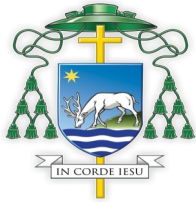


THE HOLY GHOST PARISH

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:

Sue Riley
Mon, Wed, Thur & Fri 9 am to 2 pm
office@stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk

Treasurer:

Faye Lyons
accounts@stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk

Website:

www.stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk

Baptism:

Sacraments – St Bede's, Basingstoke

Facebook:

facebook.com/stbedesbasingstoke

Safeguarding:

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

St Vincent De Paul Society (SVP):

For confidential help call 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 16th August 2026

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Year A, Psalter Week IV

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament before weekday Masses

Sun 16th Aug	9.00 am	SB	Mass: Int. Sister Maria
	11.00 am	SB	Mass: Agatha Mendonca RIP
	2.30 pm	SB	Syro Malabar Mass
	6.00 pm	SB	Mass: People of the Parish
Mon 17th	12 noon	SB	Mass: Int. Lucas Laski
Tues 18th	9.30 am	SB	Mass: Euzebian Rodricks RIP
Wed 19th	St John Eudes , Founder, <i>optional memorial</i>		
	9.30 am	SB	Mass: John & Mary Cullen RIP (Fond)
Thur 20th	St Bernard , Abbott, Doctor of the Church, <i>memorial</i>		
	9.30 am	SB	Mass: Sick of the Parish
Fri 21st	St Pius X , Pope, <i>memorial</i>		
	9.30 am	SB	Mass: Nelson Mendonca RIP
Sat 22nd	The Queenship of Mary , <i>memorial</i>		
	9.30 am	SB	Mass: John & Linda Lyons RIP
<i>Confessions after 9.30 am Mass until 11.00 am</i>			

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year A, Psalter Week I

Sun 23rd Aug	9.00 am	SB	Mass: People of the Parish
	11.00 am	SB	Mass: Int. Sokol Family
	12.30 pm	SB	Baptisms
	2.00 pm	SB	Syro Malabar Mass
	6.00 pm	SB	Mass: Int. Agatha Family

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

In today's Gospel we see Mary as a strong young woman of great faith, conviction and courage as she goes 'with haste into the hill country' to visit her cousin Elizabeth. Mary's response to her cousin – who recognises that Mary is 'blessed... among women' and the mother of her Lord – shows not a meek, powerless, unquestionably obedient person who has no control over what happens, but one proclaiming her faith and her radical 'yes' to God's plan for her life. Mary's soul 'magnifies the Lord', and her spirit rejoices in God her Saviour. She sees what God has done for her as great and proclaims his mercy, justice, strength and compassion for those who are poor and humble. Her proclamation demonstrates the continuity of God's relationship with humanity 'from generation to generation', drawing from Old Testament accounts of Abraham and God's 'servant Israel'. Despite the enormity of what lies ahead for her, Mary is joyful, and her song has a sense of determination and energy for her part in the story of salvation and for her unique motherhood.

Taken from The Living Word, Redemptorist Publications

WELCOME

We extend a warm welcome to all visitors who join us for Mass and all who join us for our liturgies online.

LEAVING COLLECTION FOR FR PAUL NWUNE

At the beginning of September, Fr Paul will be leaving us to take up his new appointment as Priest-in-Charge in the Isle of Wight. Next weekend there will be a leaving collection for Fr Paul, and after 11am Mass on Sunday 6th September there will be a farewell gathering in the hall. All are welcome and we would be most grateful for any cake donations.

DIOCESAN CATECHIST DAY, SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER

9:30AM–1:30PM, ST BEDE'S CHURCH

Are you involved in passing on the faith in your parish? Join catechists from across the Diocese for a morning of prayer, inspiration, and practical formation as we reflect on our shared mission to **form missionary disciples**. Inspired by Jesus' words, "*Go therefore and make disciples...*" (Matthew 28:19), we will explore how catechists can lead others to Christ, hand on the living faith of the Church, accompany people in conversion, and help build vibrant missionary parishes. Whether you are an experienced catechist or new to the ministry, you are warmly invited to attend. To register your interest please go to: [Diocesan Catechist Day, 2026](#)

ALPHA FORUM FOR PARISHES, MONDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER, 7:30PM - 8:30PM, ONLINE

Has your parish run Alpha, or are you thinking about starting one? Join the Formation for Mission team for an online Alpha Forum designed to encourage, support, and connect parishes across the Diocese. This informal gathering is an opportunity to share experiences, learn from one another, explore best practice, and discover fresh ideas for running Alpha in your parish. To register for the meeting please go to [Alpha Online Forum](#) or you can send an email to: ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. A link will be sent out nearer the time.

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAMME

The next Baptism preparation programme, which consists of two sessions, will be held on Sunday 11th and Sunday 18th October at 1pm in St Bede's Hall. These sessions are for parents of children under the age of 7. To enrol please email: baptism@stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk. If your child is aged 7 years or above, please email the Parish Office for an application form to join the next children's preparation programme starting in October.

POPE LEO AUGUST PRAYER INTENTION

During the month of August, Pope Leo asks us to pray for evangelisation in the city. *Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.*

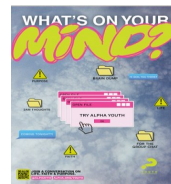


FIRE SAFETY REMINDER

In the event that the fire alarm sounds, without hesitation, please leave the Church through the nearest exit, and get as far away from the building as possible, until the cause of the activation has been established.

CALLING ALL CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

Our new Confirmation programme will be commencing in September 2026 and we would like to invite prospective candidates to apply. If you are in **Year 10 or above** and would like to be Confirmed in 2027, please send an email to: confirmation@stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk to request an application form. The closing date for the return of completed forms is **Friday 4th September**. Please note you must be a Baptised Catholic, regularly attending Mass and have received the Sacrament of Holy Communion to participate. Once we have final numbers we will contact everyone with the programme dates and content.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2027



Enrolment for the Parish First Holy Communion programme will take place on 5th and 6th September. For further information, course dates and details on how to enrol please send an email to: fhc@stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk. Please note that St Bede's School run their own FHC programme.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

Our Parish 'Journey in Faith' course will begin on Wednesday 16th September at 7.30pm in St Bede's Church Sacristy. To register please complete the online form using the link: [St Bede's RCIA Registration Form - Adult](#) If you need any assistance please contact the Parish Office.

ALPHA AT ST BEDE'S THIS AUTUMN

This autumn, we are delighted to offer Alpha at St Bede's. It begins in late September and will run for 11 weeks on Monday evenings in the church hall. Please complete the short form to help us prepare. We want to know who may be interested in attending, who might invite someone, and who may be willing to support the evenings as part of the Alpha team. After praying, please complete the form: [Alpha at St Bede's - Autumn 2026](#)

CHURCHSUITE REGISTRATION

A big thank you to everyone who has registered on ChurchSuite. If you have not yet done so, please complete a new Registration Form by clicking the links below (there is a separate adult and child registration form).

[BASHG Adult Registration Form](#)

[BASHG Child Registration Form](#)

If you require any assistance, please see Sue Riley in the Parish Office who will be able to help.

PARISH COLLECTION

Collection for week ending 9th August amounted to £2,646.54 from Standing Orders, Direct Debits, Contactless and Mass Collections. Thank you for your generosity.

DONATIONS TO THE PARISH

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



NEW PARISH NAME ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear friends,

We are delighted to share some very special news.

Bishop Philip has chosen the name of the parish we are becoming: The Parish of Our Lady, Queen of Peace



This is a significant and joyful moment in the journey we have been making together.

The consultation showed just how much thought, prayer and affection went into choosing a name for our new parish.

The three leading names received remarkably similar levels of support, with less than two percentage points between them. Bishop Philip has now discerned Our Lady, Queen of Peace as the name under which our communities will come together.

Click the link: [Our New Parish Name | Fr John Lee](#)

Our Lady, Queen of Peace, gives us much more than a name above the door. She points us towards her Son. She listens to God, trusts Him, steps forward in faith and carries Christ into the world. At a time of change, she also reminds us that peace does not mean standing still. The peace Christ gives allows us to move forward with faith, trusting God and keeping our eyes fixed on him. These are exciting times.

We are bringing together five churches, each with its own history, patronage, people and character, while beginning to see more clearly what God may be asking of us together. We also know that change naturally brings questions. The identity of our individual churches is not disappearing. Each will keep its own name, patronage and story.

- St Bede's Church and Holy Ghost Church Basingstoke, Parish of Our Lady, Queen of Peace
- St Joseph's Church Basingstoke, Parish of Our Lady, Queen of Peace
- Sacred Heart Church Hook, Parish of Our Lady, Queen of Peace
- St Michael's Church Tadley, Parish of Our Lady, Queen of Peace
- St Oswald's Church Burghfield Common, Parish of Our Lady, Queen of Peace

We are not losing the stories of our individual communities. We are bringing those stories together within one parish and one shared mission.

Our Mission Plan has never simply been about changing structures. It is about renewal and mission. We want to become missionary disciples: people who follow Jesus and, through the way they live, help others to encounter and follow him too. That starts by meeting people where they are, listening well and helping each person take their next step in faith. It means learning to see more clearly, responding when Christ calls, discovering the gifts God has given us, growing in faith and following Jesus more closely.

We use B.E.C.O.M.E. simply as a way of describing that journey: Belong in Community. Encounter Christ. Commit to Growth. Ongoing Renewal. Missionary-Led. Evangelising Witness. At its heart, it is a movement from belonging and encounter, through growth and renewal, towards a faith which naturally reaches out to others. That is the renewal we are seeking: not simply change around us, but lives changed through an encounter with Christ.

Mary shows us something of that journey beautifully. She sees what God is doing. She says yes. She goes where He calls. She stays close to Jesus and carries Him to others. Under the patronage of Our Lady, Queen of Peace, we want to become a parish that does the same: prayerful and welcoming, courageous in faith, generous in service and increasingly confident in carrying Christ into our communities. And now that our parish has a name, another part of the journey can begin. Work will now start on the visual identity and iconography of Our Lady, Queen of Peace, including how the identity of our new parish can sit alongside and celebrate the continuing identities of each of our churches. This work is only beginning, and we look forward to sharing and explaining it as it develops. There is much more to come and in October we will share a fuller update on the next stage of our Mission Plan.

For today, though, let us simply receive this as a moment of joy and thanksgiving. Today we have a name. A name under which we can pray together, grow together, serve together and go out together. A name which places Mary before us as a mother and disciple, always pointing towards Christ.

Our Lady, Queen of Peace, pray for us.

God bless,

Fr John Lee