

# THE HOLY GHOST PARISH

Serving the Churches of Holy Ghost and St. Bede

A PUBLICATION OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1199568



**St. Bede**  
Popley Way  
Basingstoke  
RG24 9DX  
01256 465214

**Parish Priest:**

Rev. Fr. John Lee  
Parish Priest of Holy Ghost Parish;  
Coordinating Pastor for Basingstoke  
Pastoral Area and Dean of Blessed John  
Body Deanery  
jlee@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Assistant Priest & Hospital Chaplain:**

Rev. Fr. Paul Nwune

**Permanent Deacon:**

Rev. Tony Darroch  
adarroch@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Parish Administrator:**

Mrs Liz Murphy  
Mon, Wed, Thur & Fri 9 am to 2 pm  
Tel. No. 01256 465214 - Ext 1  
office@stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk

**Website:**

www.stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk

**Facebook:**

facebook.com/stbedesbasingstoke

**Treasurer:**

Mrs Faye Lyons (Parish Office)  
accounts@stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk

**Safeguarding:**

Safeguarding Officer: Maria Mahdavi  
Parish Office: 01256 465214  
Diocesan Office: 023 92816396  
safeguarding@stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk

**St Vincent De Paul Society (SVP):**

Confidential mobile phone line for  
assistance & help 07434 773219

**Holy Ghost Church Address:**

Sherborne Road, Basingstoke  
RG21 5TD

**PASTORAL AREA CLERGY**

**St. Joseph, Basingstoke** 01256 323595  
Rev. Paul Leonard  
**Sacred Heart, Hook** 01256 577007  
Rev. John Chadwick  
**St. Michael, Tadley** 0118 981 4572  
Rev. Stephen Vooght

## Sunday 11th January 2026

### THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

*Year A, Psalter Week I*

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament before all weekday Masses**

Sun 11th Jan	9.00 am	SB	Mass: Int. Salome Paldano
	11.00 am	SB	Mass: Hubert Harton RIP
	6.00 pm	SB	Mass: People of the Parish
Mon 12th	<b>St Aelred</b> , Abbot, <i>optional memorial</i>		
	12 noon	SB	Mass: Sr Paddy, David Webb RIP
Tues 13th	<b>St Hilary</b> , Bishop, <i>optional memorial</i>		
	9.30 am	SB	Mass: Cicily Jacob RIP
	7.30 pm	SB	Men's Group Meeting
Wed 14th	9.30 am	SB	Mass: Int. Lucas Laska
	2.00 pm		Funeral Service for George Hellens RIP at the Crematorium
Thur 15th	9.30 am	SB	Mass: Jeanne Knowles RIP
Fri 16th	9.30 am	SB	Mass: Agatha Mendonca RIP
Sat 17th	<b>St Anthony of Egypt</b> , Abbot, <i>memorial</i>		
	9.30 am	SB	Mass: Victor Vanni Srn RIP
	<i>Confessions after 9.30 am Mass until 11.00 am</i>		

## SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*Year A, Psalter Week II*

Sun 18th Jan	9.00 am	SB	Mass: Janet Kao RIP
	11.00 am	SB	Mass: Int Josie, Tommy Byrne & Family
	2.30 pm	SB	Syro Malabar Rite
	6.00 pm	SB	Mass: Giuseppina Tambascia RIP
	<i>Beginning of the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>		

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### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Matthew's Gospel tells us that Jesus comes to John at the Jordan, asking to be baptised. John hesitates – he knows Jesus has no sin to repent of – but Jesus insists. "Leave it like this for the time being," he says, "it is fitting that we should do this to fulfil all righteousness." Jesus enters the water to identify with us in our humanity. By choosing to be baptised alongside ordinary people, Jesus chooses to stand with us, not above us. He steps into the muddy waters of the Jordan to show that no part of human life is beneath the presence of God. In choosing to stand with sinners, Jesus sets the tone for his entire ministry: He will always be found among the broken, the searching and the lost. As Jesus comes up from the water, the heavens open. The Spirit descends upon him, and the voice of the Father declares: "This is my beloved Son.." This is a moment of revelation. It tells us who Jesus is – the Son of God – and what he has come to do. Jesus does not begin with spectacle. He begins with service. He does not assert power; he expresses compassion. The baptism is the beginning of Jesus' mission, not the end of a private revelation.

*Taken from The Living Word, Redemptorist Publications*

## WELCOME

We extend a warm welcome to all visitors who join us for Mass. Welcome also to all who join us for our Liturgies live-streamed via our webcam: [www.stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk](http://www.stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk)

## ORDINARY TIME

On Monday, 12th January, the day after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the Church begins the period of the Liturgical Year known as 'Ordinary Time', the Sundays and weekdays *per annum*. The liturgical colour is green, symbolising new life and hope. For a helpful guide to Ordinary Time see: [The-Catholic-Guide-to-Ordinary-Time.pdf](http://The-Catholic-Guide-to-Ordinary-Time.pdf)

## THE GREAT STORY OF JESUS RETREAT

Start 2026 with a day retreat to reflect on the core of your faith, known as the 'Kerygma'. Taking place at St Bede's Church on Saturday 24th January from 10am - 3.15pm, this is for everyone and may be particularly helpful for RCIA catechumens making their journey into the Catholic Church at Easter. The day will include reflections, prayer stations and short videos. It will be led by Sr Margarida Mondral, Verbum Dei Community and the Ananias team. Contact Liz at [lnahajski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lnahajski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) to find out more.

## BASINGSTOKE CATHOLIC MEN'S GROUP

The Basingstoke Catholic Men's group brings Catholic Men together for fellowship, prayer and an opportunity to discuss a wide range of issues that face us today. Sessions are at St Bede's church, every other Tuesday at 7.30pm. These will involve a short input on a relevant topic, time to talk together about the issues at hand and sometime of prayer and spiritual growth. Upcoming sessions: 13/1/26, 27/1/26, 10/2/26, 24/2/26. Contact Jamie Carroll for more info: [jamescarroll28@gmail.com](mailto:jamescarroll28@gmail.com)

## ADORE ONLINE MINI RETREAT

May we wish you every blessing for a joyful New Year and introduce you to our exciting programme for 2026: "The greatest gift is Love – the transformative power of God's love." Each month this year we explore the foundational truths of our faith, and how they reveal the amazing and powerful love of God. On 24th January from 10am to 1pm we launch the programme with "GOD IS LOVE." The Mass celebrant and guest speaker, Fr. Chris Thomas, will lead our mini retreat on Zoom and remind us how Jesus taught that God is loving and merciful and we should relate to him as "Abba," our perfect Father. We are His children, adopted into His family and unconditionally loved by Him. He wants us to love Him in return and to accept His perfect will in our lives. Please register in advance at: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

## PILGRIMAGE TO ROME, 30TH JUNE - 7TH JULY 2026

Fr John is looking to organise a pilgrimage to Rome for June / July of this year. The pilgrimage will include attending the Ordination to the Diaconate of Ryan Hawkes on Sunday 5th July. Fr John would like to know who is interested in making the trip. Can you please email the Parish Office OR Fr John with your name(s) and contact details. More information to follow soon.

## POPE LEO JANUARY PRAYER INTENTION

During January Pope Leo asks us to pray for prayer with the Word of God. *Let us pray that praying with the word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.*



## WORLD LEPROSY DAY

On Sunday 25th January we mark World Leprosy Day, a time to pray for and stand in solidarity with people affected by leprosy around the world. We remember the work of the John Bradburne Memorial Society, inspired by John Bradburne, who devoted his life to caring for those with leprosy at the Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre in Zimbabwe. Please keep the people of Mutemwa in your prayers and consider supporting this vital work through prayer, awareness, or donation. [www.johnbradburne.com](http://www.johnbradburne.com), Tel: 07979 187498, Post: JBMS, PO Box 32, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 0YB, Email: [info@johnbradburne.com](mailto:info@johnbradburne.com)

## ONLINE GIFT CARD FRAUD

Gift card fraud is an increasingly common way of tricking victims into purchasing gift cards and sharing their details, leading to financial loss. Please be aware that there have been scam messages circulating which appear to come from priests or diocesan staff, asking people to buy gift cards or provide financial help urgently. The Diocese and its clergy will never ask for money, gift cards, vouchers, or personal details by email, text message, or social media. If you receive a message of this kind, do not respond and do not send any money. Please report it to your parish office or to the Diocese communications team so that we can alert others. Thank you for your vigilance and for helping to protect our parish communities.

## SEEKER SATURDAYS

Seeker Saturdays take place from 11am-3pm at Sacred Heart Church, Fareham. PO16 ONQ. Why not sign up for this month's Seeker Saturday on 17th January? If you are discerning if the Lord is calling you to the priesthood, diaconate or religious life, then spending time with like-minded people can be really beneficial to any vocational journey. Our time together includes prayer, discussion, Mass, Adoration and lunch too. Future Seeker Saturday dates for your 2026 diary are: 28th February, 21st March, 25th April, 16th May and 13th June.

## FUNERAL

Funeral Service at the Crematorium on Wednesday 14th January at 2pm for George Hellens RIP. May he Rest in Peace.



## PARISH COLLECTION

Collection for week ending 4th January amounted to £2,932.76. Thank you for your generosity.

## DONATIONS TO THE PARISH

The easiest way to make a donation to the Parish is online at: [Donate to Basingstoke St Bede's Church | Give as you Live Donate](#) or via our contactless terminal by the hall.