

Dear all

St Oswald's Church remains closed until repair of the boiler is completed and it is authorised for use.

Reintroducing Communion Under Both Kinds

The English and Welsh Bishops have given permissive authorisation for the reception of Holy Communion under the appearances of bread and wine from Holy Thursday Mass of The Lord's Supper on 6th April. The giving of the Blood of The Lord was stopped during the fast spread of coronavirus, to prevent it becoming a source of infection if contaminated by recipients with the virus.

Permissive legislation leaves the decision when to reintroduce the chalice within the discretion of the priest, taking into account proper preparation of a community, safe practice, the availability of lay ministers and understanding of any concerns that are expressed. One should not forget that the virus is still with us.

As Bishop John Sherrington, auxiliary bishop of Westminster, states in a letter to priests of the Archdiocese "important teaching, such as the totality of the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of the Lord received in either or both species, the personal disposition of those receiving Holy Communion and the reverence offered to the Blessed Sacrament should be included" in preparatory teaching.

At our meeting of Pastoral Area priests in Basingstoke on 17th March, it was decided that there needs to be proper preparation and that we shall delay the reintroduction until Corpus Christi (The Body and Blood of Christ) on 11th June.

Parish Confession Time

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered in the Parish Room at St Michael's Church this Saturday, 25th March, from 11:00am - 12:30pm.

Stations of The Cross and Mass

Taking place at St Michael's Church: Stations at 7:00pm and Mass at 7:30pm next Friday, 31st March.

Holy Week and Easter Service Times

Palm Sunday - 2nd April

6:00pm Vigil Mass - Saturday 1st April - St Michael's Church, Tadley

9:00am Mass - St Michael's Church, Tadley

11:00am Mass - St Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common, if open.

Chrism Mass - Tuesday 4th April

This is celebrated at Portsmouth Cathedral at 11:00am on Tuesday 4th April and is open to all who wish to attend. Priests and deacons renew their Ordination commitments and the Sacred Oils are blessed for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Anointing of the Sick. I will not be available in the parish that day.

The Sacred Triduum

All are encouraged to attend this as one single liturgical celebration:

Maundy Thursday - 6th April: Evening Mass of The Lord's Supper at 7:30pm, followed by Watching before the Blessed Sacrament at St Michael's Church, Tadley, until 10:30pm.

Good Friday - 7th April: Celebration of The Lord's Passion at 3:00pm in St Michael's Church, Tadley. This is a day of Fast and Abstinence.

The Easter Vigil - Saturday 8th April: The lighting of the Easter Candle leading into the First Mass of Easter at 9:00pm at St Michael's Church, Tadley.

Easter Day - Sunday 9th April

9:00am Mass - St Michael's Church, Tadley

11:00am Mass - St Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

Fr Patrick would appreciate a lift to and from St Oswald's Church on Easter Sunday as he will have celebrated the 9:00pm Easter Vigil and the morning Mass at Tadley and will be somewhat tired. Any offers gratefully received.

Silchester Palm Sunday Service

On Sunday 2nd April, gather in the Village Hall car park for a 9.30 departure to walk to, enter and through the Roman City with stops at stations along the way for readings, hymns and prayers. The procession will be led as usual by a donkey although unfortunately we will not have an escort of Roman soldiers this year. The aim is to gather in the amphitheatre for an open-air service which should start at 10.30am, so we pray for kind weather! Please join us for the walk and/or the service, dogs and children welcome!

CTAT Good Friday Service

This will take place at St Mary's Church at 10:30am on Friday 7th April. I hope to see many of you there.

Good Friday Witness - Silchester

Also on Good Friday, 7th April, the Silchester act of witness with the Three Crosses will be at 9.30am outside the Methodist Church and everybody is invited to join.

Basingstoke Foodbank

St Michael's Church parishioners' food donations to the Basingstoke Foodbank during 2022 amounted to 100.36kgs, equal to 214 meals. A big thank you for the support you give to local people in crisis, it is very much appreciated. Full details on the poster in St Michael's church.

West Berks Foodbank

If you're worried about money and struggling to afford essentials, please call their helpline for personalised support. This is a freephone service open Monday to Friday 9am-5pm (closed on public holidays). Please note the new number: 0808 208 2138.

Lucky Me Winner

The winner of the Knights of St. Columba "Lucky Me" Draw for March was Wendy Burns of Bramley. Congratulations Wendy!

Clocks Change on Sunday

Don't forget, the clocks go forward one hour at 1am on Sunday. There may still be a chill in the air, but time to celebrate the start of British Summer Time!

Father Patrick