

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 Mary Lee on 0118 9813221 during November or Bill Reilly on 0118 9813784 during December.

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

28th November 2021

A PUBLICATION OF PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE TRUST REGISTERED CHARITY NO 246871

Tadley, Kingsclere and Burghfield Common Masses

6:00 pm	Saturday Vigil Mass	Tadley
9:00 am	Sunday Parish Mass	Tadley
11:00am	Sunday Parish Mass	Burghfield Common

Weekday Masses:

Thurs 2 Dec	12 noon	Advent Mass	Tadley
Tues 7 Dec	12 noon	St Ambrose of Milan (Memorial)	Tadley
Wed 15 Dec	12 noon	Advent Mass	Tadley

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

--- + ---

First Sunday of Advent – Year C

Entrance Antiphon: To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

Responsorial Psalm: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

Next Sunday's Reading (Second Sunday of Advent, Year C)

Baruch 5:1-9. Philipians 1:3-6. 8-11. Luke 3:1-6

--- + ---

Special Collection

This will take place this weekend for LEPRA, as advertised in our last Newsletter.

Mass Attendance on 20th/21st November 2021

Tadley 6:00pm: 30 Tadley 9:00am: 31
Burghfield Common 11:00am: 20

--- + ---

THE GIFT OF THE SUNDAY EUCHARIST REVISITED

At their recent meeting in Leeds, the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales once again addressed the possible restoration of the Sunday Obligation, whereby Catholics are obliged to attend Sunday Mass each weekend under pain of serious sin if they do not, unless there is a good reason they are unable to do so.

It is important that we read Papal and Episcopal Statements with care (and prayer), discerning clearly that which is being said by a Pope or our Bishops. I was more than a little concerned that some people had assumed that the obligation would be restored at the beginning of Advent

for England and Wales, following the previous statement of our Bishops on this matter. In fact, they had clearly stated "... it is hoped that it will be possible" to restore the obligation at Advent 2021.

Their Leeds statement of 18th November this year makes it clear that they do not consider it appropriate to restore the obligation at present. They state:

"At this time we recognise for some people there may be certain factors which hinder attendance at Sunday Mass. The pandemic is clearly not over. The risk of infection is still present. For some, there is legitimate fear in gathering together. As your bishops, we recognise that these prevailing circumstances suggest that not everyone is yet in the position to fulfil the absolute duty to attend freely Sunday Mass."

It is a statement not only prudent in the continuing pandemic situation, but also one of admirable pastoral concern for their "sheep", recognising the fear and worry of many Catholics and the continuing need to ensure that Covid protocols are maintained for the safety and reassurance of those who are attending.

However, they also state:

"We now encourage all Catholics to look again at the patterns which they have formed in recent months with regard to going to Mass on Sundays. This would include consideration and reflection about what we might do on Sundays, such as sports or shopping, or other leisure and social activities. This review, and the decisions which arise from it, fall to every Catholic and we trust this will be done with honesty, motivated by a real love of the Lord whom we encounter in the Mass".

Advent is a good time to heed this encouragement, to examine our understanding of the importance of the Mass, whether we are attending at present or unable to do so - or whether we have merely decided that it is nice not to be obliged to attend, enabling a leisurely weekend of shopping, or sports activities, or relaxed Sunday lunches. To ask: "Do I recognise Sunday Mass as the central action of the weekend, the 'source and summit' of my spiritual and pastoral life? Or is it an optional extra, which many Catholics now seem to believe, which has to fit into my personal schedule?"

Strictly speaking, there should be no need for the Sunday Obligation if the Mass is properly understood by Catholics. The Obligation is there, when prudently in force, to remind us that this is what we do on Sunday, before all other activities, because without it we are in danger of drifting away from Christ. That we have decided that if Mass is available, at whatever inconvenient time, it comes first. Why? Because during it we receive Christ in His Word and are nourished by His Body and Blood. And to say it is merely optional if we attend is to say to Christ that His Saving Word and Precious Body and Blood are only optional extras in our lives on the weekly day of His Resurrection.

When He comes again at the end of time, we may find Him asking if we think Resurrection is an optional extra as He judges our past life! I hope not! *Father Patrick*

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND RECONCILIATION

On Saturdays 4th and 18th December there will be Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament in Saint Michael's Church from 10:00am to 11:00am. During these times Father Patrick will be available in the Parish Room for any who wish to receive The Sacrament of Reconciliation.

This room was approved by our previous Diocesan Health & Safety Officer as complying with guidance for the Sacrament during the pandemic. Each penitent will be required to sanitise their area so that is available for the person who follows. It will be face to face Confession.

---- + ----

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve - Friday 24th December

6.00pm Vigil Mass for Christmas Tadley

There will be no midnight Mass for Christmas this year

Christmas Day - Saturday 25th December

9.00am Nativity of The Lord Tadley

11.00am Nativity of The Lord Burghfield Common

No Saturday evening Mass

Feast of the Holy Family - Sunday 26th December

9.00am Mass Tadley

11.00am Mass Burghfield Common

We expect that some Covid restrictions may continue in force, so you must let us know if you intend to be at any of these Christmas Masses so that numbers can be assessed. This can be done by phone or email to the parish office, giving details of which Mass you would like to attend, number of people and contact details. Please also indicate if you require to socially distance at Mass. You may be asked to transfer to another Mass if a list is full.

Please arrive 10-15 minutes before Mass times. Face coverings are still requested for those attending Mass, unless exempt for medical reasons, hands should be sanitized on entrance and at departure. A steward will be present to make sure we all remain safe. We shall update you on any changes to the pandemic situation that may have an impact upon us towards Christmas.

Our Church benches will require sanitisation after all the Christmas Masses to facilitate the Masses for the Sunday (Boxing Day).

---- + ----

BOXING DAY LIFT

Father Patrick would appreciate a lift from the 9:00am Mass on Sunday 26th December (Boxing Day) at Tadley to the 11:00am Mass at Burghfield Common, with a return lift to Tadley afterwards.

Any volunteers, let him know, otherwise he will book taxis. He knows he will be tired and will be rushing, which is not conducive to safe driving.

WEDNESDAY PRAYER IN ADVENT

The Dominican Sisters are launching a new initiative this Advent, to mark the Year of the Eucharist, called Wednesday Communion. The weekly online meeting with the sisters will consist of:

A time of shared Lectio Divina on the first reading of the coming Sunday (especially helpful for readers!),

A time of fellowship, getting to know each other and share our stories,

A time of intercession for each other, for the Church and for the world

A time of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament through the sisters' livestream in their chapel.

We hope that you'll take this opportunity to join us whenever you can on Wednesday. We hope this will be a precious time of fellowship and prayer, in communion with Jesus present in his Word and Sacrament.

Find out more and register here: <https://www.pffm.org.uk/wednesday-communion>

---- + ----

CTAT LIVING WITH LOSS CAFÉ

CTAT has just reopened the Living With Loss Café, held each month on the SECOND MONDAY 10.30am - noon and FOURTH THURSDAY 2.30pm - 4pm at Tadley Common Methodist Church Newchurch Road, Tadley.

This is a free social group for those who have been bereaved (which is all of us in some way!) tea, coffee, cake and good company ALL WELCOME!

One of our CTAT Church leaders hopes to be present at each one for prayer and/or support.

For more details please contact Revd Dr Ruth Midcalf e-mail: ruth.midcalf@methodist.org.uk Tel: 0118 970 0139 OR Mrs Barbara Rayner Tel: 0118 981 6762

---- + ----

NEW WEBSITE FOR CARITAS

CARITAS Portsmouth has developed a new website and this has now gone live. There is lots of information about the CARITAS projects, news and events and information about how people can get involved. Please follow the link [Caritas Portsmouth](#)

---- + ----

CLEAN UP FOR CHRISTMAS!

The pre-Christmas clean at St. Michael's will take place on Tuesday 14th December between 10am and 12 noon. All offers of help are very welcome. Please contact Tina on 07738-282-574 or tina@vanewyk.co.uk

This is for the pre-Christmas deep clean, not the usual cleans between Masses, which will of course be done.

---- + ----

DECORATING SAINT OSWALD'S CHURCH

As Christmas is fast approaching it would be great if we can get parishioners to help decorate our church.

Aggie and Mary spend a lot of time doing the flowers so

it would be lovely to help them. They do a fantastic job, thanks ladies.

The plan is to decorate the Church on Sunday 19th (after Mass) or Monday 20th (afternoon/evening). We would appreciate volunteers and the day will be decided depending on numbers of volunteers! Please contact Ellen Goodall on 0118 983 3332 if you can help.

---- + ----

BASINGSTOKE FOODBANK

Geoff and Gina Poulter write "Christmas is traditionally a time of giving so perhaps we could spare a thought for those who will be struggling at this time even to feed their families. There will be a box in the porch at church as from this weekend for donations of foodstuff and basic toiletries. This will be emptied weekly and taken to the Foodbank. Thank you in advance for your support."

---- + ----

YORK NATIVITY PLAY

The village of Aldermaston has put on a Nativity Play in the parish church of St Mary the Virgin every year since 1957. The play is an adaptation of 8 or 9 plays from the 400 year old York Mystery Cycle plays that tell the story of the first Christmas. Performances are on 2nd and 3rd December at 8:00pm and on 4th and 5th December at 7:00pm. Each performance lasts 90 minutes and it is requested that face coverings are worn. Tickets are free but limited to the space available. They are available online at: <http://aldermastonnativity.co.uk> by email: tickets@aldermastonnativity.co.uk or to R. Mills, The Pottery, The Street, Aldermaston RG7 4LW

---- + ----

HOPE FOR AFRICA'S CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Jo Mellor writes, "Back by popular demand, Hospice Africa UK's Christmas quiz, 'A Merry Little Quizmas'. The quiz will be held during our Big Christmas Give campaign week on Sunday 5 December 2021 at 7pm via Zoom, meaning all donations will be doubled and your money will help twice as many patients.

Please join us for a fantastic evening of fun and merriment hosted by quizmaster extraordinaire John Nelson. Please send your team name to hospiceafrica.uk@gmail.com and we will send you the zoom link.

£10 entry donation per team. Please donate via our Big Christmas Give webpage during the campaign week 30 November - 7 December so we can double your donation. There will also be a raffle and auction held on the night, if you have any prizes that you can donate please let us know."

---- + ----

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Sacred Heart Church Hook are inviting you to a Christmas Bazaar on the 4th December between 10-2pm. Do come along for some mince pies, mulled wine and see what wonderful Christmas gifts you can find in our gifts stall. Bring the kids and meet with Santa and grab a lucky dip toy - join us for some Christmas cheer. Hope to see you there!!