be necessary to ask people to attend one of the other Sunday Masses if we are not properly complying with the guidance. Merely leave a message on the telephone or send an email before the Friday of each week. Booking will return if necessary and one of the three Masses may become one for those who wish to distance socially if there is a demand in the future. One Steward will be required for each weekend Mass if the Mass is to be celebrated.
- (iii) Please arrive at least 15 minutes before each Mass on a Sunday, not only to give yourself time for prayer but also to avoid 'bunching' when sanitising before Mass. Masks should be worn unless there is a good reason for not doing so. I have noticed that over the last couple of weeks people are arriving at the last minute, which is not good.

(iv) Generally speaking, I shall not be available after the 9:00am Sunday Mass because of the need to travel to Saint Oswald's Church and ensure that all is in order for the 11:00am Mass. The Parish Room remains closed for gatherings at the present time, as is the case for The Leonard Rooms at Saint Oswald's Church. Those hiring The Leonard Rooms are obliged to adhere to Risk Assessments and Diocesan guidance as part of lettings. Again, I am grateful to Barbara Davis for all the work she did in making the site Covid-safe, and to Kathryn Garden for continuing to ensure that groups accept the guidelines for Health and Safety. There is a steady return of groups, generating badly needed income, and all are happy with the arrangements. But all of this takes time to facilitate.

Finally, I have been in contact with our Pastoral Area Co-Ordinator, Father Chris Whelan, on the new arrangements and the reasons for them. He is happy with the way I am moving and will be updating Bishop Philip, as the Diocese is asking churches to move forward as safely as possible within their own particular circumstances. *Father Patrick*

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WHAT IS A SYNOD?

A Synod is succinctly defined by John Hardon, SJ, in his Modern Catholic Dictionary thus: An assembly of ecclesiastics, not necessarily all bishops, gathered together under ecclesiastical authority to discuss and decide on matters pertaining to doctrine, discipline or liturgy under their jurisdiction.

Pope Francis has made it clear that a Synod is more than a Parliament when criticising the nature of debate at the Synod on the Amazon in 2019. He said of the exchanges on the possible ordination of married men to the priesthood to address the shortage of priests in the Amazon that there was no "discernment" involved and that it ended up in "reducing the Synodal Hall into dialectical and antagonistic positions that do not help in any way the mission of the church ...".

However, he is committed to a responsible process of synodal development throughout the Catholic Church, involving widespread consultation of religious and laity alongside bishops and clergy.

Recently the Vatican published the Preparatory Document for the 2023 Synod, which is already generating considerable debate and certain tensions in Local Churches, some questioning the process already.

The path, entitled 'For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission' opens solemnly on 9th-10th October 2021 in Rome, and on the 17th October in each Local Church across the world. This will conclude with the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in October 2023, after worldwide consultation and debate, followed by the implementation phase for the Church as a whole. Bishop Philip celebrates a Mass for our involvement as a Diocese on 17th October, with other initiatives to follow.

Pope Francis sees this development of a Synodal Church as directly linked to the teaching of the Second Vatican Council. He states that "it is precisely this path of synodality

which God expects of the Church of the Third Millennium"; of a Church living in communion as one, participating as one, opening to mission as one. It is a journey together which should effectively manifest the nature of the Church as the pilgrim and missionary people of God. Interesting times ahead! Let us pray that through the discernment of The Holy Spirit all will follow Jesus to the Father in the journey, avoiding "dialectical and antagonistic positions that do not help in any way the mission of the Church"

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THANK YOU FOR THE DAY!

The Secular Clergy Common Fund, for which Father Patrick is the Portsmouth Administrator, assists retired and sick priests in the Dioceses of Arundel and Brighton, Brentwood and Portsmouth and the Archdioceses of Westminster and Southwark. During the lockdowns Portsmouth priests greatly appreciated the availability and assistance of Father Patrick as necessary, as was the case for the other Administrators. From March 2020 to September 2021 meetings of the Administrators with HSBC, which manages the Fund's portfolio, continued, using modern technology, especially as the Fund is responsible for running two Catholic cemeteries in London. Sadly during the lockdowns a man was brutally murdered in one of these. An interesting time!

On Thursday 16th September, for the first time since March 2020, the Fund held its AGM publicly at the Overseas League Club in London, followed by the traditional Dinner. About 40 priests attended, including Father Kevin O'Brien, former Parish Priest in Tadley and now based in Thatcham.

The AGM went well, with members discussing the work of the Administrators in managing a charitable body committed to helping its members financially, respecting ethical and moral norms in the selection of organisations for its healthy portfolio - restrictions on contraceptive and abortifacient providers, on tobacco and arms providers and, increasingly, the area of climate change

The Dinner which followed had a terrific 'buzz' and there was no desire to leave early by many. O Roma Felix (O happy Rome), the hymn in honour of the Apostles Peter and Paul, following the prayer for the Pope, was sung with gusto at the beginning and the Loyal Toast to the Queen rang out across the spacious and well ventilated India Room at the end. Remembrance of times past in the new normality!

Should any parishioner wish to contribute to the Fund please contact Father Patrick .

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BASINGSTOKE FOODBANK APPEAL

Paula Vallance, Operations and Development Manager, writes:

"Is there anyone in your church who might be interested in any of these roles? If they want more info - just ask them to email

paulavallance@basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk

We are looking for a handful of volunteers for the following roles:

- 1) driving - this could be just once a week to deliver fresh and non-perishable boxes/crates of food in our little van from the Tempus store to a centre. Mostly either a 9.15am start to get the food to a centre by 9.30/45 or late morning to our 2 afternoon centres.
- 2) delivering to clients (own car usually) - each afternoon from about 2.30pm we still deliver to 1 or 2 clients' homes if they genuinely can't get to a centre for various reasons
- 3) sorting & checking harvest donations in the Tempus Building main store. We're looking to add 1, or 2 people to all of our morning and afternoon teams until the end of the year. They volunteer from, 9.30am - 12.30 or 12.30 - 3pm
- 4) Although we're fairly well supplied with volunteers working with our clients in our 6 centres, from time to time we do look for new members - again, please get in touch if interested. Thanks"

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LUCKY ME

The Basingstoke Council of the Knights of St Columba will be running this Draw from December 2021 to November 2022.

Parishioners will recall that application forms were available in the past to support charities, alongside monthly prizes of £25.00, and a Grand Draw for those making donations.

Father Patrick has forms for those who might require them. Also, Roy Singh of the Knights can provide ones if requested.

During the pandemic the Knights donated £100.00 to our churches in Tadley and Burghfield Common to support Children's Liturgy. Father Patrick has used this to provide regular sheets from Redemptorist Publications to youngsters attending our churches, to their great delight and helping their faith. Again, thanks to our local Knights.

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SMILE - JESUS LOVES YOU!

The Memorial Mass for Peggy Gregory last Sunday at Saint Oswald's Church went very well, with a good attendance by members of her family and friends. As usual, the liturgical music by Rick Wallis was first-class, integrating the Sunday Mass with prayer for Peggy's soul as one.

The Gospel of the Sunday explained the importance of us becoming spiritually like children, allowing ourselves to be enfolded by the arms of Christ, trusting as He did in the Father to the exclusion of all else. Before the Liturgy commenced, the Lord provided one of those moments of the Gospel message coming alive in our time and our place. Rick's granddaughter, young child that she is, was on a mission for Jesus!

As people entered the Church she began placing stickers of a smiling face with the words "Smile - Jesus loves you" on the surprised recipients. Father Patrick had already had his 'stuck' on him, which he wore all day. One could see the smiles on the faces of Peggy's mourners and others. Magic!

CAFOD UPDATES

There will be a short appeal at the end of both our weekend Masses for support of the voluntary Autumn Fast Day on 1st October.

Jo Lewry of Portsmouth CAFOD writes,

"Many thanks to Anne Reilly our parish volunteer at St Michael's Tadley for organising a meeting with Kit Malthouse MP for North West Hampshire as part of our Parliament in Your Parish campaign. Thank you to all those who attended the meeting and shared their concerns about the climate crisis and debt cancellation for the poorest countries.

Anne told me " Kit was very enthusiastic in regards to reducing the impact of climate change, and wished more people wanted to do their bit more willingly, rather than through gritted teeth. He shared how he has been doing his bit personally, locally and nationally to help combat climate change, but also went away with a few ideas to explore as to how he can make more of a difference within our constituency."

It would be great to have more meetings booked with MPs in the run up to COP26 in November so please do contact me at portsmouth@cafod.org.uk if you are interested in meeting with your MP."

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THIS IS THE WORD OF THE LORD!

The Year of the Word, extended by our Bishops, ends on 30th September, the Memorial of Saint Jerome, responsible for The Vulgate version of the Bible, written in Latin, the ordinary tongue of the Roman World at the time.

One of the graces of the lockdown for Father Patrick, alongside the extension of this year, was the opportunity to take more time to pray, particularly the Psalms, and to 'feed' slowly on the Old and New Testaments - to 'chew' over them as spiritual food.

We should never forget that the Psalms of Israel were the prayers of Jesus, embracing joy and sorrow, peace and division, life and death, good and evil.

As things ease, Deo Gratias, the lockdown time is fast fading, as more and more things invade the day and night. But 'thank you' for the days, Lord, of The Year of The Word!

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FINAL GARDENING SATURDAY IN TADLEY

This is on Saturday 2nd October, before the winter weather arrives. Our small group of volunteers, let by Brenda O'Donovan, deserve our thanks for all that has been done to keep our Tadley site so welcoming over the last weeks.

The session is from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Contact Brenda or Father Patrick if you wish to volunteer for 2022.

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