

NORTH WEST

HAMPSHIRE

PASTORAL AREA

Serving the Parishes of

ANDOVER, BASINGSTOKE, HOOK,
TADLEY AND BURGHFIELD COMMON



**St Michael's Parish, Tadley,
Kingsclere,
and St Oswald's Church,
Burghfield Common**

St Michael's Church

Bishopswood Road, Tadley
RG26 4HG

St Oswald's Church

Abbey Park, Burghfield Common,
RG7 3HQ

Parish Priest:

Rev Fr Patrick Tansey
0118 981 4572

Safeguarding Officers:

Mrs Kath Murtagh (Tadley)
0118 981 4658

Mrs Ellen Goodall (Burghfield Common)
0118 983 3332

Parish Secretary:

Mrs Barbara Davis
Email: tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Website: www.stmandsto.org.uk

Covenant to the People

If you would like help from the Covenant to the People scheme, please call Gerry Penfold on (0118) 9811247 during April 2021.

NEWSLETTER

4th, 11th and 18th April 2021

EASTER SUNDAY, THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER AND THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

A PUBLICATION OF PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE TRUST REGISTERED CHARITY NO 246871

MASS BOOKINGS:

These will continue to be taken only by telephone at present, from 10.30 am each Tuesday to 12.30 pm each Friday of the week concerned. E-mails may not be responded to. In the next two weeks, Father Patrick may not respond, immediately to telephone calls of any nature, as he will be trying to take a proper rest following some hectic weeks in Lent. He expresses his sincere thanks to all who booked so quickly for The Easter Triduum and Easter Sunday morning, and apologies that some were unable to be given spaces because of Full Lists.

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THE SOLEMNITY OF ST GEORGE, PATRON OF ENGLAND

This will be celebrated in St Michael's Church at 10.00 am on Friday 23rd April, all being well. As it is a Solemnity, that Friday is not a Day of Abstinence from meat dishes, in accordance with the rules of our Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

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CLERGY TRAINING FUND COLLECTION

This Obligatory Collection is taken on the week-end of 24th/25th April, in accordance with the Diocesan List for 2021/2022.

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GOOD FRIDAY 2ND APRIL 2021

This is a Day of Fasting and Abstinence in honour of The Lord's Saving Death.

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There is an Obligatory Collection at the 3.00 pm Celebration of The Lord's Passion for the support of The Holy Places in Israel and The Palestinian Territories.

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THE CHURCHES TOGETHER AROUND TADLEY (CTAT) GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

is at 11.00 am in the grounds of St Mary's Church, Tadley. Face masks and the 2 metre social distancing rule apply.

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THANK YOU PEGGY!

On behalf of all our Parish Area, Father Patrick EXPRESSES HIS SINCERE THANKS TO Peggy for her loyal devotion of care for the church and hall at Burghfield Common over many years on behalf of both the previous Douai Parish and our present Parish. Her work has enabled the hall to be hired out regularly before lockdown. Sadly, we must now look for another person to be employed to continue the work. Please keep Peggy in your prayers.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ST OSWALD'S COMMUNITY!

Parishioners should be aware that Catherine (Peggy) Gregory is very ill with cancer, and is no longer able to work as cleaner at St Oswald's Church and The Leonard Rooms. Recognising the need to provide her with a special wheelchair to use outside her home, the local church community has raised over £300.00 to purchase this and other items to support her over this difficult period. A special thanks to Ellen Goodall and others for organising this and keeping Fr Patrick in touch with developments during her illness over the last weeks. He has constantly been in touch with our Diocese about her welfare.

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THANK YOU FROM ST MICHAEL'S HOSPICE, BASINGSTOKE

The recent Funeral Mass of Mary Coleman of our Tadley community was a moving event on 1st March, with a 'full' church in accordance with Government regulations that only 30 people may attend a Church Funeral. Some who could not attend stood across the road as the Mass ended, to say 'Farewell', observing the two metre rule.

Mary had worked as a volunteer at St Michael's Hospice for many years, and had received a local award, presented by the Chair of Tadley Town Council, in St Michael's Church some time ago for her witness of good citizenship. Her family asked that any donations should go to St Michael's Hospice.

The Head of Fundraising for the Hospice has written to thank all at St Michael's RC Church for the donation of £120.00 in memory of Mary. She extends her sympathy to all who knew her, and appreciates the kindness and generosity shown by parishioners and members of our Tadley town community in supporting the Hospice.

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FARE THEE WELL, PASTOR GREG—WE SHALL MISS YOU

Sadly, Pastor Greg Whittick, leader of our local Community Church, will be retiring from active ministry in October 2021. He has been shepherd of his community in Tadley for eleven years, and in that time has contributed outstandingly to the work of Christian Unity

in our area. Fr Patrick will miss his commitment and witness deeply, as will fellow Church Leaders in CTAT. He has briefed his community fully and is grateful to Fr Patrick for asking to outline his reasons for retirement in our Newsletter.

His intention had been to retire at the end of 2022. However, over the last year his health has not been good, and the COVID crisis demands a plan for a future which will be very different from previous ministry and Church Mission. He believes that the Holy Spirit has been saying 'It's time to stop.' Earlier retirement will enable his community to discern more reflectively the way forward in a different world. He is grateful for the support of his community in taking this decision and will continue to teach and preach as invited. It has been an honour and a privilege for him to serve in Tadley.

Greg and his wife Sue, will not be leaving Tadley. Our local Catholic community wishes them God's blessings in this new phase of their Christian life.

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LETTER TO EVERYONE

Bishop Philip has written a letter to every person in the Diocese of Portsmouth for Easter. Please read it and make it available to any person who would like a copy. It is at the end of this Newsletter.

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ENTERING THE 'POST-COVID WORLD' (as quoted by Bishop Philip)

Fr Patrick expresses his thanks to all who have worked so hard across the Parish Area to enable us to celebrate the Death and Resurrection of Our Lord in safe churches this Lent and Easter.

In 2020, the last public Mass celebrated in our Parish was on 19th March, St Joseph's Day, after which our first Lockdown came into force. As a result, there were no public celebrations until July of that year. Understandably, Easter 2020 was more than strange for all of us.

Whilst it is good to be able to celebrate now, please remember in prayer those who will not be attending because here, and elsewhere, all spaces are booked in accordance with the Church and Government protocols.

Our Bishops remind us that because of the continuing serious situation, our celebrations cannot be celebrated as in previous years. Also, that those attending should return home and not gather in church car-parks or streets after Services.

Especially pray this Easter that people will continue to exercise self-discipline and ensure that all that has been gained so far will not be ruined by selfish behaviour.

TO ALL, A TRULY HOLY AND JOYFUL EASTER.

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RED BOXES (MISSIO) TADLEY

Geoff and Gina Poulter thank you for your generosity which has enabled us to send £301.72 to Missio to support their invaluable work. If you have not received your Red Box back yet it can be collected from St Michael's Church at some time.

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BASINGSTOKE FOODBANK

A big thank you from our local Foodbank to all from the Parish who participated in donating goods during this Lenten period.

Your valuable contributions amounted to 23.32 kg of essential items which will be a great help to those in need at this time.

Well done and thanks

Geoff and Gina Poulter

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CAN YOU HELP PEOPLE IN DEBT? ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED.

Money Lifeline wants to recruit additional volunteers to work with people facing debt crises in

Basingstoke.

As the pandemic restrictions reduce, we are seeing more and more people seeking help and advice

because of overwhelming debt. Money Lifeline offers free and friendly advice to help people

address their debts but we would like to expand our capacity to deal with the increased demand for

debt advice.

Our friends at the Basingstoke Foodbank share our concerns and have kindly volunteered to sponsor

the training of additional volunteers.

If you are interested in this work, please contact us at moneylifelinebasingstoke@gmail.com to find

out more.

Debt advisers are responsible for giving budgeting and debt advice and offering practical assistance

in accordance with the Christian ethos of ML. A debt adviser is expected to be: a committed

Christian, a good listener, compassionate, and able to explain information simply and clearly,

We are looking for people who can commit to a regular weekday involvement. Experience is not

necessary as full training will be provided but you would need to be computer literate, and have a

reasonable command of basic arithmetic and business English. Advisers normally work in pairs to

provide support and continuity.

The role is not for everyone. It involves dealing with distressed individuals - as well as debt collectors

and creditors. It can be frustrating and demanding. There is significant paperwork, computer work

and telephone calls required to address a client's situation and

implement the right solution. But it

is rewarding: here are some recent comments from clients –

'Money Lifeline have turned my life around, I cannot thank them enough'

'Words cannot express how grateful I am for everything ML have done for me'

'Without the help I received, I honestly do not know where I would be today'

'Money Lifeline have been more than supportive, recommend to anyone'

'I was surprised that I wasn't judged, as I thought I might have been. I've found the advice and

support very helpful and useful'

'A wonderful service'

'Fantastic support, amazing people, great help, understanding, no judgement – without their help I

would not have gone from sobbing my heart out to how I am today'

If this is something you think would be right for you or if you want to know more, please get in touch

by emailing moneylifelinebasingstoke@gmail.com Thank you.

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GARDENING STARTS AGAIN!

The St Michael Church and Presbytery area looks splendid as flowers abound, creating a very welcome setting for the celebration of Easter. This is the result of a dedicated group of parishioners tending it last year under the direction of Brenda O'Donovan. Now is the time to start again.

Here are the date and times:

Saturday 8th May	10.00 am—2.00 pm
Saturday 5th June	10.00 am—2.00 pm
Saturday 3rd July	10.00 am—2.00 pm
Saturday 7th August	10.00 am—2.00 pm
Saturday 4th Sept	10.00 am—2.00 pm
Saturday 2nd Oct	10.00 am—2.00 pm

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JUST GIVING ENVELOPES

The envelopes for the new tax year will be available for collection from Fr Patrick after Mass this weekend.

In order to save costs and wastage, we have recycled unused previous envelopes and amended them accordingly. Whilst the special collections envelopes will be yellow (White for Christmas Offering), the usual 'Sunday' collection envelope colour may vary between green or blue, and the box may also be of a different colour. A number of Parishioners, who previously had these envelopes, kindly elected to make direct payments via their bank account. As we have not been advised that they wish to

return to envelope giving, boxes have not been made up for these Parishioners. However, there are spare envelopes that can be made up into Special Collection Sets, for those who have transferred to banking giving and wish to give to Second Collections this way. Please advise the office, if you wish to be given a set of Special Collection envelopes.

In view of the recycling, the number allocation will be changed and those existing contributors will have received an email explaining their number allocation and advice to see Fr after Mass to collect their box.

We only have a few spare boxes of complete sets of envelopes and if you would like to contribute this way, please let Fr know. If you are a tax payer and wish to sign up for 'Gift Aid' please let Fr know and the appropriate form will be sent out to you for completion. The Parish can then claim the tax paid via the weekly giving.

Thank you for your continued support.

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COMING SOON TO THE PASTORAL AREA!

Sacred Heart Church, Hook, will be hosting a course called 'Let it be' which is about Our Blessed Lady Mary. The weekly sessions involve watching a video followed by discussions in smaller groups. It is a 5 week course commencing Monday 26th April at 7.30 pm and it will end on the week of the 24th May. If you are interested or would like more information please do get in touch with Joan Kent jkent@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk This course is open to the Pastoral Area as was the Alpha Course—Why not join us and others from our Parish on this journey?

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IN PRAYER

Leading up to Holy Week and Easter, we have kept in prayer members of our Parish Area who have been unwell. Please continue to prayer for:

Deacon John Foley, who has cancer, and also Lin, his wife, who has been unwell.

Francis Brookes, also suffering with cancer, and his wife, Carol.

Eileen Kelly of our Burghfield Common community.

Peggy Gregory, who especially asks our prayers at this time.

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EASTER BREAK

The Parish Office closes from Maundy Thursday afternoon, 1st April, until Tuesday morning 20th April, enabling Fr Patrick and Barbara to have a reasonable break after some busy weeks. Barbara did not take any leave last year and is now having to use it up. E-mails will not be addressed and Fr Patrick will not be responding to telephone calls in his usual relatively prompt manner. He appreciates the compliments he receives from many, and apologies if he was not able to respond so promptly last week because of the great response in respect of Church Bookings. The telephone was ringing constantly!

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Letter to Everyone

who lives within the Diocese of Portsmouth
from Bishop Philip Egan on Easter Sunday 4th April 2021.

AN OFFER THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE

Dear All,

My name is Philip Egan, and I am writing to you as the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. A bishop is an 'overseer' appointed by the Pope. Originally, I come from Altrincham in Cheshire and until 2012 I was a parish priest near Stockport. Our Diocese covers a large swathe of southern England from Oxford and Windsor down to the South Coast and the Channel Islands. Over 3 million people live in our area. About 200,000 (7%) are Catholics. We have 90 parishes, 70 schools and 35 religious communities. Today, I am writing to you and to everyone who lives within this area, every child, woman and man, whether you consider yourself to be a person of religious faith or not. This Easter, I want, on behalf of the Catholic community, to send you my warmest greetings and to extend to you a hand of respect, friendship and service.

This last year has been extraordinary and I wish to share with you some of the things on my mind. The COVID pandemic has caused great harm and disruption, physical, mental, emotional and financial. Sadly, many have fallen sick; some have lost their lives. Yet we have also witnessed amazing generosity and self-sacrifice. I think here of all the medical staff, carers and key workers. The pandemic has had a big impact on the Church. There was a period when our churches - unjustly in my view - had to be closed. But many of our parishes and schools responded creatively to the challenge. Our hospital chaplains bravely supported the medical staff and continued caring for the sick and dying. Priests and parishioners did all they could to keep in touch with the housebound by email, Zoom and phone. Our schools reached out to the neediest families with food-parcels, and *Caritas*, our charitable organisation, adapted its activities, feeding the homeless and caring for the mentally ill.

As Christians, we have been praying for a speedy resolution to this pandemic. Thanks to the ingenuity with which God has gifted scientists and others/ there are now some positive signs/ not least the vaccination programme. The fact that the vaccines are being given first to the most vulnerable reveals that society knows in its heart that the beauty and dignity of every human life is inviolable. The Catholic Church proclaims this to be true of every person from the moment of their conception to the awesome moment of their natural death: an unborn child in the womb/ a new-born baby/ an infant/ a teenager and young adult/ a grown up and a senior. Every person/ regardless of their sex/ colour/ race or creed/ regardless of their health/ sexuality or wealth/ regardless of their faults or failings/ is of infinite value. Every person is a gift enriching the community/ "holy ground" that we enter upon only with the utmost reverence.

I'm sure that/ like me/ your life has changed over these last months in its pace and routine/ in the way you work and the way you spend your time. I have often felt isolated from the ones I love and learnt afresh how important to me loved ones truly are. The pandemic has exposed the fragility of modern life. It has also exposed its inequalities/ unfairness and wastefulness. Many have been reviewing their priorities and asking questions about what is really valuable/ about family/ love and happiness/ about life/ death and the role of religion. Interestingly/ thousands have been tuning into online religious services/ and the word "prayer" as an internet search has surged. But the big question now is: What sort of post-COVID world do we want to inhabit? '9 J e

We are at a turning-point. We have a God-given opportunity to rebuild a better world/ in which truly human values are to the fore: care for the young/ for the sick and the poor/ care for nature/ care for a more just society. People have said that during the crisis the voice of the Church has been unhelpfully silent. Well/ let me give a lead! I hereby call on all our politicians and policymakers to listen to these aspirations/ especially to the cry of the poor and those on the margins. And to each of you reading/ don't let these aspirations be swallowed up in grand ideological plans, but concentrate on changing things yourself at home, at work/ amongst your friends and on your street.

Why am I writing to you? I said I wanted. as a bishop and a fellow human being/ to extend a hand of friendship and service. In fact/ I want to make you an offer. For every human being wants to be happy, wants to be loved, wants to give love. wants to belong/ wants to live forever. I believe that none of this is possible ultimately without a relationship with God. True/ people ask: If God is so good/ why does He allow bad things to happen? And why is religion often abused, leading violence? Yet at its purest/ faith in Jesus Christ responds to the human person's deepest longings. It gives immortality/ tranquility of spirit, an assurance of things hoped for. It gives friendship and a sense of belonging. It gives the strength to do the impossible, to bear sickness, suffering/ sadness, death. It gives meaning and purpose. It grounds ethics. It builds community, encouraging self-sacrifice and service of the poor. It offers the glue that fosters social cohesion. Our British society has been moulded over many centuries by these beliefs, yet today they are much eroded; in *facti* they are vanishing. No wonder we worry about the world our children will live in.

My offer of help is this. We need to ponder the sort of post-COVID world we wish for. We need to reflect too that one day we will die: what happens then

to all my work and efforts? We need to think about values and our friendship with God. We need to get right the spiritual dimension of life if we are to t-a:G:ld~ the practical. This is why I'd like to invite you to meet the clergy and people of the Church near you. They can help you to pray, meet God and develop a personal friendship with Him. You will hear from them the Good News of Jesus Christ and what it means. In this way, you can find the Way that leads to that true, lasting human happiness and fulfilment for which we all long. Here's a suggestion: why not try our website www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or email me on bishopphilipegan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk?

Peace be with you! I wish you a Happy Easter! Thank you for your attention - and please be assured of my prayers.

In Corde lesu,
+Philip

Bishop of Portsmouth





Bishop Philip Egan is the Eighth Bishop of Portsmouth since the foundation of the Diocese in 1882. His motto is: *In Corde Iesu* ('In the Heart of Jesus'). "I chose this motto because Jesus of Nazareth is the centre of our Christian faith, and His Heart, pierced for our salvation, is the chief symbol of His love. Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He knows and loves each one of us without exception, and on the Cross of Calvary, He laid down His life for us. He wants to make us His disciples and to incorporate us into the life of His Body, the Church. Filled with love, His Heart inspires each one of us to reach out in love to our neighbour, especially to the poor and needy, so that everyone may come to happiness and salvation."

The shield of the Bishop's coat of arms is unique and very distinctive. It shews a hart or deer drinking from the waters of life, as in Psalm 41 "Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God." The pose of the hart playfully alludes to the naval and seafaring character of the Diocese of Portsmouth. The hart's open mouth points to the left, which, in nautical terms, is the port side, thus creating 'Ports-mouth.' In the sky is a star, like that followed by the Magi, who, led by the light of faith, journeyed far to find the infant Jesus. Here that star also represents Mary, the principal patron of the Diocese. "May this Star of the Sea, with its seven points representing Her seven sorrows and seven joys, lead us all to Jesus Her Son."

"JVS ~

Scan me



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