Parish of St. Michael, Tadley and St. Oswald, Burghfield Common

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MASS TIMETABLE

Day	Date	Feria, Memorial (M), Feast (F), Solemnity (S)	Time	Church	Mass Intention
Sat	28th Nov	1st Sunday of Advent - Vigil	6.00pm	St. Michael's	
Sun	29th Nov	1st Sunday of Advent	9.00am	St. Michael's	Louise Butler RIP
			11.00am	St. Oswald's	John Gomes RIP
Mon	30th Nov	NO MASS			
Tues	1st Dec	St. Edmund Campion (M)	12 Noon	St. Oswald's	Amy Bartholomew
Weds	2nd Dec	1st Week of Advent	9.30am	St. Michael's	Mgr Canon Martin Lee RIP - Anniversary of Ordination
Thurs	3rd Dec	St. Francis Xavier (M)	9.30am	St. Michael's	Marc Mildenhall RIP
Fri	4th Dec	1st Week of Advent	7.00pm	St. Michael's	
Sat	5th Dec	2nd Sunday of Advent - Vigil	6.00pm	St. Michael's	Deceased members of the Armshaw & Blakes families
Sun	6th Dec	2nd Sunday of Advent	9.00am	St. Michael's	Gina Poulter RIP
			11.00am	St. Oswald's	

Children's Liturgy at St. Michael's will take place at the 9.00am Mass this Sunday 29th November.
Weekday Masses preceded by 30 mins of Eucharistic Adoration and Rosary after Mass.
Confessions: Before Weekday Masses, Saturdays at St. Michael's 11.00am - 12 Noon, or by appointment.
Mass Intentions: If you would like a Mass Intention, please contact Dan in the Parish Office.

Christmas Mass schedule
Our Christmas Mass schedule can be found on Page 4 of this Newsletter

New Liturgical Year
A reminder that the First Sunday in Advent marks the start of the new Liturgical Year, which will be Year B



This Sunday is the start of Advent, the first season of Church's liturgical year. There are 4 Sundays in Advent that lead us into the celebration of Christmas.
Advent is a Latin term that means: *'to come'.* During Advent, the Church focusses on the 'coming' of Jesus into the world. This includes 2 occasions of his coming:
The First Coming: (Christmas): This was when Jesus came into the world as the **Saviour of the World**. He was born as a baby to Mary in Bethlehem, died on the Cross and rose from the dead. On this first occasion, He came to save us from our sins.
The Second Coming: (Parousia: a Greek term meaning 'presence') – this is when Jesus will come again to the earth in glory on the clouds of Heaven as the King of Kings. On this second occasion he comes as **Judge of the World.**

During the 4 weeks of Advent, the Scripture readings concentrate on the following:
Week 1: Centres attention on the Second Coming of Christ. It considers the Parousia: the end of this world and the triumphant return of Jesus as Universal King and the Final Judgement.
Week 2 and onwards, the focus shifts to the First Coming. This second week John the Baptist takes a central role, he's the voice crying out in the wilderness, *"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths"* The message is one of repentance. For Christ to come into our lives we need to turn away from sin. Advent helps us prepare to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas: that Christ, the Son of God, came into the world to redeem us, so that we may become holy and share in the peace and joy of His eternal divine life.
Week 3 & 4 particularly emphasises a time of imminence: that Jesus' arrival is very close at hand! We must take care and make sure we are always ready for him and avoid being caught 'spiritually' asleep.
Key Advent themes: ***Anticipation*** *(looking forward to);* ***Preparation*** *(getting ready);* ***Watchfulness*** *(being alert, staying 'spiritually' awake through prayer);* ***Judgement*** *(God comes to establish His Kingdom of 'righteousness' to put all things into 'right order', as they were meant to be);* ***Fulfilment*** *and Lasting Peace (Jesus brings us ultimate joy and peace).*

SYCAMORE COURSE

The ninth session of the course takes place at 7.00pm – 9.00pm this Tuesday 1st December in the Parish Room of St. Michael's Church, Tadley, and is entitled:
FINDING TRUE FREEDOM: *Is there such a thing as right and wrong? Where can we find moral guidance? How do you discover your true identity?*
All are welcome to attend.

ADVENT EVENTS

Prayer and Reflection for Advent - St. Joseph's Church, Basingstoke: Sunday 29th Nov., 2pm - 4pm
All parishioners in our Pastoral Area are invited to this event, which will be led by Sr. Issy from the Verbum Dei community, with reflections on MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS, Mark 1: 1-8 (Gospel for the second Sunday of Advent: Proclamation of John the Baptist: Prepare the way) and Psalm 80 (psalm of the first Sunday of Advent: Let your face shine on us, that we may be saved).

Pastoral Area Reconciliation Service, Friday 18th December, 7pm
This Advent, St. Joseph's Church, Basingstoke will host the Pastoral Area Reconciliation Service at 7pm Friday 18th December. Address: 171A St. Michael's Road, Basingstoke, RG22 6TY

'Follow the Star', Live Nativity Trail – Monday 21st December
Details in the CTAT item in this Newsletter

Please join us in

BUILDING A PARISH PRAYER MINISTRY NETWORK

In Psalm 127, we read in verse 1 that *"Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain"*. It is very important that all the work we are undertaking for the renewal of our parish is rooted in prayer, seeking to discern the Lord's will rather than our own. In Matthew 7:7, Jesus says *"Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you".* In order for our pastoral work to become more vibrant, caring and missionary focussed, we need to ensure it is being sustained by intercessory prayer. So, for this reason, I have asked Mary Lee to kindly take on the task of establishing a Parish Prayer Ministry Network.

As we begin Advent, a season which emphasises the importance of prayer, introducing this new pastoral project at this time seems to be very apt. I shall be asking Mary to arrange intercessory prayers for particular initiatives happening in our two church communities here in Tadley and Burghfield Common, like our new Sycamore course and our new Youth Group. We also need to include intercessory prayers for our ongoing journey of amalgamation with the churches of Basingstoke and Hook, as we all become a new wider parish under the title Our Lady, Queen of Peace. There are many intentions to pray for! Parishioners may also wish to ask for prayer for their own specific intentions from time to time and I would ask you to contact Mary in the first instance to co-ordinate that for me, remembering that we need the permission of the individuals concerned when asking for prayer for someone else.

If YOU are willing to join in intercessory prayer for specific parish intentions, please contact Mary Lee on 07821 254100 or email her at maryt.lee@yahoo.co.uk **to register your interest. This is something in which all parishioners can become involved and contribute to the life of the parish!**

There will be a special section in the newsletter every week dedicated to this intercessory prayer ministry. Intentions for the next week will be published in that section and also sent individually to registered participants – if you are not on email, but would like to participate, we can arrange for a hard copy to be printed for you. If you are housebound, this could be delivered to you. People can incorporate the prayer intercessions into their own private daily prayers or pray them with their family or friends or include them in the intercessory prayers in their weekly cell groups or other small groups or join together perhaps in a new online parish intercessory prayer group. Even if there's only one other person willing to join Mary Lee in prayer for the parish, then, let us not forget what Jesus said: *"wherever two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them"* (Matt 18:20). As we all work together to help bring about God's Kingdom here on earth, let us also not forget that without the aid of Jesus we cannot do anything, as He says: *"I am the vine you are the branches, without me you can do nothing."* (John 15:5). **Fr Stephen**

PARISH CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

Christmas Eve - Thursday 24th December
10.00am – 11.00am: Confessions – St. Michael's Church, Tadley
7.30pm: Carol singing – St. Michael's Church, Tadley
8.00pm: Vigil Mass - St. Michael's Church, Tadley

Christmas Day - Friday 25th December
9.00am: Mass – St. Michael's, Tadley
11.00am: Mass – St. Oswald's, Burghfield Common

Boxing Day - Saturday 26th December (Feast of St. Stephen)
10.30am: Mass – St. Michael's, Tadley
6.00pm: Sunday Vigil Mass – St. Michael's Tadley

Sunday - 27th December (Feast of the Holy Family)
9.00am: Mass – St. Michael's, Tadley
11.00am: Mass – St. Oswald's Burghfield Common

Monday - 28th December (Feast of the Holy Innocents)
9.00am: Mass – St. Michael's, Tadley
11.00am: Mass – St. Oswald's Burghfield Common

Friday 1st January (Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God)
11.00am: Mass – St. Michael's Church, Tadley

ON THE WAY: LOOKING TOWARDS THE HORIZON

Advent begins with an invitation to watch, to listen and to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. It is a season of hope, reminding us that God is already at work, even when we cannot yet see where the journey will lead.

There is something of Advent in the journey of our five church communities.

Our Local Mission Plan asks an important question: What kind of parish is Christ calling us to become? Answering it requires more than good intentions. We need to listen, discern and have the courage to look beyond the immediate demands of today.

In early December, our new Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) begins its work. Its purpose is to help Fr John Lee and our clergy look towards the horizon, prayerfully discerning the opportunities, challenges and priorities that will shape our parish over the next three to five years.

The PPC will help hold our shared vision, while the Leadership Team and our ministries help bring it to life. Fr John, as Coordinating Pastor, retains responsibility for pastoral leadership.

But discernment is not reserved for councils or clergy. Every community has experiences, gifts and voices worth hearing.

Bartimaeus reminds us that everything begins by listening for Christ's call.

As Advent begins, perhaps we might ask: What is Christ calling us to notice, to treasure and to prepare for?

Next week: Preparing the Way Together.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

The online donation page for Parish Christmas Collections is now available via the "Give As You Live" website, which can be accessed using the link hereunder:

Parish Christmas Collection



Christmas Day Lunch
There will be fun, games, quiet areas and Christmas Lunch at the Ambrose Allen Centre, Tadley from 11.30am to 4pm. We hope to welcome 50 guests with about 20 volunteers also sharing lunch on Christmas Day and enjoying festive fun together. This is a free event, but advance booking is required. Transport can be provided, subject to volunteers being available to ferry guests. **Improved for this year!** If you have mobility issues and would prefer a lunch to be delivered, there are a small number of home delivery tickets available. These lunches should be delivered between 1pm and 2pm and should be reheated before eating.

Or register online at: https://ctat.churchsuite.com/events/fimvzmlb

'Follow the Star', Live Nativity Trail – Monday 21 December
The performance will begin at 4pm at St Michael's, go on to TCM in Newchurch Road and end at St Mary's Church at 5pm. As well as the actors, there will be live music, real animals in the stable, and mulled wine and mince pies in St Mary's Church Hall. All welcome!
We need volunteers to help: 1) as stewards at St Michael's and then to journey with visitors safely along the Trail; 2) with serving refreshments at St Mary's. Please contact Mary Lee if you can help on 07821 254100 or email: maryt.lee@yahoo.co.uk – thank you!



Tickets for the TCM Panto: Treasure Island
Tickets may be booked online at:
https://www.ticketsource.com/christchurch-players
Performances of Treasure Island will take place at Tadley Common Methodist Church, Newchurch Road, RG26 4HN on Friday 27 November from 7pm – 9.30pm; Saturday 28 November from 5pm – 7.30pm; Friday 4 December from 7pm – 9.30pm; Saturday 5 December from 5pm – 7.30pm. Tickets are £6 for under 12s and £8.50 for all others.

Action for Children Coffee Morning – Saturday 5 December
There will be a coffee morning with a stall of home produce, Christmas cards and gifts at Silchester Methodist Church Hall from 10am – noon to raise funds for the charity, Action for Children. The church is located opposite the Soke Road turning onto Pamber Road, RG7 2NY. All welcome!

Tadley Christmas Craft Market – Saturday 5 December
There will be a Christmas Craft Market at St Paul's Church, The Green, Tadley, RG26 3PB from 11am - 2pm. All welcome!

Farewell Message & Invitations from Revd Chris Knight
Revd Chris Knight, who has served as Assistant Curate at St Mary's Church, Tadley for 3.5 years has sent a farewell message to all the CTAT congregations, thanking us "for being such an inspirational and amazing example of how Christians can all work together across denominations to build God's kingdom and show God's love to the people we serve. The activities and events CTAT put on are varied and numerous, and I have learned so much from them during these formative years. My final service will be on Sunday 29 November, 10am @ St Paul's Church, The Green, RG26 3PB. It would be wonderful to see you there, or at the lunch afterwards, if you can make it.
My new role is as Rector for North Stoneham and Bassett in Southampton. My welcome service will be on 18 January at St Michael's & All Angels Church, SO16 7FD at 7pm. You would be very welcome to attend, or to watch along online: https://www.youtube.com/@NSABparish/streams
Do please pray for me and my family as we make this transition, and as I prepare to serve the people of Southampton from next year in this new capacity. My prayer is that you would continue to know God's blessing on your work as Churches Together for many years to come. "