

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	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 Dec	2 nd Sunday of Advent	11.00am	St. Oswald's	
Mon	8 th Dec	Immaculate Conception (S)	10.30am	St. Michael's	
Tues	9 th Dec	Advent	12 Noon	St. Oswald's	
Weds	10 th Dec	St. Swithun Wells (M)	9.30am	St. Michael's	
Thurs	11 th Dec	Advent	9.30am	St. Michael's	
Fri	12 th Dec	Advent	7.00pm	St. Michael's	Maureen Dudgeon-Smith RIP
Sat	13 th Dec	3 rd Sunday of Advent – Vigil Mass	6.00pm	St. Michael's	Wayne Togher RIP
Sun	14 th Dec	3 rd Sunday of Advent	9.00am	St. Michael's	Gina Poulter RIP
Sun	14 th Nov	3 rd 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>					



In the gospel on this second Sunday of Advent, we hear about John the Baptist, the great prophet sent by God to help **prepare the way** for the people of Israel to be ready to receive the Messiah. John Baptist's role was to call people to repentance (from Latin verb '*paenitere*' 'be sorry'). It's a call for us to have a humble and contrite heart, to be sorry for our sins and to turn away from anything that offends God. During Advent, the Church encourages us to make use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation which is a precious gift that cleanses us of sin, restores our friendship with God, and prepares our hearts to receive the Eucharist with reverence and devotion. By regularly going to confession, we not only make ourselves ready for Holy Communion, but we also grow in holiness, allowing God's grace to strengthen us, heal us, and make us more faithful and effective disciples of Christ.

ADVENT EVENTS

NEW! Carols on the Wards at Basingstoke Hospital, Wednesday 17th December

All those who would like to take part are invited to meet at the Chapel in the hospital at 6 pm. Refreshments available afterwards.

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 – THIS SATURDAY 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.

PARISH 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 at:

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.

Maureen (Mo) Dudgeon-Smith R.I.P.

For those parishioners who are not already aware, Mo Dudgeon-Smith died peacefully last Sunday 30th November at St Michael's Hospice, surrounded by her husband Richard and their family.

Please pray for Mo's soul and for Richard, together with their family, that they be comforted at this very sad time.

Mo's Funeral Service details will be announced once they have been arranged.

Father John Tatah - Bamenda

In the bidding prayers last Sunday, parishioners prayed for the release of Father John Tatah who had been taken hostage by the separatist rebels in Bamenda.

We have now been informed that he was released on Tuesday, without harm as far as we know.

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
- 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.

Give As You Live (GAYL) Christmas Donations

Please note that the address for our parish online donation page for GAYL Christmas Collections is as follows:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/tadley-st-michael-and-st-oswald-catholic-parish-christmas-collection-2025>

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!

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>



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.casop Portsmouth.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)

Last call for Christchurch Players Panto TONIGHT Friday 5th December

The final show of 'A Christmas Carol' on Saturday is sold out, but there were 21 tickets still available this morning for tonight's show on Friday 5 December at 7pm – please support the Christchurch Players if you can! The panto takes place at Tadley Common Methodist Church, RG26 4HN. Tickets cost £8.50, Under 12s: £6. To book, call 0333 666 3366 or go to: www.ticketsource.co.uk/christchurch-players

Christmas Day Event

Many thanks to those who have volunteered to help with the Christmas Day event, either in advance with the preparations and set up or on the day itself – it is much appreciated!

As of this morning, Friday 5 December, there were two places remaining for guests for this free event. Advance booking is required. There will be fun, games, quiet areas and Christmas Lunch at the Ambrose Allen Centre, Tadley from 11.30am to 4pm. Transport can be provided within Tadley and Silchester. 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>

Christmas Fairs at CTAT Churches on Saturday 6 December

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

St Paul's Christmas Craft Fair, 11am to 2pm.

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.

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>

Festival of Christmas Stars

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

Live Animal Nativity on Monday 22 December

This year's CTAT Nativity experience will start outside our church at 4pm and journey on to Tadley Common Methodist Church and then on to St Mary's Church, where there will be refreshments, ending at 5.30pm.

Volunteers would be greatly appreciated to:

- steward the event at our church and then journey with visitors along the route
- bake cakes or bring mulled wine and mince pies
- serve refreshments at St Mary's.

Please let Mary Lee know if you can help in any way on 07821 254100 or email maryt.lee@yahoo.co.uk

There will be a planning meeting on Thursday 18 December in St. Mary's Church, Tadley from 7 pm, but even if you can't make the meeting, don't let that stop you from helping! At the meeting, Rev Steve McKay will ensure the actors know what they are doing and have a run-through; walk the route and assign stewards; plan the refreshments and work out what else we need; run through timings.