



ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, HORSHAM PARISH NEWSLETTER

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year A | 3rd May 2026

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Parish Clergy: Fr Tristan Cranfield (tristan.cranfield@abdiocese.org.uk)

Deacon Tom Murray (tom.murray@abdiocese.org.uk)

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Holy Mass Open to Parishioners and Live-streamed

2nd May – Saturday, St Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor

(Memorial)

10:00 am Mass - Ambi Kochikkat RIP and Paulose Vithayathil RIP

Followed by Confession, Adoration & Benediction

1:00 pm - Signed Mass

5:15 pm to 5:45 pm - Confession

6:00 pm Vigil Mass - In Thanksgiving for Jisha and Dany

3rd May – Fifth Sunday of Easter

9:15 am Mass - Jimmy and Elisabeth Dale RIP

11:15 am Mass - Pro Populo

1:45 pm - Polish Mass (including First Holy Communion)

5:00 pm - Italian Mass

4th May – Monday, The English Martyrs (Feast)

12:00 noon Mass - Geoffrey Smith RIP FM (Sixth Anniversary)

5th May – Tuesday after the Fifth Sunday of Easter

NO MASS

(9:30 am - Mass at St Gabriel's, Billingshurst)

10:30 am to 3:00 pm – Adoration

(Pray for the Diocesan Pastoral Plan)

6th May – Wednesday after the Fifth Sunday of Easter

NO MASS

(12:00 noon - Mass at Our Lady of Consolation and St Francis, West Grinstead)

6:00 pm - Polish Adoration

7:00 pm - Polish Mass

7th May – Thursday after the Fifth Sunday of Easter

12:00 noon Mass - Lawrence and Winefride Coleman RIP FM

(6:45 pm - Confirmation Programme Session 9 in the Parish Hall)

8th May – Friday after the Fifth Sunday of Easter

12:00 noon Mass - Ian Gorman RIP

Followed by Confession

7:00 pm - Rosary & Adoration

9th May – Saturday after the Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:00 am Mass - Anne O'Brien RIP

Followed by Confession, Adoration & Benediction

5:15 pm to 5:45 pm - Confession

6:00 pm Vigil Mass - In Thanksgiving for Slohn Walsh

10th May – Sixth Sunday of Easter

9:15 am Mass - Chris (Christian) Le Roy RIP

11:15 am Mass - Pro Populo

1:45 pm - Polish Mass

3:30 pm - Baptisms of Izabella Maconachie and Ronnie Stal

5:00 pm - Italian Mass

Useful Contacts

Horsham Parish Office

01403-253667 - Mon-Fri | 9:00 am - 2:30 pm

Sue Smith | Cozette Rice

Safeguarding

Michelle Downey - sg1.horsham@abdiocese.org.uk

Adeline Hawkes - sg3.horsham@abdiocese.org.uk

Health & Safety

hst.horsham@abdiocese.org.uk

Parish Hall Hire

Please inquire at the Parish Office

Baptism Team

horsham@abdiocese.org.uk

Chair of Parish Finance

David Innes | stjohnsfin@gmail.com

SVP President A010810@svp.org.uk

07765778413

Bereavement Support

Please email stjhorsham@gmail.com

or get in touch with the Parish Office.

St John's Primary School

Finula Farr | 01403-265447

St Robert Southwell Primary School

Helen Connor | 01403252357

St. Wilfrid's Catholic Comprehensive, Crawley

Mike Ferry | 01293 421 421

Our parish relies on
your generous donations,
please click or scan here
to donate.



Last Week's Collection

£3,423.39

(£1,673.39 Offertory;
£1,750 Standing Orders).

Second Collection

£1,393.25

Thank You

You could **add 25p to every £1**
you give by joining **Gift Aid**.

PLEASE NOTE: VIDEO RECORDING IS NOT ALLOWED DURING MASS WITHOUT PRIOR PERMISSION.

FOR NEWSLETTER ITEMS & ANNOUNCEMENT - PLEASE SEND BY WEDNESDAY 5:00 PM TO

horsham@abdiocese.org.uk

OUR VISITING SEMINARIAN, BARNABAS, WRITES

'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

There has certainly been a noticeable shift in the way people view the message of the Gospel. Perhaps ten years ago the general perceived stance towards organised religion, particularly Catholicism, was one of mild disdain or, perhaps worse, sheer indifference, but now there is a noticeable renewed curiosity. That would already be a positive step in the right direction, but there's more. In France alone, about 13,000 adults were baptised or received into the Church this Easter, and in the UK the numbers have also grown significantly. This is not only happening in Europe, but in the US, Australia and other parts of the world. Non-Catholics I have spoken to about this have sometimes tried to dismiss it as merely people searching for direction in a directionless world, or trying to make sense of the conflict and austerity we are currently facing. To that my response is simply that these are not unlikely, or invalid, reasons to turn to the Lord. In fact that is the pattern that stretches throughout the Old Testament; the people of Israel are usually reminded of their covenant to the Lord by encountering great hardship, which has usually been a consequence of them turning away from Him in the first place. However, perhaps this isn't the full story. Trying to pinpoint where human response to circumstance ends and the intervention of grace begins is perhaps a fraught venture, but in any case, something is happening. People want meaning. They want truth. The Lord is working through people's lives, and that means that, as His disciples, we are called to share in His work. What could it be about us, as God's chosen people, that may be attractive to others? Perhaps one way of putting it is that, in a world of people who are lost and in search of direction and meaning, we know where we are going. Not in the sense that the world promises, in fact we may be rather lost when it comes to our career, family life or personal circumstances. But, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, in our daily struggle to follow the Lord, we know that we are ultimately a pilgrimage people on the journey to (please God) our true homeland: Heaven. So, let's be welcoming to those who come to our parish, so that we can witness to that truth to them. If we see a new face, let's go out of our way to make ourselves known to them, and make it clear that they are welcome, and that the Lord desires them to be here. After all, it is He who has brought them here, just as it is He who brought us, one way or another, to His Church. If you who are reading this are new to the Church, and are unsure if you have a place here, be at peace; you have a place here, and Christ has prepared a place for you in His Kingdom. You are welcome. Please introduce yourself to us and keep coming. We want you to be here, but more importantly, the Lord does too; in fact, He wants you more than you can possibly imagine.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PARISH OFFICE – will be closed on Bank Holiday Monday, 4th May.

CALLING ALL MINISTERS OF THE WORD (READERS AT MASS) - The Parish Office will have emailed you within the last few days, to ask you to come for your annual training, prayer, and to be recommissioned by Fr Tristan for proclaiming the Word at Mass. This year, those who do not receive accreditation from the parish priest will not be able to continue in the role, so it is especially important that you are properly commissioned. A choice of dates for the Commissioning has been sent to you, but if you feel you ought to be on the list and have not received an invitation, please do get in touch with the Parish Office.

GIFT AID BOXES FOR THE 2026/2027 TAX YEAR - The Gift Aid boxes for this new tax year are at the back of the church for collection. Please don't use any of your current envelopes for future collections, as a number of the box numbers have been changed. There are special, thinner, boxes of envelopes for those of you who normally donate by monthly standing order and only use envelopes for the second collections, and for Easter and Christmas. If you have any queries, please contact the Parish Office. Thank you for your generous support.

NATIONAL SCHOOLS SINGING PROGRAMME - On Sunday 10th May, some of the children of our primary schools St John's and St Robert Southwell's will be singing for our 11:15am Mass. This has been facilitated by the National Schools Singing Programme (NSSP), headed in Arundel and Brighton by Choral Director Billie Robson. This is a wonderful initiative by which children, both Catholics and non-Catholics, learn not just how to sing, but how to engage closely with and fully participate in the Mass, within the Church's varied musical tradition. This initiative costs two thousand pounds a year per school to implement. There will be a Second Collection after Mass on the 9th and 10th May to support our ability to benefit and maintain this programme, and, if you are in a position to, please consider giving regularly to this wonderful initiative, so that more children can learn about the musical traditions of the Church, and both enrich, and be enriched by, the liturgy through their participation in it. For more information on the NSSP and the work they are doing, please see this link: <https://www.nssp.org.uk/>

DISABLED SPACES IN THE CHURCH CAR PARK - Disabled spaces (there are only three) are sometimes being used by parishioners who are not displaying blue badges. For the benefit of those who are disabled and have blue badges, please ensure that these spaces are only used by those displaying blue badges. And please do not park in front of the right side of the car park exit gate as this can block access to the disabled space beside the pedestrian gate. Thank you.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR SURVIVORS – Tuesday 5th May is a day of prayer for the victims of domestic abuse. We pray for them and in thanksgiving for the families which are filled with love and where all their members are able to flourish.

BEREAVEMENT CAFÉ - The next meeting of our Bereavement Cafe will take place in the Parish Hall on Saturday 9th May, from 11am. Please do mention this to people you know who may benefit from an informal chat over tea and coffee. There are leaflets at the back of the church with more information.

SILENT PRAYER - We warmly invite you to our Silent Prayer gatherings, now moving to a monthly meet-up. We will continue to gather in the same gentle rhythm and format: arriving at 3.30pm in the hall, upstairs, for refreshments, followed by a short reflection on Silent Prayer and the Carmelite Saints. We will then move into the church for a time of Silent Prayer, finishing at around 5.00pm. Our next date is **Saturday 23rd May**, keep an eye on the newsletter for future dates. Whether you are new to silent prayer or have been walking this path for some time, you are most welcome to join us. Please feel free to come along at any point.

CHURCH CAR PARK - It is appreciated that the Church car park can become very full, particularly at Mass times. However, please **do not park** across the **fire exit doors** leading from the side chapel/flower room. This area is marked out on the car park surface and full access is required at all times.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORTH ABBEY PILGRIMS CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI - Guests are warmly invited to gather at Worth Abbey for the Feast of Corpus Christi, a joyful celebration rooted in prayer, procession, and community. The day will begin with Mass at 9.30am in the Abbey Church, followed by a Procession of the Blessed Sacrament at 10.30am. Benediction will take place at 11.15am, concluding the liturgical celebrations. Refreshments will be available from 11.30am. Following the service, visitors are encouraged to enjoy the natural beauty of the Abbey Estate with a walk to the Quiet Garden, led by a member of the monastic community. Attendees are welcome to bring a picnic and spend time enjoying the grounds together. Friends and families are especially welcome. For more information, please visit: worthabbey.net/corpus-christi.

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS – LONDON - Save the Date: Saturday, 10th October 2026: It is confirmed by the Catholic Bishops of England & Wales that the next Eucharistic Congress will take place in London on Saturday 10th October 2026. The day will start with Holy Mass followed by a procession with the Blessed Sacrament. There will be various events throughout the day. More details to follow.

CAFOD UKRAINE APPEAL: MORE THAN A SCHOOL BAG – CAFOD's trusted partner in Ukraine runs this campaign to support children in grades 1-4 by giving them the school supplies they need to learn, grow and thrive. But these backpacks contain something even more valuable than stationery. Each one includes a psychological support kit – carefully chosen items that help children cope with stress and anxiety during frequent missile and drone warnings, often spent waiting in underground shelters. These comforting tools offer moments of calm in an uncertain world. A complete school bag means a child has every essential learning tool and every emotional support item needed to start the year with dignity, stability and hope. **£3 can provide a pencil case, pens and pencils. £10 can buy comforting emotional support items. £37 can give a child a complete backpack – filled with everything they need.** Donations can be made through CAFOD...Schoolbags for Ukraine appeal <https://cafod.org.uk/give/appeals/school-bags-for-ukraine-appeal>

THANK YOU - St John's School governors would like to thank all who came to the Line Dancing event last Friday. It was a fantastic evening. A grand total of £375 was made which will go towards the 10% costs of replacing the outside classroom and other building costs. Look out for the next event in the autumn term.

HEALING MASS

On Friday 19th June at 12 noon, we will be holding a Mass of Healing, with the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. As in previous years, the SVP is organising this celebration, providing transport to some of our parishioners and a reception in the Hall afterwards. All are very welcome! Fr Tristan would like to invite anyone who is needful to receiving the Sacrament of Anointing at this Mass, but to do so **you must register in advance to make sure we can accommodate numbers**. Not everyone can or needs to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, so before getting in touch, please read the following guide carefully.

A BRIEF GUIDE TO THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

1. Who can be Anointed?

*The Sacrament of the Sick is spoken about in the New Testament by St James (cf James 5:14-16) and is of special help to Catholics who are suffering bodily illness. According to the Church, its effect is to **strengthen the faith the sick person already has in God against the temptations of the Evil One that he or she may experience during his/her suffering, and to heal him/her from anxiety over death.***

If you or your loved one is all of the following:

- A) a believing Catholic, over the age of seven, able to receive Holy Communion **and**
- B) has health seriously impaired by either sickness, or old age, or is about to undergo a serious operation, **and**
- C) is able to make their own decisions; or if not, would have certainly asked for the sacraments when they could

...then they can and should receive this healing Sacrament without delay.

2. What if I cannot be Anointed on this occasion?

If you have read the above, but are unable to attend the Healing Mass, don't worry; Fr Tristan is happy to come to you and anoint you in your home at any available time; please don't hesitate to get in touch with the parish office.

Perhaps instead you have also read the above and feel that while you do not meet the criteria (A, B & C) you have a great need for healing in your life (perhaps through depression, grief, bereavement, family troubles and so on), then remember that the Church also provides two other great sacraments of renewal: the Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation) for the forgiveness of sins and the Sacrament of the Eucharist, which is the greatest sacrament of all, an encounter with Jesus Himself present in His Body and Blood. It is for the Eucharist that Reconciliation and Anointing in fact prepare us, and that complete those other sacraments. The Eucharist prepares us for heaven.

To register in advance to be Anointed, please contact Felicity Harrington at PresidentA010810@svp.org.uk or on 07765 778413 by Friday 12th June. Many thanks!

LIVE SIMPLY “Live simply so others may simply live”

LOCAL ELECTIONS ARE TAKING PLACE ON THURSDAY MAY 7TH

As part of its 'Journey to 2030' initiative on the environment the diocese has produced some useful information to help us engage with our election candidates on the issue of the environment and climate change. These resources are designed to encourage respectful, thoughtful conversations with elected representatives and to highlight the need to address environmental challenges, alongside economic and social priorities. You will find a section entitled 'Political Resources' if you download this document and scroll down the page: <https://theecg.org/del/>

Email livesimply_stjohnshorsham@yahoo.com with your Live Simply questions and ideas.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

THE COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God, constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us, that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism may, under your protective care, bear much fruit and come to the joys of life eternal. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

FIRST READING (Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7)

In those days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the Twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, 'It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers and sisters, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.' And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the Apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R: May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O LORD.

Ring out your joy to the LORD, O you just;
for praise is fitting from the upright.
Give thanks to the LORD upon the harp;
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **R**

The word of the LORD is upright,
and all his works to be trusted.
The LORD loves justice and right,
and his merciful love fills the earth. **R**

Yes, the LORD'S eyes are on those who fear him,
who hope in his merciful love,
to rescue their soul from death,
to keep them alive in famine. **R**

SECOND READING (First Letter of St Peter 2:4-9)

Beloved: Come to the Lord, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious. You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: 'Behold, I am laying in Sion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' So the honour is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone', and 'A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence.' They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia. I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord. No one comes to the Father except through me. Alleluia.

GOSPEL (John 14:1-12)

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

'Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who by the wonderful exchange effected in this sacrifice have made us partakers of the one supreme Godhead, grant, we pray, that, as we have come to know your truth, we may make it ours by a worthy way of life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord, and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass from former ways to newness of life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

LET US PRAY FOR

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK INCLUDING

Paul Wycliffe, Charlotte Curson, Edwina Slater,
Tony Sefton, Baby Ruby, Sheila Pike, Bill Hughes, Geraldine Garvley,
Ashley Elliott, Robin Sherfield, Helen Daly, Pat Danielian,
Anne Mullarky, Vilma Marshall, Carolyn Whitefield, Sheila Budgen,
Zoe Keane, Mark Wiesner, Brian Harris, Shane Campbell,
Laura Rawlinson (Walshe), Grace Khushi, Amanda Molloy,
Jarad Nunns, Gina Partridge, Margaret Georgeson, Jan Davies,
Alan Frendo-Cumbo, and Katrina Sharpe.

**WE PRAY FOR
ALL HOLY SOULS.**

Collections Announcements

**NEXT WEEKEND'S SECOND COLLECTION IS FOR
THE SCHOOLS SINGING PROGRAMME
(SUPPORTING ST JOHN'S AND ST ROBERT'S PRIMARY SCHOOLS)**
– not eligible for diocesan gift aid envelopes.

Coffee After 9:15 am Mass Host

ST JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Readings for Next Week

Reading 1 - Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8, 14-17
Psalm - Ps 66(65): 1-3a.4-5.6-7a.16,20. R.1
Reading 2 - First Letter of St Peter 3:15-18
Gospel - John 14:15-21