

**NORTH WEST
HAMPSHIRE**

PASTORAL AREA

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



HOLY GHOST PARISH

BASINGSTOKE

St. Bede's Church

Popley Way, Basingstoke,
RG24 9DX

Holy Ghost Church

Sherborne Rd. Basingstoke.
RG21 5TD

Sacred Heart Parish

Sacred Heart Church
London Road, Hook
RG27 9LA

Parish Priest:

Rev Fr. Christopher Rutledge:
Dean of North Hampshire

Assistant Priest:

Rev Fr. Gerry Onyejuluwa
Tel. No. 01256 951134

Retired Priest in Residence

Rev Fr. Peter Codd

Parish Office Hours:

Mon. Wed. Thurs. Fri. 9 — 2 pm

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Mrs Liz Flitcroft

Treasurer:

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

18th December 2016

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Year A

Psalter Week 4

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Joseph was a man of deep faith who listened to the voice of God. He struggled to make sense of the message that Mary had given him. Sometimes Joseph heard God speak to him through his dreams, at other times in a moment of quiet prayer, sometimes at the end of the day when he looked over the events of work, relationship and Family. He knew that God is a God of mystery and that in history God had always called people to take risks and live with the unpredictable nature of life. Abraham had left his home and then found that Sarah his wife, in her old age, conceived mysteriously through the power of God. David had been an unlikely choice for a king. The prophets were often surprising choices of God.

Joseph wondered why God was testing his faith. He thought that the easiest thing would be to abandon Mary and start again. However, he loved her and knew that she was honest, true and had great integrity. In the turmoil of his mind, he wondered what God wanted him to do. He asked himself why life was so complicated, just when all had seemed so good as he prepared to marry Mary. Next morning he awoke from his dream and understood the words the angel had spoken concerning Mary—God had conceived in her through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph needed to accept this fact, care for Mary and support her at this strange but wonderful time.

Taken from Redemptorist Publications

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sun 18th	9.00 am	SB	Bridget Corr RIP (Corr)
	11.00 am	SB	Marie Payne RIP (Stephanie)
	6.30 pm	SB	People of the Parish
Mon 19th	12 noon	HG	Requiem Margaret Dixon RIP
Tues 20th	9.30 am	SB	John Daly RIP
Wed 21st	9.30 am	HG	Daniel Foran RIP (Fond)
Thurs 22nd	9.30 am	SB	Freddy Godier RIP (Sauleek)
Fri 23rd	9.30 am	HG	Oscar Herman Dover RIP (Fond)
			Adoration after Mass at Holy Ghost
	7.30 pm	HG	Victoria Cullen RIP (Hughes)
Sat 24th	Christmas Eve		
	6.00 pm	SB	Carols
	6.30 pm	SB	People of the Parish
	9.00 pm	HG	Polish Mass
	9.30 pm	SB	Carols
	10.00 pm	SB	People of the Parish
Sunday 25th	Christmas Day		
	8.00 am	SB	People of the Parish
	10.00 am	SB	People of the Parish
	10.00 am	HG	Syro Malabar Mass
	NO EVENING MASS		

SB = St. Bede's Church HG = Holy Ghost Church SH = Sacred Heart.

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, Holy Ghost, or Sacred Heart,
you are most welcome.

THE NEWSLETTER IS CHANGING

From January the Newsletter will have a new format, and will be called 'The Messenger'. It will be a joint Newsletter with Sacred Heart, Hook.

PARISH DIARY:

Sun: Music: 9am Choir; 11am Cantorg; 6.30pm Guitar

Thurs: Church cleaning at St Bede, after 9.30am Mass.

FUNERALS

Requiem on Thursday 29th December at 11 am in St. Bede's Church for Stuart Nelson RIP. We remember Stuart's family at this sad time. May he Rest in Peace.

ST. BEDE'S SCHOOL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Fr. Chris will be available on Saturday 7th January, 2017, 11am—12 noon. Please remember to bring your Child's Mass Attendance Card.

CAFOD Portsmouth Supporters' Meeting – Saturday 4 February 2017

Join us at our next CAFOD Portsmouth Supporters' Meeting on 4 February 2017 from 10am-1.30pm at St Bede's Catholic Primary School, RG24 9DX. There will be a special talk on our livelihoods work in Zambia (our Lenten focus) by Mark Chamberlain and a chance to hear an update on all our exciting campaigns from Dan Hale. Please book a place in advance via 01252 329385 or portsmouth@cafod.org.uk. Thank you.

YEMEN CRISIS—CAFOD

Advent is a time of prayer and reflection as we look forward to celebrating the birth of Christ. I especially ask over the coming weeks that you remember the people of Yemen. CAFOD is a member of the DEC – a coalition of leading aid agencies which has launched an appeal to respond to the humanitarian crisis in Yemen. The UN estimates that the conflict has killed more than 10,000 people, with 6,000 people killed this year alone. The resulting humanitarian crisis is significant. More than 7 million in Yemen do not know where their next meal will come from. CAFOD's partner in Yemen is providing humanitarian assistance in the form of food, water, medical care and shelter. Should you wish to support this appeal, you can donate online or send in donations to CAFOD, which will be used towards responding to this crisis.

BAPTISM

Welcome to Isabelle Sophie Upton who was Baptised this weekend.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

FACILITATORS AND HEAD OF CENTRE

Marriage Care is the largest faith-based relationship support organisation in England and Wales. We are looking for **Marriage Preparation Facilitators** and a **Head of Centre** to volunteer with us at our Reading Centre and help us in our mission to support couples in the best and worst of times. Please visit: www.marriagecare.org.uk or email: volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk for more information.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Concentrates our minds on the role of Mary in the birth of Jesus. Unlike Luke's account, Matthew's account gives considerable prominence to the role of Joseph in this world-changing event. Joseph stands centre-stage with her. He is that just man whom God gives as a wise and faithful servant to care for the Virgin Mother of God and to be like an earthly father, caring for God's Son on earth.

DEACON

Oscott Seminary have introduced a preparatory year for men discerning a call to the Permanent Diaconate which begins in January 2017, and consists of three overnight stays in Jan. Mar and May. For further information please contact Fr. Peter Hart as soon as possible at St. Mary's Presbytery, Alton. Or ring him on Tel. No. 01420 82030, email: pghart@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

KNIGHTS OF ST. COLUMBA

(Lucky Me) Draw for December. Congratulations to Dave McKenna of Basingstoke was won £100, Bill & Joy Reilly of Tadley, £50 and Charlotte Goodier of Basingstoke £25.

YOUTH MINISTRY

There is a Christmas party coming up on the 23rd of Dec at St Josephs, 7:30-9:30pm. All those in years 9 and 10 are welcome to join us to celebrate Christmas with some fun, food and fellowship! There will be a "Crazy Christmas Jumper" contest with a prize for the most creative or obnoxious jumper!

As always we have our youth group "RUAH" meeting every 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Those in years 9 and 10 are very much welcome and encouraged to come along.

POLISH MASS IN HOLY GHOST CHURCH

Midnight Mass in Polish will take place on Christmas Eve at 9.00 pm in Holy Ghost

COLLECTIONS

Sunday collection amounted to £2,587.69p.

Second collection, for the Christmas Flowers, amounted to £309.50p. Grateful thanks.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Tradition holds that the Christmas Offerings given at the Vigil and Christmas Day Masses are your opportunity for a personal gift to your Parish Priest. This is a big source of their annual income.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve:

Carols	6 pm	
Vigil Mass	6.30 pm	People of the Parish
Carols	9.30 pm	
Midnight Mass	10.00 pm	People of the Parish

Christmas Day:

Reflective Mass	8.00 am	People of the Parish
Mass	10.00 am	People of the Parish

No Evening Mass