

**NORTH WEST
HAMPSHIRE
PASTORAL AREA**

SERVING THE PARISHES OF
ANDOVER, BASINGSTOKE,
HOOK, TADLEY AND BURGHFIELD



**HOLY GHOST PARISH
BASINGSTOKE**

St. Bede's Church
Popley Way, Basingstoke,
RG24 9DX

Holy Ghost Church
Sherborne Rd. Basingstoke.
RG21 5TX

Sacred Heart Parish
Sacred Heart Church
London Road, Hook
RG27 9LA

Parish Priest:
Rev Fr. Christopher Rutledge:
Dean of North Hampshire

Assistant Priest:
Awaiting appointment

Retired Priest in Residence
Rev Fr. Peter Codd

Parish Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 9am to 2pm

Parish Secretary:
Mrs Liz Murphy
01256 465214

Site Manager:
Mrs Liz Flitcroft

Treasurer:
Mrs Jan Hughes

email:
stbedes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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[Facebook.com/stbedesbasingstoke](https://www.facebook.com/stbedesbasingstoke)

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**First Sunday of Advent
29th November 2015**

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Year C

Psalter week 1

Thought for the Week

In 1622 St Francis de Sales wrote, on the eve of the New Year, "So this year has disappeared into the abyss where all the others have gone. How desirable is eternity when we consider these miserable and fleeting changes! Let the time pass by as we little by little, run with it to be transformed into the glory of the children of God." It's an appropriate reflection for this first Sunday of Advent, when the Church begins her new Liturgical Year. It also points to one of the great realities of our life on earth: things come to be and things passing away.

Change—sometimes sudden and shocking change—is part of all our lives. How we cope with change is one of the things that indicate how mature we are, how well adjusted to the challenges of life. To paraphrase one poet, we have to learn when to care and when not to care, to let things go. St Augustine said that every change is a sort of death. So we need to learn how to deal with being in a semi-permanent sort of mourning, without losing our gift of enjoying the good things in life. Some changes can be traumatic and unexpected: the death of a loved one, natural disasters like tsunamis and earthquakes, the sudden onset of sickness or disability. In moments like these, it can feel as if our whole world is collapsing around us.

- Change is a major part of our lives; we have to cope with things coming to an end.
- Just as individual things come to an end, so one day the whole of creation will.
- Christ teaches us to live to enjoy the good things of this life, while being focused on the ultimate goal of eternity.

Taken from 'The Living Word' Redemptorist Publications

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sun 29th Nov

9.00 am	Fr P	SB	Brenda Eakins RIP (Bowers)
11.00 am	Fr P	SB	Frank McGill RIP (Family)
6.30 pm	Fr C	SB	Int. Victor Okon

Mon 30th Nov

12 noon	Fr C	HG	John Nunn RIP
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Tues 1st Dec

9.15 am			at St Joseph, South Ham
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10.00 am			at Sacred Heart, Hook
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Wed 2nd Dec

9.30 am	Fr C	HG	Tony Foye RIP
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4.30 pm	Fr C	HG	Body in Church Annie Neale RIP
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Thurs 3rd Dec

11.15 am	Fr C	HG	Requiem Annie Neale RIP
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Fri 4th Dec

9.30 am	Fr C	HG	In thanksgiving Obadaki Family
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10—11 am		HG	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
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Sat 5th

No Mass, First Holy Communion Children			
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Sun 6th Dec

Second Sunday of Advent

9.00 am	Fr C	SB	Ned Fagan, Maureen McCauley RIP
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11.00 am	Fr C	SB	Antonio Bibbo RIP (Colella)
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6.30 pm	Fr C	SB	Brenda Eakins RIP
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Morning Prayer: 9.15am before each weekday Mass at SB or HG

Rosary: Recited after the weekday Mass at SB or HG

Before Mass: Pray to God; **During Mass:** Listen to God.

After Mass in the cloister area: Talk to everyone.

If you are visiting our Churches of St. Bede's or Holy Ghost, you are most welcome.

OUR PARISH'S FUTURE

This really is from Fr Chris!

The Diocese has once again employed the same American company they engaged for "Living Our Faith" some years ago, to head up "Our Parish's Future".

This is a Diocesan wide initiative in which we had to take part. Every initiative has its good points and bad points and if this campaign has offended anybody, then I am sorry. To be honest I had reservations about this campaign from the beginning.

Whilst it is un-British to talk about money, sometimes I need to bring these monetary matters to your attention for the good of the Parish. Thank you to those who were able to contribute and just as importantly thank you to those who give of their time and talents to our Parish, this is just as valuable.

We are better placed financially now, there is no doubt about that; and thanks to the census we have more volunteers coming forward who wish to help in the life of our Parish Community.

I wish to announce that our Parish's Future campaign is now concluding and there will not be anymore mail shots or letters.

(NB. The letters you received were written by the American company and they put my name to it).

Hopefully there will be one more newsletter item in the next week or two about how we have done.

In the New Year I want to look closely at our Church of Holy Ghost to find a way forward for repairs, redecoration and lighting. In short the Holy Ghost Church needs a bit of TLC. We should be in a good place too regarding the whole question of Evangelising and teaching our Youth. More in the New Year.

As we now move on into Advent, we look forward to Christmas and once again to the Saviour who was born for us in that lowly stable in Bethlehem. May all we do and think and say give Him glory!

We pray for a happy Advent, and a peaceful Christmas.

I thank you for your patience, your time, your talents, your gifts and prayers.

Fr Chris

ST VINCENT DE PAUL (SVP)

Senior's Christmas Party at St. Bede's Parish Hall on Saturday 5th December between 2—4.30 pm.

Please register—there will be a list available in the cloister area, please sign up.

ST. BEDE'S SCHOOL SUPPORTING STAMP

Stamps are no longer needed, as this year's applications are being processed.

BASINGSTOKE FOODBANK

The foodbank are holding an appeal at Tesco's Chineham on Friday 4th and Saturday 5th December. The foodbank are in desperate need of volunteers for 1 hour or so to give out shopping lists at the store entrance to encourage shoppers to buy something on the list and donate it on their way out to the foodbank.

For further information you can contact Pat Murphy on (Tel. No. 01256 881436).

PARISH DIARY:

Sun: 9am Choir: 11am Cantorg: 6.30 pm Priest-led
Repository open after all Masses today
Refreshments after the 11 am Mass today

Tues: Toddler Group meet SB 1.30—3.15 pm

Wed: 9 am Choir practice SB at 7.30 pm

Welcome to our First Holy Communion Children next weekend, (6th Dec) when they will be taking part at all our Masses.

Welcome to Fr. Peter who will be celebrating our 9 am and 11 am Masses today. Fr. Chris will be celebrating all Masses in Hook this weekend.

TODDLER GROUP

St. Bede's Toddler Group are looking for more people to come forward and help with the setting up and dismantling of the toys every Tuesday. Can you help with the refreshments? This group has grown over the years, thankfully to Wendy and a chosen few who work tirelessly to keep it going. It would be a shame to close it down because of lack of help. If you can help, please contact the Parish Office (Tel. No. 465214)

FUNERALS

Requiem Mass for Annie Neale RIP on Thursday 3rd December at 11.15 am in Holy Ghost Church. Body in Church on Wednesday 2nd December at 4.30 pm.

Requiem Mass for Sean Walsh RIP on Thursday 10th December at 11.30 am in St. Bede's Church.

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Please register—there will be a list available in the cloister area, please sign up.

ADVENT TALKS

There will be opportunities during Advent to reflect on some of the themes of the papal encyclical 'Laudato Si' : Care for our common home.

The papal encyclical offers us an opportunity to reflect on the world around us, and to respond to the signs of the times. We are called to reject the contemporary 'throwaway' culture and to open our eyes to see how God is present throughout creation.

We are planning two Groups in Hook, one will take place on Tuesday afternoons at 2.30 pm and the other will be on Thursday evenings at 7.00pm both for one hour, followed by refreshments. Both Groups will meet in the Parish Hall.

1. The climate is a common good. 1st & 3rd December
2. A universal family. 8th & 10th December
3. We were made for love. 5th & 17th December

Study booklets will be available and it is not necessary to purchase a copy of the full encyclical. However, if you would like a copy contact the Parish office (Tel: 577007

COLLECTIONS

Collection for last weekend amount to £1,784.30p.
Grateful thanks for your support.

AND FINALLY: Thank you Victor Johnson, who is the Caretaker at Holy Ghost Church.