

Parish of St. Michael, Tadley (with Kingsclere) and St. Oswald, Burghfield Common

Priest-in-Charge: Father Stephen Vooght - Parish Administrator: Dan Wisniewski

Presbytery & Office: Tel. 0118 981 4572 – Email: tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Office hours: Tues, Weds, Thurs, Fri: 9.45am-2.45pm. Closed on Mondays

Website: www.stmandsto.org.uk

MASS TIMETABLE					
Day	Date	Feria, Memorial (M), Feast (F), Solemnity (S)	Time	Church	Mass Intention
Sat	29 th Nov	1 st Sunday of Advent - Vigil Mass	6.00pm	St. Michael's	Michael Cowley RIP
Sun	30 th Nov	1 st Sunday of Advent	9.00am	St. Michael's	Pam Aitken RIP
Sun	30 th Nov	1 st Sunday of Advent	11.00am	St. Oswald's	John Gomes RIP
Mon	1 st Dec	NO MASS			
Tues	2 nd Dec	Advent	12 Noon	St. Oswald's	Amy Bartholomew RIP
Weds	3 rd Dec	St. Francis Xavier (M)	9.30am	St. Michael's	Baby Michael
Thurs	4 th Dec	Advent	9.30am	St. Michael's	
Fri	5 th Dec	1 st Friday of the Month	7.00pm	St. Michael's	
Sat	6 th Dec	1 st Saturday of the Month	9.30am	St. Michael's	
Sat	6 th Dec	2 nd Sunday of Advent – Vigil Mass	6.00pm	St. Michael's	Vince Herbert RIP
Sun	7 th Dec	2 nd Sunday of Advent	9.00am	St. Michael's	Kathleen (Kath) Reilly RIP
Sun	7 th Nov	2 nd Sunday of Advent	11.00am	St. Oswald's	
<i>Weekday Masses are preceded by 30 mins of Eucharistic Adoration. Rosary prayed after each Mass.</i>					
<i>Confessions available before Weekday Masses or by appointment</i>					



Advent (Latin: 'to come') is the first season of the Church's liturgical year. It is four weeks long and focusses on the two occasions of the 'Coming of Jesus' into the world.

First Coming (Christmas) - the coming of Jesus as the **Saviour of the World**, by being born as a baby to Mary in Bethlehem, dying on the Cross & rising from the dead. On this first occasion He came to save us from our sins.

Second Coming (Parousia) - Greek: 'presence' – this is when Jesus will come again to the earth in glory on the clouds of Heaven, as King of Kings and **Judge of the World**. On this second occasion, Jesus will bring an end to this world and carry out the Last Judgement.

During the four weeks of Advent, the Scripture readings concentrate on the following:

Week 1: gives attention to the 'Second Coming'. It considers the Parousia: the end of this world – the triumphant return of Jesus as Universal King and the Final Judgement.

Week 2 concentrates on the 'First Coming'. It helps prepare us to celebrate Christmas. The gospel words of John the Baptist sum up what we are to do: **"Prepare the way for the Lord."**

Week 3 & 4: emphasise a time of imminence: Jesus' arrival is very close at hand! We must take care and ensure we are always ready for Him and avoid being caught 'spiritually' asleep.

New Liturgical Year

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

ADVENT EVENTS

Pastoral Area Reconciliation Service, Friday 19 December

This Advent, St. Joseph's Church, Basingstoke will host the Pastoral Area Reconciliation Service at 7pm Friday 19th December. Address: 171A St. Michael's Road, Basingstoke, RG22 6TY

Live Animal Nativity starting at St. Michael's Church, Monday 22 December

This year's CTAT Nativity experience will start outside our church and journey on to Tadley Common Methodist Church and then on to St Mary's Church from 4pm to 5.30pm. Volunteers to steward the event at our church and then journey with visitors along the route and volunteers to serve refreshments at St Mary's would be greatly appreciated: please let Mary Lee know if you can help, email maryt.lee@yahoo.co.uk

Advent preparation at St. Joseph's, Basingstoke

Advent Taize - Weds 10th & 17th December, 4-5pm: All welcome to a simple service of Taize chants, scripture and periods of silence around the Taize cross.

Afternoon of prayer and reflection - Sat 6th Dec 2-4pm with Adoration at 4-5pm: All are warmly invited to an afternoon of prayer and reflection,. Led by members of the Verbum Dei community. Please consider coming as a great way to prepare spiritually for the season of Christmas.

The "Missing Peace", THIS SATURDAY morning 29 November

10.00am-12.30pm. All are welcome to join in a range of ways designed to help you reflect on what Christmas really means in the peace of Silchester Methodist Church on Silchester Common. Everybody welcome, no need to book. (Anglican, Methodist, Catholic and Community Church event).

Advent Fair, THIS SATURDAY, 29 November

11.30am-3.00pm. Holy Ghost Parish Advent Fair, at St. Bede's Church, Basingstoke

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

Christmas Eve - Wednesday 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 - Thursday 25th December

9.00am: Mass – St. Michael's, Tadley

11.00am: Mass – St. Oswald's, Burghfield Common

Boxing Day – Friday 26th December (Feast of St. Stephen)

10.30am: Mass – St. Michael's, Tadley

Saturday – 27th December

6.00pm: Vigil Mass – St. Michael's, Tadley

Sunday - 28th December (Feast of the Holy Family)

9.00am: Mass – St. Michael's, Tadley

11.00am: Mass – St. Oswald's Burghfield Common

Thursday 1st January (Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God)

11.00am: Mass – St. Michael's Church, Tadley

Basingstoke Hospital

Deacon Tony will be taking Holy Communion to Basingstoke Hospital on Christmas Morning. The hospital will provide him with the names and locations of all of the Catholic patients known to them. If you or a loved one is going into hospital, please make sure that the Chaplaincy Team are notified.

If you are a member of staff who is working on Christmas Day, please contact him by email

adarroch@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk by Monday 22nd December, letting him know where in the hospital you are located & he will do his best to find you.

Christmas Appeal for MacMillan Cancer Research

Over the Christmas period, please kindly consider leaving your empty Quality Street, Celebrations, etc, large sweet/chocolate plastic tubs in the porch area of our Churches for Deacon Tony to collect to be recycled. Proceeds from the recycling are being donated to the MacMillan Cancer research charity. Please ensure any tubs left are stacked neatly & out of the way, so as not to create obstacles & impede parishioners. Thank you!

Appeal for a Volunteer to lead the St. Michael's Cleaning Team

We are looking for someone to take charge of the cleaning at St Michael's. There is a committed band of volunteers who turn out, but we need someone to oversee. The work involves:

- Choosing a date (we have been cleaning monthly) & checking that the church and parish room are free
- Emailing volunteers about cleaning dates
- Handing out jobs as people arrive
- Ordering supplies like soap and towels (and claiming reimbursement) or notifying the parish office of supplies that need to be ordered [Dan, hope this is ok]
- Making sure everyone stops cleaning for tea and biscuits afterwards!

More details, including what is usually cleaned, can be discussed by contacting Tina on tina@vanewyk.co.uk or 07738 282574.

Basingstoke Catholic Men's Group

A new group for Catholic Men will be starting in January. Men of all ages are welcome from 18 upwards. The idea will be that Catholic men can come together to chat about issues that face us, enjoy fellowship and have time to pray. We will also arrange the occasional social night out. Sessions will run on Tuesday evenings at St Bede's Church in Basingstoke. To register your interest please use the QR code or sign up here: <https://forms.gle/ZUSxCHpMsoXuRvG48>



Pope Leo issues new Apostolic Letter *In Unitate Fidei*

Ahead of his Apostolic Journey to Türkiye, Pope Leo XIV issued on Sunday, 23 November, the Solemnity of Christ the King, the Apostolic Letter *In Unitate Fidei* on the 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea. The full Letter, which has the hope of "encouraging the whole Church to renew her enthusiasm for the profession of faith," is broken down into twelve points, and can be read in its entirety by clicking on this [LINK](#). In 2025, the Catholic Church is commemorating the 1,700th anniversary of the First Council of Nicaea, convened in 325 AD by Emperor Constantine I in the city of Nicaea.

CAFOD Webinar - Wednesday, 26th November, 7:00pm

"Pope Leo XIV, the Catholic Church, and CAFOD: A Jubilee Year of Hope for Social Justice"

Join CAFOD Director Dr. Christine Allen, as she reflects on the challenges, joys and achievements of 2025. Christopher Lamb CNN Vatican Correspondent will assess Pope Leo XIV's transformative first six months in office and his vision for social justice. Together, they'll explore what this historic Jubilee year means for Catholic social action and CAFOD's mission across Africa, Asia and Latin America. Register by clicking on this [LINK](#).

Diocesan Vacancies

For current vacancies visit: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/people/careers/>

There are also opportunities in our Diocesan schools:

<https://www.casoportsmouth.org.uk/current-vacancies-2/>

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/>

CHURCHES TOGETHER AROUND TADLEY (CTAT)

Volunteers to help with CTAT Christmas Day Event

To register as a volunteer to help with setting up (Christmas Eve afternoon and/or Christmas Day morning) or offers of transport, or food preparation and/or serving, or organising entertainment or hosting guests at the CTAT Christmas Day Lunch, please complete the online form on the CTAT website at:

<https://ctat.churchsuite.com/events/xf0avmrs>

Guests wishing to book to attend the Christmas Day Event

There will be fun, games, quiet areas and Christmas Lunch at the Ambrose Allen Centre, Tadley from 11.30am to 4pm. This is a free event, but advance booking is required. Transport can be provided, subject to volunteers being available to ferry guests. To book or for more information, please call 07471 848508 or email:

tadleychristmasday@gmail.com or register online at: <https://ctat.churchsuite.com/events/kziuxpi8>

Tickets on sale for the Christchurch Players Panto

The panto this year at Tadley Common Methodist Church, RG26 4HN, will be 'A Christmas Carol' with shows on 28/29 November and 5/6 December. Performances on Fridays start at 7pm and on Saturdays at 5pm. Tickets cost £8.50, Under 12s: £6. To book, call 0333 666 3366 or go to: www.ticketsource.co.uk/christchurch-players

Volunteers to help with packing Foodbank Christmas Hampers

Volunteers are needed to pack the Christmas hampers – this year in a unit on a Basingstoke industrial estate. To find details of items needed for the hampers and volunteering details, please go to the Basingstoke Foodbank website: <https://basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk/support-us/christmas-hamper-project>

Christmas Toy Appeal

CTAT Churches are once again supporting the Salvation Army's Christmas Toy Appeal. In 2024, new toys, wrapping paper and a £25 food voucher were delivered to 650 families across Tadley, Silchester and Newbury. Donations of unwrapped, new toys would be welcomed at the Salvation Army Hall by 12 December at the latest. The Hall is open between 10am and noon on Mon, Wed and Fri. Gifts for teenagers are particularly needed. The Entertainer in Newbury will match donations purchased in store if you tell them it is for the Salvation Army.

Christmas Fairs at CTAT Churches

Silchester Methodist Church Fair in aid of Action for Children on Saturday 6 December, 10am – noon.

St Paul's Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday 6 December, 11am to 2pm.

Festival of Christmas Stars

Please arrange to give any stars you have been making for the Festival of Stars to Tracy Bennnett for them to be tagged with information about CTAT churches before the Festival set up begins on Thursday 11 December.

The Festival will take place from Friday 12 December, 2pm to 7pm, to Saturday 13 December, 10am to 5pm, at Tadley Common Methodist Church, Newchurch Road, RG26 4HN.

Volunteers to help with setting up the Festival on 11/12 December or assisting with refreshments on 12/13 December would be greatly welcomed – please let Mary Lee know if you can help, email:

maryt.lee@yahoo.co.uk

Save the Date: CTAT Live Animal Nativity on Monday 22 December

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