

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



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Lead Hospital Chaplain;
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Baptism:

Sacraments – St Bede's, Basingstoke

Facebook:

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Safeguarding:

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St Vincent De Paul Society (SVP):

For confidential help call 07434 773219

Holy Ghost Church Address:

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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 27th September 2026 TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year A, Psalter Week II

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament before weekday Masses

Sun 27th	9.00 am	SB	Mass: Int. John McCauley
	11.00 am	SB	Mass: People of the Parish
	2.00 pm	SB	Syro Malabar Mass
	6.00 pm	SB	Mass: Int. SVP
Mon 28th	12.00 pm	SB	Mass: John Taylor RIP
Tues 29th	THE HOLY ARCHANGELS MICHAEL, GABRIEL & RAPHAEL, feast		
	<i>There will be no 9.30am Mass today</i>		
	7.30 pm	SB	Holy Hour with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Wed 30th	St Jerome, Priest, memorial		
	9.30 am	SB	Mass: Int. P Murphy & Family
Thurs 1st	St Teresa of the Child Jesus, Religious, memorial		
	<i>There will be no 9:30am Mass Today</i>		
Fri 2nd	The Holy Guardian Angels, memorial		
	9.30 am	SB	Mass: Int. Lucas Laski
Sat 3rd	9.30 am	SB	Mass: Int. Charles & Onyinye Siwobi

TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year A, Psalter Week III

Sun 4th Oct	9.00 am	SB	Mass: Reg Smart RIP
	11.00 am	SB	Mass: Black History Month
	2.30 pm	SB	Syro Malabar Mass
	6.00 pm	SB	Mass: People of the Parish

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Jesus' message reminds us that the kingdom of God is not about perfect beginnings. What matters is not whether our first response was ideal, but whether we allow God to draw us into deeper obedience now. Jesus praises the tax collectors and prostitutes because of their willingness to change. They hear John the Baptist's call to repentance, respond, and their messy lives become fruitful. Meanwhile, the self-righteous religious leaders, those who think they are better than everyone else ignore any reasons for change – and disregard God's invitation to become more loving, simple and humble. Jesus' story of the two sons reminds us that change is always possible and that God delights in every step we take towards him, no matter how late or hesitant. His arms are always wide open and waiting for us. What matters is our response today. Going into God's vineyard means choosing forgiveness when bitterness feels easier, offering kindness when indifference takes less effort, making time for prayer when life feels crowded, speaking truth with love, serving without applause and allowing God to reshape our priorities.

Taken from The Living Word, Redemptorist Publications

WELCOME

Welcome to all who join us for Mass in person, and to all who join us online via our webcam. Together we are a community united in prayer.

PASTORAL LETTER

This weekend a Pastoral Letter from Bishop Philip will be read at all Masses. Copies will be available online and to take away.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The parish First Holy Communion programme has now started and will not be accepting any further applications.

ST BEDE'S KNEELER GROUP

The next Kneeler Group meeting is on Tuesday 29th September at 7pm in the hall. New members are welcome. Contact Susan Beard on 07847 711720.

SYCAMORE PROGRAMME

St Michael's, Tadley will be running a Sycamore programme which is open to anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith. Sycamore is presented by Fr Stephen Wang [recently named as the next Bishop of Arundel & Brighton]. It uses a series of 20 teaching videos to explore Christianity and the Catholic Faith. Each session will start with some nibbles and bites and a drink in a relaxed atmosphere. The teaching video will then be shown and set questions, based on the video, will be discussed in small groups. You will be free to take part in the discussions or to simply listen without any pressure. For those who would like to become Catholic, or for those who are already Catholic and wish to complete the Sacraments, or for anyone who would just like to acquire a clearer and deeper understanding of Catholic Catechism, there is something on this course for everyone.

The course will be held weekly at St Michael's, Tadley on Tuesday evenings from 7pm – 9pm, starting on 6th October. Please contact the Parish Office at St. Michael's for more details or to confirm your place on 01189814572 or by email: tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

Join the Basingstoke African Caribbean Catholic Association (BACCA) in celebrating Black History Month on Sunday 4th October 2026. The celebration will begin with the 11:00am Mass, followed by a vibrant cultural reception in the church hall. Please contact: bacca.unitedkingdom@gmail.com.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION HALF DAY ONLINE CONFERENCE

The Spiritual Directors Leadership team for Portsmouth Diocese have organised a half day online conference on Saturday 21st November via Zoom. It is an excellent opportunity to explore what 'spiritual direction' means, to ask questions and share thoughts with others. Members of the Spiritual Direction Team will offer their insights, including those who are currently receiving direction. The keynote speaker for the conference is Nicola Smedley who leads courses with the Ignatian School of Spiritual Direction. Register by scanning the QR Code.



CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY HARVEST APPEAL

Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection next Sunday, 4th October. Put your faith into action and share the Lord's love by supporting our global neighbours experiencing shortages of food and safe water. Your gift can support children like Tayla in Zimbabwe to stay in school by helping communities and schools provide nourishing meals, improve access to water and grow food in school gardens. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at: [Give by virtual envelope](#) or call 0303 303 3030.

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

CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY

CAP UK are delighted to be returning to St Bede's Church to deliver a Money Coaching course, which has been run successfully for the past few years. The course and all materials are free, and there will be a free meal at the start of the evening. Spaces are filling up, so book your [free place](#). Course dates are Thursday 15th, 22nd, 29th and 5th November. Each session starts at 7pm.



ADOREMUS 2026 - CAN YOU HELP?

Adoremus is a National Eucharistic Congress initiated by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to deepen devotion to the Eucharist and encourage adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. There will be an Eucharistic Procession in the grounds of St Bede's School starting at 2pm on Friday 9th October, leading into all night Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in St Bede's Church through to 9.30am Mass on Saturday morning. The Blessed Sacrament cannot be left unattended when exposed, so we are asking that people sign up for an hour's slot (or more) sometime through the Exposition. Please volunteer your time [here](#).



FORMATION DAY FOR READERS: 17TH OCTOBER 2026

It is not too late to sign up for the Formation Day for Readers being organised by the Diocesan Liturgy Team on 17th October 2026 at the Pastoral Centre in Winchester. Beginning with Mass at 9am the day will finish at 1.15pm. Bring your sandwiches but tea/coffee will be provided. Anyone wishing to attend is kindly asked to email: liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org

PARISH COLLECTION

Collection for week ending 20th September totalled £2,422.63 from Standing Orders, Direct Debits, Contactless and Mass Collections. Home Missions Sunday collection raised £274.60. Thank you for your generosity.

DONATIONS TO THE PARISH

The easiest way to make a donation to the Parish is via bank transfer [online](#) or via our contactless terminal by the hall.



LOCAL MISSION PLAN

This week we share another 'On the Way' notice with you as our journey as a new parish unfolds. Last week we looked what our guiding star is and this week we ask what means for each of us.

On the Way: Our parish renewal, one step at a time

What does our Guiding Star mean for us?

There is something in that story for every one of us.

Sometimes we are Bartimaeus. We need healing, courage, a new beginning or simply the confidence to take another step towards Christ.

Sometimes it is one of our children, someone in our family, a friend or somebody we care for who needs encouragement.

Sometimes we are the crowd. We can make another person's journey harder, or become the people who say: "Take heart. Get up."

And sometimes we have our own cloak to throw aside: something familiar or comfortable that is holding us back.

This is why almost everything in our renewal comes back to the Guiding Star: worship, Alpha, young people, volunteering, communications, leadership, our buildings, our finances and the way our five communities grow together.

The question is always essentially the same:

Is this helping us, and the people entrusted to us, hear Christ's call, come to Him and follow Him?

The Guiding Star gives us our direction.

The Local Mission Plan helps turn that direction into action.

Next: B.E.C.O.M.E. and a very personal question:

What is my next step towards Christ, and how can I help someone I love take theirs?