

Dear all,

**Time to get ready - Advent beckons!**

This weekend we enter into the last week of the present Church Year. Advent begins on the weekend of 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> December with the Year of Mark. It is a very short Advent this December - just over three weeks. The following times of prayer are offered to parishioners, enabling us to prepare in more depth for the two Comings of Christ:

- **Saturday 9th December 10.00am- 11.00am**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & reflections on the Second Coming of Christ at the end of time.

- **Saturday 16th December 10.00am – 11.00am**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & reflections on the First Coming of Christ at Christmas.

**Both are in St. Michael's Church, with an opportunity for Reconciliation afterwards until 11.30am.**

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Parishioners are asked to book by telephone before Friday 8th December and Friday 15th December if they wish to avail themselves of the Reconciliation times after Adoration on those Saturdays to ensure my availability in respect of numbers. Please do so through the Parish Office leaving a telephone message if necessary.

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**This Weekend's Mass arrangements:**

Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> November:	6.00pm at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> November:	9.00am at St. Michael's Church
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> November:	11.00am at St. Oswald's Church

**ATTENTION - St. Oswald's Parishioners:**

The heating is now working again & continues to be monitored.

**Mass is therefore currently scheduled to go ahead as normal this Sunday.**

**NOTE: Dan will send out an e-mail alert if anything changes.**

**Forthcoming weekday Masses:**

- **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November** - 11.00am at St. Michael's Church:  
The Feast of Saint Andrew, Patron of Scotland.
- **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December** - 11.00am at St. Michael's Church:  
The Patronal Solemnity of Mary Conceived Without Sin, called the Immaculate Conception.  
NOTE: This Friday is not a day of abstinence from meat as it is a Solemnity.

**Mass for Carmel Harding, RIP:**

Carmel was well known by the Tadley community in past years, sadly dying during the coronavirus epidemic in Winchester. Her daughter Elaine has requested a Mass for her soul on the First Sunday of Advent in St. Michael's church at 9:00 AM. It would have been her 80th birthday if she was still with us on 5th December this year. It was a delight to speak with Elaine recently, who will be attending the Mass, and it will be good to remember Carmel. May she rest in peace.

**No Baptisms until 2024:**

Please note that Advent, as Lent, is not a time for Baptisms, excepting emergencies. There will be no Baptisms until February 2024. At least a month's notice is required for Baptisms.

**Parish Office closure:**

in the coming week, please leave telephone messages on Tuesday and Wednesday, which I shall address when available as the Office will be closed and emails will not be addressed until Thursday.

To be straightforward, in common with other Parishes, Dan and I are struggling to keep up with the increasing demands associated with Parish and Diocesan matters.

Dan's six month probationary assessment is urgently required by the Diocese so that his appointment as part-time Administrator is made permanent, involving a comprehensive interview with him, as his line-manager, and completion by us both of the Diocesan forms.

Financial overhaul of Gift Aid forms is also necessary because of the new charitable status of the Diocese, and I also have an important meeting with the Reverend Karen West, the new Anglican Minister for Silchester

**Christmas stall with cards and gift items in aid of Action for Children:**

At Silchester Methodist hall from 10:00 AM till noon on Saturday 2nd December. Tea coffee, cake and mince pies are available. Full details on the poster in St. Michael's Church.

**Lucky Me Draw forms:**

The forms for the draws from December 2023 to November 2024 are available in St. Michael's Church. These Draws support various charities throughout that time, and also the work of the Knights of Saint Columba (Council 169, Basingstoke). Please speak to Roy Singh for further information.

**Missio calendars:**

The calendars for 2024 are available, free of charge, in both Churches.

**CTAT Tadley Christmas Angels are back!:**

They will be on display in Tadley Common Methodist Church on Friday December 8<sup>th</sup> (3:00 PM- 7:30 PM) & Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup> (10:30 AM- 4:30 PM). Full details on the poster in St. Michael's Church.

**Treasurer – Basingstoke Foodbank**

The Foodbank writes:

Following many years of faithful and excellent service, Pat Murphy, our Treasurer is stepping down. This creates a big hole in the Foodbank's operations and we are therefore seeking a suitable replacement.

This is a voluntary role for our Christian charity and would suit someone who shares our Christian beliefs and values who also has accounting experience who is perhaps no longer employed full time, but would be willing to take on this vital role in helping to support some of the neediest people in our town. We have recently taken on 2 volunteers to help the Treasurer with the various activities required, so the Treasurer will have support from a small team.

Pat has given a long period of notice and will be able to coach the successful applicant into the role over a period of months.

**Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested in this role.**

### **Salvation Army – Christmas Present Appeal 2023**

Last year, the Salvation Army distributed more than 76,000 gifts! This year, the number of families requesting help is expected to rise as a result of the cost of living crisis. You can help us spread the joy of Christmas to families whose children would otherwise not receive a gift.

Please support our local appeal by donating new, unwrapped toys and gifts for children who might not otherwise receive a Christmas present. The gifts will then be wrapped and distributed to those in need. Donations accepted at Tadley Salvation Army up to 17<sup>th</sup> December:

Mullfords Hill, Tadley, RG26 3LJ - Phone: 0118 9815013

### **Organist wanted!**

Francis Brookes has put out an appeal for an organist who'd be willing to deputise for him on Christmas Day, 10:00am Mass, at Holy Trinity Anglo Catholic Church in Oxford Road, Reading. They would of course be remunerated for leading the music. Please contact the Parish Office if interested for more details.

### **Right To Life – Northern Ireland appeal**

The pro-life advocacy charity, Right To Life, has asked us to publicise this appeal:

The Northern Ireland Department of Education (DofE) has launched a consultation on the circumstances under which parents may opt their child out of being taught about abortion.

This consultation is an opportunity to make your voice heard by calling on the DofE to ensure parents can exempt their children and make it clear that schools should not be forced to teach about abortion.

It's also vital for the rest of the country that parents in NI can exempt children from such teaching, as abortion campaigners would likely use any precedent set in NI to put pressure on other areas of the UK to follow suit.

Click on the link below to make a submission:

[Respond to the NI consultation on teaching abortion in schools \(righttolife.org.uk\)](https://righttolife.org.uk/consultation)

### **Caritas Portsmouth – Pope Francis at COP28**

COP28 is rapidly approaching (30 Nov – 12 Dec). In [Laudate Deum](#), Pope Francis describes how some of the big changes we need to happen to slow the rate of climate change must come from the actions of governments. Let us pray for those leaders, that they can listen to those already affected by climate change and have courage to act. Visit our website <https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk> for links to prayer resources.

Please keep Pope Francis in your prayers as he travels to address the participants at COP28 in a speech on Saturday 2nd December.

### **CAFOD World Gifts: Give a gift of hope this Christmas:**

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 Church. World Gifts such as "super soup kitchens", "trees for life", or "water for a family" will help transform lives in a world filled with challenges.

### **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/>

### **Diocesan Vacancies**

Schools Estates Manager - Please note there is no closing date on this role.

IT Technician, Portsmouth – Closing date 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Interim Finance Assistant, St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs – Closing date 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023

For these & other vacancies visit: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs/>

Enjoy your weekend,

Father Patrick.

**Fr. Patrick Tansey**

**Parish Priest**

St Michael's Church, Tadley

St Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

Tel: 0118 981 4572

Email: [tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through his Church**

**Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth**

**A registered charity number 1199568**

**Registered office: Diocesan Office, St Edmund House, Bishop Crispian Way, Portsmouth PO1 3QA**

**[www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)**