

Dear All,

Please see below the arrangements for Christmas Day in the Parish, especially as in this new Church Year of Saint Mark, which starts this weekend, the Mass of Christmas follows immediately after the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

- **Saturday, 23 December**

6.00 PM Vigil Mass - Saint Michael's Church as normal.

- **Sunday 24th December (Christmas Eve)**

10.00 AM One Parish Mass - Saint Michael's Church for both our communities.

This is an opportunity for us all to gather together on Christmas Eve to celebrate The Day of Resurrection and to prepare as one Parish Family for Christmas (The Mass of Christ). I shall be asking our Parish musicians to come together for this special gathering.

7.30 PM Vigil & First Mass of Christmas - Saint Michael's Church.

PLEASE NOTE: There is no Midnight Mass in the Parish.

- **Monday 25th December (Christmas Day)**

9.00 AM Christmas Mass – St. Michael's Church

11.00 AM Christmas Mass – St. Oswald's Church

PLEASE NOTE: There are no other Masses for Christmas Day in our Parish.

Parish lift, please

As you will appreciate, this will be a particularly busy weekend for me. Not only do I need to pace myself health wise but also to pace myself spiritually, so that I am able to celebrate worthily the Masses, allowing the Lord to bless and grace me at this Sacred Time alongside everybody else.

I should be most grateful for a lift after the 9.00 AM Christmas Day Mass at Tadley and a lift back from the 11.00 AM Burghfield Common Mass that day. I have no doubt that I shall be very tired and to be driving one needs to be alert for the safety of others as well as oneself.

Please let me know by Sunday 10th December if you are able to assist with a lift, giving me time to arrange a taxi back and forth if a lift, or lifts, are not available from the Parish. Many thanks!

This Weekend's Mass arrangements:

Saturday 2nd December:

6.00pm at St. Michael's Church

Sunday 3rd December:

9.00am at St. Michael's Church

Sunday 3rd December:

11.00am at St. Oswald's Church

Forthcoming weekday Masses:

Friday 8th December - 11.00am at St. Michael's Church:

The Patronal Solemnity of Mary Conceived Without Sin, called the Immaculate Conception.

NOTE: This Friday is not a day of abstinence from meat as it is a Solemnity.

Advent preparation

- **Saturday 9th December 10.00am - 11.00am**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & reflections on the Second Coming of Christ at the end of time.

- **Saturday 16th December 10.00am – 11.00am**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & reflections on the First Coming of Christ at Christmas.

Both are in St. Michael's Church, with an opportunity for Reconciliation afterwards until 11.30am.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Parishioners are asked to book by telephone before Friday 8th December and Friday 15th December if they wish to avail themselves of the Reconciliation times after Adoration on those Saturdays to ensure my availability in respect of numbers. Please do so through the Parish Office leaving a telephone message if necessary. Many thanks to those who have done so already.

No Baptisms in Advent

There will be no Baptisms, excepting emergencies, until February 2024.

Not available

I shall not be around, generally speaking, on the following days this coming week:

Wednesday 6th December: Advent Day of prayer at Douai Abbey. Please keep the clergy at this Advent Preparation in your prayers.

Thursday 7th December: Sacrament of Reconciliation for pupils at Bishop Challoner School all afternoon and CTAT meeting at Saint Mary's Church, Tadley, to prepare final points of the Living Nativity.

As you know **Monday** is my day off, and **Tuesday 5th December** will be particularly busy in the Parish Office trying to catch up with Dan on an increasing workload of Diocesan matters.

CTAT (Churches Together Around Tadley) NEEDS YOU!

On Wednesday 20th December, our local church communities gather to celebrate the return of the Living Nativity at 4.00 PM. This is a new expression of our preparation for the Birth of Our Saviour, wherein we move from various churches in this part of Tadley's Christian church fellowship.

Participants will move, starting at Saint Mary's Church, from church to church, reliving the story of Christmas. Actors, a band, animals – all will be engaged in this Christian witness. Will you?

We need volunteers to help with marshalling the journey from church to church, ensuring the safety of those moving in the dark between 4.00 – 6.00 PM back to Saint Mary's Church, after visiting Tadley Common Methodist Church and Saint Michael's Church, joined with Saint Mary's Church, Silchester. After our return to Saint Mary's Church, there will be mince pies and mulled wine as we welcome the animals awaiting the Christ Child.

More volunteers are needed to provide and serve mince pies. Please let the Parish Office know as soon as possible if you are willing to help. There is a meeting at Saint Mary's Church, Tadley, at 7.30 PM for all those who are interested in this on Wednesday 7th December. Hoping to see you there!

CTAT Tadley Christmas Angels are back! (and not forgetting those in Silchester!)

They will be on display in Tadley Common Methodist Church on Friday December 8th (3:00 PM- 7:30 PM) & Saturday December 9th (10:30 AM- 4:30 PM). Full details on the poster in St. Michael's Church.

Volunteers are needed to make cakes, teas/coffees or to steward on both days at Tadley Common Methodist Church. Please let the Parish Office know if you are willing to help.

The Tadley Angels will be hung up around the town on Tuesday 12th December (South Tadley – Meet at the Salvation Army building) and Wednesday 13th December (North Tadley - Meet at Saint Mary's Church) at 6:30 AM for both. Breakfast will be served at both venues after the distribution is finished.

The Silchester Angels fly on 13th December if the weather is suitable, and further information can be obtained from Jan Hughes or Gill Lawson if you live in the village.

Salvation Army – Christmas Present Appeal 2023

Last year, the Salvation Army distributed more than 76,000 gifts! This year, the number of families requesting help is expected to rise as a result of the cost of living crisis. You can help us spread the joy of Christmas to families whose children would otherwise not receive a gift.

Please support our local appeal by donating new, unwrapped toys and gifts for children who might not otherwise receive a Christmas present. The gifts will then be wrapped and distributed to those in need. Donations accepted at Tadley Salvation Army up to 17th December:

Mullfords Hill, Tadley, RG26 3LJ - Phone: 0118 9815013

CTAT Christmas Day free lunch

Starting at 11:30 AM on Monday 25th of December at the Ambrose Allen Centre, Tadley. See attached flyer or the poster in Saint Michael's Church for full details.

Don't forget to look at the posters in your local churches for Advent and Christmas Joy!

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New Gift Aid Forms for signature

In January 2023, the Diocese changed its Charitable status & Charity Number, creating a new legal entity for the Diocese. To be compliant with HMRC regulations, we now need to ask all Parishioners supporting the Parish through Gift Aid contributions to sign new Gift Aid forms, which show the new registration number of the Charity.

These forms for signature will be available in the porch after Masses at the weekend in both churches & someone will be on hand to provide any assistance/advice needed. There will also be some blank forms available should anyone wish to start contributing through Gift Aid.

The Gift Aid giving is a significant part of the finances raised by the Parish & your continued support in difficult time is greatly appreciated. Please also ensure that your Gift Aiding is within the HMRC regulations.

Missio Red Boxes

Our Missio representatives at both churches are requesting all parishioners who currently have Red Boxes to kindly bring them to Mass for the 2023 banking, by Sunday 17th December.

St. Michael's: Sue Tull.

St. Oswald's: Sarah Hunneman.

Right To Life

Further to last week's Northern Ireland legislation appeal, the Right To Life charity has asked us to publicise two further campaigns:

1. Stop the 14-day limit on experimenting on embryos being removed

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) is pushing to remove the 14-day limit for experimenting on embryos, despite 97% of submissions from the general public to their consultation objecting to these plans.

Right To Life UK has launched an easy-to-use tool on its website that makes it easy for you to email your MP asking them to oppose a change to legislation that, if passed, would pave the way for the removal of the 14-day limit. Please visit www.righttolife.org.uk/14days to contact your MP now. It only takes 30 seconds.

2. Pro-abortion MPs, Stella Creasy and Diana Johnson, have tabled two extreme abortion up to birth amendments in an attempt to hijack the Government's flagship Criminal Justice Bill.

Both amendments propose removing offences that make it illegal to perform a self-abortion at any point right through to birth. Neither of the amendments outlines circumstances in which it would continue to be an offence to perform a self-abortion - the changes to the law would apply throughout all nine months of pregnancy and would not exclude sex-selective abortions.

Stella Creasy's amendment, if it became law, would also repeal Section 60 of the Offences Against the Person Act, which is currently used to make it illegal to hide the body of a dead newborn baby, including in circumstances when the baby has been killed through infanticide. These extreme changes to the law would likely lead to a tragic increase in the number of babies' lives being ended through late-term abortions performed at home, as well as the lives of many more women being endangered.

Please click below to contact your MP now asking them to oppose a change to legislation:

[Ask your MP to oppose the extreme abortion up to birth amendments \(righttolife.org.uk\)](http://www.righttolife.org.uk)

Or visit www.righttolife.org.uk

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/>

Diocesan Vacancies

Schools Estates Manager - Please note there is no closing date on this role.

IT Technician, Portsmouth – Closing date 5th January 2024

For these & other vacancies visit: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs/>

Enjoy your weekend and Happy Advent!

Father Patrick.

Fr. Patrick Tansey Parish Priest

St Michael's Church, Tadley

St Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

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Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through his Church

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

A registered charity number 1199568

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