

Our Parish Liturgy

This Week (2 Christmas A)

DIVINE OFFICE	WEEK 1
ENTRANCE HYMN	18.00 150 09.00 150 11.00 Musicians
PENITENTIAL ACT	Spoken
GLORIA	18.00 120 09.00 120 11.00 Musicians
FIRST READING	Sirach 24:1-2, 8-12 <i>'The wisdom of God has dwelt in the chosen people.'</i>
PSALM RESPONSE	<i>The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.</i>
SECOND READING	Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18 <i>'He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus.'</i>
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION	Alleluia, alleluia! <i>Glory to you, O Christ, proclaimed among the nations. Glory to you, O Christ, believed in throughout the world. Alleluia!</i>
GOSPEL READING	John 1:1-18 <i>'The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.'</i>
PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS	18.00 145 09.00 145 11.00 Musicians
SANCTUS	18.00 Missal Tone 09.00 Missal Tone 11.00 Musicians
MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION	18.00 Missal Tone 09.00 Missal Tone 11.00 Musicians
GREAT AMEN	18.00 Missal Tone 09.00 Missal Tone 11.00 Spoken
OUR FATHER	18.00 Said 09.00 Said 11.00 Musicians
AGNUS DEI	18.00 Said 09.00 Said 11.00 Musicians
COMMUNION ANTIPHON	<i>To all who would accept him, he gave the power to become children of God.</i>
THANKSGIVING	18.00 138 09.00 138 11.00 Musicians

RECESSION	18.00 164 09.00 164 11.00 Musicians
Next Week (Baptism of the Lord A)	
DIVINE OFFICE	WEEK 1
FIRST READING	Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 <i>'Behold my servant, in whom my soul delights.'</i>
PSALM RESPONSE	<i>The Lord will bless his people with peace.</i>
SECOND READING	Acts 10:34-38 <i>'God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit.'</i>
GOSPEL READING	Matthew 3:13-17 <i>'When Jesus was baptised he saw the Spirit of God coming to rest on him.'</i>
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MARRIAGE MATTERS

In his Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis offers a profound insight into the joy of Christian marriage and reminds us of its place at the very heart of the Church's life. Christian marriage, he observes, 'is a sign of how much Christ loved his Church in the covenant sealed on the cross, yet it also makes that love present in the communion of the spouses. By becoming one flesh, they embody the espousal of our human nature by the Son of God.'

As we know, the Holy Scriptures feed and nourish our faith and help us to grow in our relationship with God and one another. It is for this reason that these scriptural reflections are offered. They should help enable married couples to focus on the richness of God's Word that we hear proclaimed each Sunday of the Year and to experience the deep joy of God's love expressed in the great Sacrament of Marriage.

HE CHOSE US TO BE HOLY AND SPOTLESS



He chose us "to be holy and spotless and to live through love in his presence". 'Holy and spotless'....with all the messiness of our lives...clothes, toys, all over the floor, washing up in the sink? Yes. 'Holy!'...'through loving'. So, whether cleaning up the mess or working to earn money, you are doing loving things. You are 'holier' than you think!

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Sacred Heart Parish Newsletter

for the Roman Catholic community
of Cobham, Oxshott,
& Stoke D'Abernou



part of the Arundel & Brighton Diocesan Trust, a Registered Charity No. 252878

Volume 07 Issue 06 4th January 2026 : 2nd Christmas Year A

THIS WEEK:

BIBLE READING PLAN

Mo Job 1-9
Tu Job 10-16
We Job 17-20
Th Job 21-23
Fr Job 24-28

Financial News . . .

Weekend of 28/12/25

Plate £ 279:14
Standing Orders £ 755:00
Contactless £ 163:00
1st Total £ 1,197:14

Thankyou for your continuing generosity to your Parish.

Christmas 25/12/25

£ 2,455:00
Clergy Upkeep

2nd Collection . . .

This Weekend 04/01/26

None

Next Weekend 11/01/26

SPUC White Flower Appeal

Gift Aid Members are not able to make this collection tax efficient.

Bite Size . . .

We spend January 1st walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched. Maybe this year, to balance the list, we ought to walk through the rooms of our lives not looking for flaws, but for Potential.

It seemed irrational



On Tuesday this week we celebrate the Epiphany a Holy Day of Obligation. The story of the Magi following the star to Bethlehem to find the baby Jesus is one of the most heartwarming parts of the Christmas story. The Greek word for the foreign visitors is best translated "magi" although in popular understanding they are sometimes called the "Three Kings" or the "Three Wise Men." Whoever they were, they are an example to us of great courage and trust. They willingly left their home countries to travel for an unknown distance in search of a new born child they knew nothing about. They had packed expensive gifts (a dangerous even courageous act when traveling overland in those days) and met with the most powerful man in the country, King Herod, on their quest to find the baby. When they found the baby in an unassuming little town in an ordinary family, their hearts told them they were in the right place and they were overjoyed. The humble surroundings didn't stop them from worshiping the little child and then offering their lavish gifts to him. After that, they dared to listen to their dreams and defy the King, thereby protecting the vulnerable child. Probably none of what they did seemed rational to those around them, but because they followed an inner guidance, we still celebrate their journey today.

journey today.



"They were overjoyed at seeing the star... they opened their treasures and offered him gifts."

Sheepish Question:

Instead of wishing, how can I put my faith in Jesus—the true light of the world—into action?

Questions of the week

- 1 Do you know someone who has done something to follow his/her heart which seemed completely irrational at the time but turned out for good? Please share.
- 2 When have you followed your intuition or inner guidance or Holy Spirit even though it went against cultural or family norms? How did it bear fruit?

Before Mass - Talk to God During Mass - Listen to God After Mass - Talk to your friends

Parish Office

Normal Office Hours : Monday to Friday 09.30 - 12.30.

Parish Secretary : Sarah Cox (01932) 860244
cobham@abdiocese.org.uk

Newsletter Editorial : Items for possible inclusion in the Parish Newsletter (if there is room) need to be received (in writing please) at the Parish Office by midday on Wednesday.

Gift Aid Organiser : Dan Meehan (01372) 456416
ga.cobham@abdiocese.org.uk

Safeguarding Rep. : Mark Hillas 07436 571060
sg1.cobham@abdiocese.org.uk

General Parish Information

Parishioner Registration : Every household within the Parish is requested to complete a 'Parishioner Registration/Census' form so that our Parish records may be kept up to date. These forms can be obtained from the Parish Office and should be completed fully before being returned to the Parish Office.

Should you move address within the Parish at any time please complete a new form and write 'AMENDMENT' across the top of the form. Thank you.

Hospital : If you are going into hospital as a 'planned admission' you are strongly encouraged to make contact with Fr Daryl well beforehand so that, if appropriate, the Sacrament of the Sick can be celebrated beforehand.

Infant Baptism : Infant Baptisms are intended for the children of practising parishioners only and are celebrated on five occasions during the year after parents and godparents have completed a course of preparation. There can be no celebration without this important course. The dates of the courses for the current year can be found in the application form available from the Parish Office. Baptisms do not take place during the seasons of Advent or Lent.

Sacramental Preparation : Notice of the availability of Application Forms for preparation for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist will be made via the Parish Newsletter between the school Summer Half Term and 31st August each year. Possible candidates for Confirmation should respond to the announcements made via the Parish Newsletter at the beginning of the Autumn school term.

Parishioners are advised that it is very difficult to imagine that any family or individual who is not regularly practising the Faith as members of our community could possibly be ready to celebrate a Sacrament of the Church.

Marriage Preparation : Marriages are celebrated by appointment with the Parish Priest. It should be remembered that in the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton twelve months minimum notice is required before a marriage may take place; this is a requirement of the Church for all marriages that involve a Roman Catholic (even if they are not taking place in the Catholic Church). It is also necessary that one of the parties must have a meaningful connection with the Parish. Marriages do not take place during the seasons of Advent or Lent.

Parish Car Park : All Parishioners attending Mass and using our Car Park need to make sure that they have fully completed our 'Parishioner Registration/Census Form' (available from the Parish Office) before using the Car Park; this ensures that your current vehicle registration is lodged in the system. Registering only needs to be done once (unless you change your car or if you use another car in the family that is not registered on the system).

Important : if you are not registered on the system and you use the car park you will receive a parking notice.

Registered Parishioners and pre-registered visitors are able to park whilst they attend our Masses/liturgies without fear of a charge notice.

(Car Park queries - parking@shpcobham.com)

NOTE : the Car Park does not use QR codes any found are **scams!**



Church Mouse (cub reporter). . .

The musings of one of God's smallest creatures on events in and around the Parish over the past seven days

Hopefully everyone has enjoyed a wonderful Christmas amongst their friends, family, and loved ones. This year, due to the timing of Christmas Day, we have a Second Sunday of the Christmas season before we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany on Tuesday (Masses at the Sacred Heart 09.30 and 19.30).

It may surprise some people to discover that we are still celebrating Christmas. Although some are still conscious of the tradition of taking down decorations on 'Twelfth Night,' for so many others Christmas more or less ends on Boxing Day, and in the shops Christmas decorations disappear rapidly after the 25th to make way for the sales posters.

It can seem strange that the nativity scene is such a relatively small element of such displays, but in fact it illustrates an important point: 'The Word became flesh and lived among us.' The term translated in most bibles as 'lived' - or 'dwelt' in some older versions - has the literal meaning 'pitched tent,' or perhaps 'encamped.' 'The Word became flesh and encamped among us!'

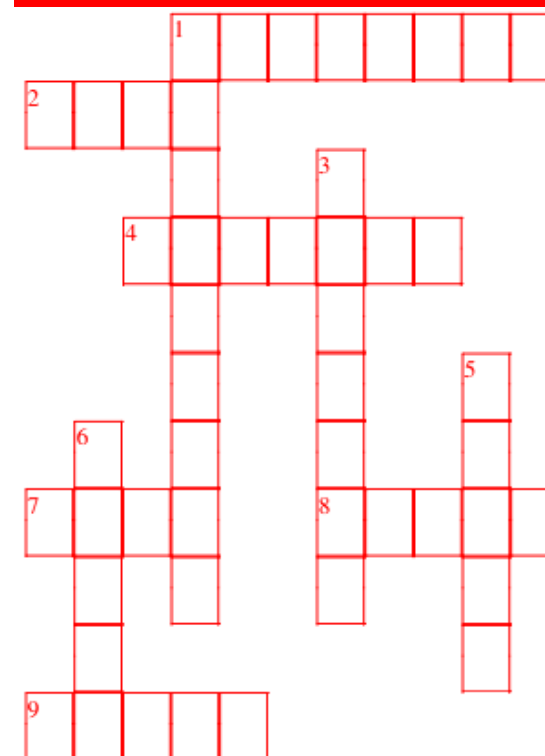
This reminds us of the tent which the Israelites carried with them in the wilderness, the tent in which the Lord dwelt; but there is a difference too. When the Israelites were wandering in the wilderness, the tent was at the centre of the community. It was also quite a 'dangerous' place, which only the ritually pure could enter. However, in our Christmas story the place where the Word chooses to enter and live among us is almost inconsequential; an animal shelter in a small town. One where lowly shepherds are welcome to enter, indeed are the first to witness this event. Yet though it may seem inconsequential, without it no crib scene would have any significance. The Holy Family in the stable may appear to be a small element, but in fact it is the reason for all the rest of the scene.

The image of the tent also suggests the image of a journey. We've already mentioned the echoes of the journey of the Israelites in the wilderness, but we might also think of the travels of the Holy Family from Nazareth to Bethlehem, then to Egypt, and then back again to Nazareth. Journeys marked by worry and danger. Saint Luke's account of the journey to Bethlehem places the Holy Family in a land controlled by an oppressive occupying force. Saint Matthew's account of the flight into Egypt reminds us perhaps of the plight of contemporary refugees fleeing persecution.

The Word became flesh and encamped among us

Churchmouse

CHILDREN'S CROSSWORD SEARCH 2ND CHRISTMAS YEAR A



In the Beginning Was the Word
John 1:1-18

Across

- Means the same as received Jesus.
- What was the light of all people?
- The mission of John?
- What was the name of the name sent from God?
- The word became _____.
- this came through Jesus Christ

Down

- The Word was with God then.
- to witness
- The law was given through him.
- He gave _____ to become children of God.



THE WORD BECAME FLESH

John 1:1-18

¹In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things came into being, not one thing came into being except through him. ⁴What has come into being in him was life, life that was the light of men; ⁵and light shines in darkness, and darkness could not overpower it.

⁶A man came, sent by God. His name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness to the light, so that everyone might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, he was to bear witness to the light. ⁹The Word was the real light that gives light to everyone; he was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world that had come into being through him, and the world did not recognise him. ¹¹He came to his own and his own people did not accept him.

¹²But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believed in his name ¹³who were born not from human stock or human desire or human will but from God himself. ¹⁴The Word became flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that he has from the Father as only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵John witnesses to him. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me has passed ahead of me because he existed before me.' ¹⁶Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received - one gift replacing another, ¹⁷for the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Other Readings Sirach 24:1-2, 8-12; Psalm 147; Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18.

LECTIO

This Sunday we meditate on the solemn Prologue of the Gospel of John. The Prologue is the entrance door. It is the first thing that is written. It is like a final summary, placed at the beginning. Under the form of a profound poem, mysterious and very solemn, John offers a summary of all that he will say about Jesus in twenty one chapters of his Gospel. Probably, this poem was from a canticle of the community, used and adapted by John. The canticle communicated an experience that the communities had of Jesus, the Word of God. Today also, we have many hymns and poems which try to translate and communicate who Jesus is for us. They reveal the experience that our communities have of Jesus. A poem is like a spectacle. It helps to discover the things which are inside us. Every time that we listen to or repeat attentively a poem, we discover new things, in the poem itself, as well as within us.

During the reading of the Prologue of the Gospel of John it is well to activate our own memory and try to remember some canticle or poem on Jesus, of the time of our childhood, which has marked our life.

I LOVE THE PROLOGUE IN JOHN! IT'S SO MYSTERIOUS -- IT'S PERFECT FOR CHRISTMAS!

A LONG TIME AGO IN A GALAXY FAR FAR AWAY...

YEAHHH -- THAT'S THE WRONG PROLOGUE.

MEDITATIO

- Which phrase of the Prologue struck you the most? Why?
- Which are the images used by John in this poem to say who Jesus was for the community?
- Which is the new thing that the poem of John makes me discover in myself?
- The poem of John says. "He came to his own and his own people did not accept him!" (Jn 1, 11). What does this sentence mean? How does this happen today?
- Which are the facts or events or persons of the Old Testament which are recalled in the Prologue?

ORATIO

Lord Jesus, we thank for the word that has enabled us to understand better the will of the Father. May your Spirit enlighten our actions and grant us the strength to practice that which your Word has revealed to us. May we, like Mary, your mother, not only listen to but also practise the Word. You who live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

Day	Date	Time	Service / Intention	Donor
Sat.	3 rd January			
PLEASE NOTE : No Sacrament of Reconciliation Today				
<input type="checkbox"/> Live-Stream / Recorded	18.00	Private Intention	L. Massey	
Sun.	4 th January	2 ND SUNDAY CHRISTMAS, YEAR A		
<input type="checkbox"/> Live-Stream / Recorded	09.00	Kolber Family	L. Kolber	
<input type="checkbox"/> Live-Stream / Recorded	11.00	For the Parishioners		
Mon.	5 th January	Weekday of Christmastide		
No Service Today Mass 09.30 at Walton				
Tue.	6 th January	EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, YEAR A		
Please Note : No Morning Prayer of the Church Today				
<input type="checkbox"/> Live-Streamed	09.30	Private Intention	L. Massey	
PLEASE NOTE : No Exposition of Blessed Sacrament Today				
	19.30	For the Parishioners		
Wed.	7 th January	Weekday After the Epiphany		
Please Note : No Morning Prayer of the Church Today				
<input type="checkbox"/> Live-Streamed	09.30	Andy Mangan †	L. Massey	
Thu.	8 th January	Weekday After the Epiphany		
Please Note : No Morning Prayer of the Church Today				
<input type="checkbox"/> Live-Streamed	09.30	Andy Mangan †	L. Massey	
Fri.	9 th January	Weekday After the Epiphany (Day of Abstinence)		
Please Note : No Morning Prayer of the Church Today				
<input type="checkbox"/> Live-Streamed	09.30	Steve Jameson †	L. Massey	
Sat.	10 th January	Weekday After the Epiphany		
	17.00 - 17.30	Sacrament of Reconciliation		
<input type="checkbox"/> Live-Stream / Recorded	18.00	Tom Asbury	J. & E. Yates	
Sun.	11 th January	BAPTISM OF THE LORD, YEAR A		
<input type="checkbox"/> Live-Stream / Recorded	09.00	Maria's Intention	M. Redmond	
<input type="checkbox"/> Live-Stream / Recorded	11.00	For the Parishioners		
Mass may be offered for both the living and the dead and also for most other intentions. We do our best to try and accommodate specific dates but this can be especially difficult on weekends and at less than three months notice.				

Epiphany of the Lord

Epiphany means manifestation. so, as we honour this moment in time when the Christ Child was made manifest to the world, we should look into our own hearts. It is there, we discover Christ's ongoing manifestation to us so that we can worship the One who has also chosen to be born within our hearts. We ought to diligently seek out this manifestation of God within us and respond to it in the same ways that the Magi responded. Firstly, the Magi determined when they saw a sign from the heavens that pointed to a new King, they stopped everything and departed in haste to find

Him. When God speaks to you and manifests Himself to you in some way, nothing could be more important than to be attentive to His voice. The Magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. God was honoured and glorified by the giving of these gifts. God created gold to manifest His beauty and dignity. It was a gift that symbolised kingship. When we ponder the natural gift of gold given to the Christ Child, we are inspired to give Him our own gift of symbolic gold, prayerfully acknowledging Him as our own King to whom we pledge our complete submission.

Made from the sap of trees frankincense and myrrh are also fruits of God's creation. Used in worship to symbolise prayers rising to heaven, frankincense symbolises the Christ Child's divinity. We offer frankincense to Christ when we acknowledge His divine nature, since He is God in the flesh. Often used in burial, myrrh honours the Christ Child Who came to give His life as a sacrifice for many. We offer myrrh to profess our belief in the saving power of Christ's death on the Cross and our need for that gift of salvation.

DATE / MASS	WELCOME MINISTERS	READERS	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	REPOSITORY AFTER MASS
SATURDAY Baptism of Lord 10/01/26 18.00	Still Required; please offer	Sr Patricia	N/A at present	P. Hunt A. Essien
SUNDAY Baptism of Lord 11/01/26 09.00	Still Required; please offer	Sr Maria	L. Kolber G. Fisher	D. Westsmith M. Smyth
SUNDAY Baptism of Lord 11/01/26 11.00	Still Required; please offer	J. Foster	P. Hourquebie C. Hourquebie	M. Smith C. Kendall
PLEASE REMEMBER : If you are unable to complete your particular ministry then it is your responsibility to arrange cover with another minister. In this way our Sunday Liturgies will run in a smooth and prayerful way.				

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Trying to understand the true significance of an event like Christmas can not be done in a single day. Much like the epic natural beauty of the Grand Canyon, or the Baroque majesty and splendour of St Peter’s Basilica in Rome, we need multiple visits to take the whole thing in. So it is with the mystery of the Nativity.

For Catholics, Christmas is not just over and done with on December 25th. It’s only just begun! At a time when many are taking down their decorations and throwing their Christmas Trees to the kerbside, Catholics should still be celebrating.


Christmastide is the name given to the Christmas season in the liturgical calendar. This begins with the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve and ends on the Sunday celebrating the Baptism of the Lord (11th January). This usually results in a Christmas season of around twenty days or so.

Of special note is that the Christmas season licks off with a gift - seven special days other than December 25th, designed to extend our focus on the mystery of Christ’s birth. During these days, we’re to take in all the joys and graces associated with such a momentous event.


These days are called the ‘Octave of Christmas,’ and you can remember their timing because the Octave starts and ends with a solemnity - the Nativity of the Lord on December 25th, and Mary, Mother of God on January 1st.

At one time there were actually fifteen feast days in the Church that included Octaves, but since 1969, only Christmas and Easter are extended by these special days of celebration.

Ultimately, while all these details of the season can get a little confusing at times, the major conclusion to draw is this: our Christmas celebrations are often way too short, and end far too early! So do not miss out on the opportunity to stay in a holy, holiday spirit, by celebrating for the *entire* Christmas season this year.



Prayers Please

**FOR THOSE UNWELL AT THIS TIME:**
Jay Adams, Sr Anne Bayley, Jim Begley, Maggie Dongray, Tom Delbridge, Fiona Frank, Maureen Garner, baby Naomi Hunt, Michael Nutter, Fr Sebastian Paul, Pascal Smyth and Anne Sproul.

THE RECENTLY DECEASED:
None

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH:
Clement Sutter †
Amanda Orbell †
Deanna Holland †
Cathy Lewis †
Mgr Canon Paul Clarke †
Fr Gordon Simmons †
Canon Dennis Barry †
Fr Richard Wilson †
Fr Charles Borelli †
Canon Maurice Byrne †
Fr David Weston †
Canon Brendan McCarthy †

HOLY FATHER’S MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION:
“. . . that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope . . .”

For those who are unwell.....

those who have died recently....

those whose anniversaries occur.....

the Holy Father’s Prayer Intention....

HOLY DAY OF THE EPIPHANY - This Tuesday (6th) is the Solemnity of the Epiphany and is a Holy Day of Obligation when ALL Roman Catholics are expect to attend and assist at Mass. Attendance at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation is an important part of the practice of our faith for all members of the Catholic Church and wilful failure to do so is a serious matter. Masses in the Parish will be at the normal Holy Day times of 09.30 and 19.30 on the day.

CHRISTMAS CRIB VISITS - It is a traditional practice for Catholics (especially families) to make a visit to the Christmas Crib over Christmastide (25th December - 11th January), to pray especially for those persons/families who do not have the great gift of spending Christmas as we do.

The Catholic Children’s Society (C.C.S.) is helping local disadvantaged families facing severe hardship through the Arundel and Brighton Family Crisis Fund, providing quick, practical support to families in need. Recently the C.C.S. helped a young mother who had given up work to care for her five-year-old daughter who had been diagnosed with cancer. Here daughter often felt cold, so the mother would keep the heating on to help the child feel warm and comfortable. The family could just afford their rent and food but had no way to address their rising energy bills. C.C.S. provided a one-off grant to help the family through the winter. The mother said:

‘I felt so helpless and scared. All I wanted to do was look after my daughter, but I couldn’t stop worrying about how I would pay our bills. You have taken that worry away and now I can focus on caring for my child. Thank you.’

There are many more vulnerable families in need of support and our Parish will be donating our Crib Offerings to support this important work. Every penny donated will be give out via the C.C.S.’s Arundel and Brighton Crisis Fund to support local families in need. You can donate using the box at the Crib; if you are a registered Gift Aid member please complete and use the special envelopes by the Crib to make your donation tax efficient.


MORNING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH - Please note that there will not be any celebration of Morning Prayer of the Church before our weekday Masses until Tuesday 13th January.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AFTER TUESDAY WEEKDAY MASSES - Please note that Exposition after Tuesday Mass will recommence on Tuesday 13th January.

2026 DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES AND PARISH DIARIES - Diocesan Directories (£5) and Parish Diaries (£1) are available from the Repository after our weekend Masses.

RECONCILIATION - The next scheduled opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Saturdays 17.00-17.30) will be 10th January.

WHITE FLOWER APPEAL



The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (S.P.U.C.) will be holding its annual appeal next weekend.

SPUC fights for a world in which abortion is something unthinkable, and raises awareness of the widespread problem of abortion. According to an independent poll, 87% of GP’s are concerned that the government’s continued ‘pills by post’ scheme leaves women vulnerable to coerced abortion. SPUC calls upon the Prime Minister to condemn this abhorrent tragedy. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC to defend unborn children and their mothers through highlighting this urgent crisis.

Every year hundreds of churches across Britain take part in the SPUC ‘White Flower Appeal,’ making it one of our largest and most important educational and fundraising events of the year.

SPUC supporters come from many backgrounds and walks of life. The success of the ‘White Flower Appeal’ is founded upon the compassion and generosity of faithful churchgoers in parishes across the United Kingdom. SPUC is most grateful for the unapologetic defence of unborn children and vulnerable mothers that the teaching of the Catholic Church provides.