

This Weekend's Mass arrangements

Saturday 30th November: 6.00pm at St. Michael's Church, Tadley
Sunday 1st December: 9.00am at St. Michael's Church, Tadley
Sunday 1st December: 11.00am at St. Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

First Holy Communion Meeting for parents who have registered their children

Takes place in the Parish Room of St. Michael's at 7.00pm on Thursday 5th December

Father Patrick's availability this week

I am generally not available on Tuesday & Wednesday of the coming week due to: Clergy Day of Prayer for Advent & UCM Anniversary Mass in Windsor. Also, my availability on Thursday will be patchy, due to a CTAT meeting & the initial First Holy Communion meeting for parents.

Advance Notices

- **There will be a Pastoral Letter from Bishop Philip read out at all Masses next weekend**
- **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**
St. Michael's Church on Monday 9th December 11.00am.
- **Advent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (in preparation for the Jubilee Year 2025)**
St. Michael's Church on Saturdays 7th, 14th, 21st December, from 10.30am – 11.30am.
- **Advent Sacrament of Reconciliation**
Available after Adoration on 7th & 14th December at 11.40am – 12 Noon.
- **CTAT Living Nativity – Follow the Star**
This will be held on Thursday 19th December from 4:00 PM till 6:00 PM, beginning at Saint Mary's Church, involving celebrations at Tadley Common Methodist Church, St. Michaels Church and concluding at St. Mary's Church.
- **Children's Nativity at St. Michael's**
After 9.00 Mass on Sunday 22nd December
- **Basingstoke Hospital - Carol Service**
There will be Christmas Carols around the wards at Basingstoke Hospital on Wednesday 18th December, starting at 5:45pm meeting at the Hospital Chapel.
Those wishing to participate please meet Deacon Tony at the Chapel at 5:45pm.
- **No Baptisms during Advent & Christmas**
If you wish to have a Baptism in the New Year, please note that at least one month's notice is required & the date must be agreed with me. Baptisms normally take place on Saturday mornings.

CHRISTMAS MASS ARRANGEMENTS

Christmas Eve (Tuesday 24th Dec.): 8.30pm - Vigil followed by Mass – St. Michael's Church, Tadley
Christmas Day (Wednesday 25th Dec.): 9.00am at St. Michael's Church, Tadley
Christmas Day (Wednesday 25th Dec.): 11.00am at St. Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

Lifts needed

You will appreciate that on Christmas Day I am grateful for a lift from Tadley to Burghfield Common and back to Tadley afterwards. Do let Dan in the Parish Office know as soon as possible if you are able to help.

- **Basingstoke Hospital - Holy Communion on Christmas Day**

Deacon Tony will be taking Holy Communion to patients on Christmas Day between 09:30 and 12:30, together with any staff who are working on Christmas Day.

Staff will need to make him aware of which ward they are working on and he will bring Holy Communion to them. To help with planning, would staff who wish to receive Holy Communion please contact him by Friday 20th December at the latest on adarroch@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Father Patrick's availability during the Christmas period

I shall be taking a break on the following days:

Thursday 26th Dec, Friday 27th Dec, Monday 30th Dec., Tuesday 31st Dec. Wednesday 1st Jan

Dear All,

HAPPY CHURCH NEW YEAR!

On Sunday we begin a new Church Year, during which we reflect on the Gospel of Saint Luke, using the new version of the Lectionary (Scripture Readings of the English Standard Version Catholic Edition and the revised Grail Psalms).

It would be good for our Tadley Masses on Saturday evening and Sunday morning this weekend, if parishioners be in the Church at least 10 minutes before Mass, to enable a solemn Procession of the revised Book of the Gospels to take place at the beginning of Advent, honouring the revised Sacred Scripture translations being introduced this weekend in England and Wales and Scotland. Deacon Tony Darroch will be joining me for the Tadley Masses this weekend, enabling the Procession to flow smoothly. If you arrive as it is starting, please remain in the entrance area of the Church until we reach the Sanctuary.

We begin Advent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - in preparation for the Jubilee Year starting on Christmas Eve - next Saturday, from 10.30 AM to 11.30 AM, continuing at the same time on Saturdays 14th and 21 December. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available after Adoration next Saturday and on the 14th of December, in the Parish Room until 12.00 Noon for those who wish to avail themselves of Confession. As my diary is somewhat crowded over the Advent period, if a different time for the Sacrament is required, please contact the Office & I shall endeavour to be available if possible.

PRAY TADLEY.

I shall be speaking about this outreach by Churches Together Around Tadley (CTAT) at all our Masses this weekend, especially as something similar is being looked at in the Burghfield Common area by local churches there.

PrayTadley is the initiative of the Community Church led by Pastor Pete Hay, supported by the other local Christian traditions. My thanks to Mary Lee, one of our CTAT representatives, for engaging in this and relating it in our two Cell Groups. It will cover 12 sections of Tadley & Baughurst, also involving Pamber Green/Little London & Silchester. The Rev. Chris Knight of Saint Mary's Church is the coordinator for our local area near Saint Michael's Church and I have offered him my support.

LIVING NATIVITY – FOLLOW THE STAR

This will take place from 4.00 PM-6.00 PM, starting at Saint Mary's Church, moving to Tadley Common Methodist Church and then to Saint Michael's Church on Thursday, 19 December. My thanks to Gerry Penfold for volunteering to be a steward for the events and to Pauline Penfold for agreeing to help with refreshments at the end of the events at Saint Mary's Church at 6.00 PM. If people wish to contribute mince pies and mulled wine from our community please let the Parish Office know.

Once again, I appeal for more stewards from our Catholic community and for two parishioners to be Wise Men at Saint Michael's Church. This is an important missionary outreach to our Tadley community, and so it would be good to have the responses to the above, including support for refreshments, by next week. I am having a planning meeting with the Reverend Karen West of our Silchester Anglican church - who is working with me in respect of Saint Michael's Church involvement - on Tuesday 5th December. Let the Office know before then if you can be involved, helping to facilitate this preparation meeting.

CTAT WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The Church Service for our local churches will be on Sunday 26th January 2025 at 3:00 PM in St. Michael's church. Again, stewards will be needed, and refreshments will follow the Service. Any volunteers, please let Dan know by Tuesday 17th December, before he takes his Christmas/New Year Holiday

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

This is being organised by Tadley Common Methodist Church on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th December. All church groups and organisations in Tadley are encouraged to decorate a tree to display for the Festival. Setting up will be Friday 13th December 10.00am- 4.00pm. Our thanks to Sue Tull for preparing a tree on behalf of our Catholic community.

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REMINDER: Las Posadas

Las Posadas is a South American tradition, whereby a statue of the pregnant Mary sitting on a donkey, along with Joseph, make their way towards Bethlehem, looking for a place to stay. We need **9 volunteers** to host the statue and hopefully hold a small service in your home with family, friends and neighbours. Starts on **Monday, 16th December** ending on **Tuesday, 24th December** with the statue returning to the church for the 8.30pm Vigil leading into the Christmas Night Mass at 9.00pm in St. Michael's Church on Christmas Eve.

If you'd like to be involved, or would like more information, please contact Pam Darroch on **07883 059 529** or pdarroch@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk to put yourself forward.

Children's Nativity at St. Michael's

An informal Children's Nativity play is planned for after 9.00AM Sunday Mass on 22nd December for any children who would like to take part within the Parish. A quick run through is planned for after 9.00AM Mass on Sunday 15th December and to give out parts. Everyone welcome. Any questions please message Georgie on 07747494540

Mingle at St Michael's

Apologies from the Archangels Social Group for any inconvenience, but they will not be holding the usual Mingle afternoons in the Parish Room on Wednesdays 4th and 18th December. Dates for January - April 2025 will be published shortly, but they are likely to move to monthly sessions during this period and revert to the usual 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from May.

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CTAT Ladies Breakfast – 14th December, 10.00am

The next CTAT Ladies Breakfast will be on Saturday 14th December, from 10.00am – 12 noon, at the Immanuel Centre, Tadley URC, Main Road, RG26 3NJ. Popular local folk duo, Thistledew, will be performing a selection of Christmas and winter songs to create a festive spirit and raise funds for Basingstoke Foodbank.

CTAT Christmas Day Event

CTAT confirm that this popular FREE event will run again this year at 11.30am on Christmas Day 25th December, with Fun, Food & Games! Venue: The Ambrose Allen Centre, Franklin Avenue, Tadley, RG26 4ER. For bookings & info: 07471 848 508 or tadleychristmasday@gmail.com

NOTE: Spaces are limited. All bookings must be accompanied by a completed Booking Form, attached to the back of this Newsletter or accessed via: [Christmas Day Client Form 2024.pdf](#)

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Advent Day of Reflection

Fr. Chris and the Reading Carmelites invite you to an opportunity to reflect, share and pray together on Saturday, 14th December (10.00 am – 1.00 pm) at St. James' Church, Forbury Road – just 10 minutes' walk from Reading Station. The theme, *Becoming an Advent People*, will hopefully help to deepen our awareness, through engaging brief inputs and sharing, that God is always searching for open hearts and minds. While we eagerly anticipate the celebration of the coming of our God at Christmas, we can also become an Advent People growing spiritually in our commitment to welcome God's continuous approach and desire to live in us and find a space prepared to receive.

Christmas Crib offerings

In the Diocese, our annual Christmas Crib offerings are given alternately one year to the Friends of the Holy Land and one year to the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. This year, 2024, our Christmas Crib offerings will go to the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre (KHS). The KHS is widely believed to date back to 1099 A.D., to the first crusade. For centuries their mission has been to support the Christian community in the Holy Land. Today, made up of 30,000 members from 40 countries, lay people, priests and religious, they financially support Christians in the Middle East, and, above all, pray for them. They fund many works that support the Christians living in the Holy Land, thus ensuring that they survive and that the holy sites are still populated by Christians and do not become museums. The Knights do everything they can to help with practical projects to stabilise Christian communities. The key partner for the KHS in the Holy Land is the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and through the Patriarchate, they fund-raise to maintain schools, formation, charitable and social activities.

The need to help this year is hugely urgent, thanks to the war in the Holy Land. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

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Basingstoke Foodbank - Christmas Collection

Following the message last week from the West Berkshire Foodbank, please see on the next page details for the Basingstoke Foodbank's Christmas Collection. In addition to food items, they also need lots of **Christmas wrapping paper** to wrap the boxes....it doesn't need to be high quality, just good enough to cheer up cardboard boxes. They would also appreciate any **spare boxes** - for small (about a regular printer A4 paper box that usually holds 5 reims), medium and large hampers. Please leave any such items in a neat manner in the entrance lobby of St. Michael's alongside the Foodbank donations box. They are needed now up until the 13th December.

Ending Hunger together across the Basingstoke area

Providing emergency food, household essentials and practical support for those struggling to make ends meet.

Thank you for donating an item or two from the list!

Want to donate the items we need most?

Download the BankTheFood app or check our website for weekly updates



Shopping list

Tea or Coffee
Savoury Snacks
Tinned Meat
Tinned Fish
Tinned Soup
Cooking Sauce
Dried Stuffing Mix
Cake or Yule Log
Christmas Pudding
Tinned Fruit
Jam or Pickle
Box of Biscuits
Custard (Sachets preferred)
Sharing Box of Chocolates

basinstoke.foodbank.org.uk
07722 673645 or 07941 336464

Registered Charity in
England and Wales (1154319)

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/>

Caritas Portsmouth Newsletter:

<https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk/news-events/>

Best wishes to you all & a happy Advent!

Father Patrick.

Fr. Patrick Tansey

Parish Priest

St Michael's Church, Tadley

St Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

Tel: 0118 981 4572

Email: tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through his Church

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

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Registered office: Diocesan Office, St Edmund House, Bishop Crispian Way, Portsmouth PO1 3QA

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Christmas Day Guest Form 2024

We are looking forward to celebrating Christmas Day with many of you! If you would like to join in on our very special Christmas Day Event please sign up as soon as possible as places are always limited! We will do our very best to accommodate everyone's needs but, this is a volunteer event, for safety reasons, we do have to limit numbers! The day runs from around 11:30am to around 4pm and includes a full Christmas Dinner, a visit from Santa, a Christmas sing-song and lots of fun and games, friends and chatter. This is a free event (although we do accept donations for our annual Charity – this year The Basingstoke Night Shelter).

Guest Details:

Name:	
E-mail:	Phone Number(s):
Address:	

Do require transport to and from the Event?	Yes	No
Do you have any dietary needs or allergies (please provide details)?		
Do you have any other special needs we should be aware of (please provide details)		
Where did you hear about the event from?		
Sometimes photographs of the event might be taken & used in publicity. Are you happy to appear in any photos taken?	Yes	No

Emergency Contact if Any: Please provide us with an emergency phone number of a person you would wish us to contact in case of any emergency:
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When completed please return this form asap to: Mark & Julie Ward, 10 Hartleys, Silchester, Berks. RG7 2QE (or Tadley URC) or email: tadleychristmasday@gmail.com or call Mark and Julie on 0747 1848508