



# ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, HORSHAM PARISH NEWSLETTER

Second Sunday of Advent, Year A | 7th December 2025

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

Deacon Tom Murray ([tom.murray@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:tom.murray@abdiocese.org.uk))

## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Holy Mass Open to Parishioners and Live-streamed

### 6<sup>th</sup> December – Saturday, St Nicholas, Bishop (Memorial)

**10:00 am Mass** - In Thanksgiving for Benita Benz

*Followed by Confession, Adoration & Benediction*

**NO SIGNED MASS**

**2:30 pm** - St John's Eucharistic Forum Adoration

*(Followed by Conversations in the Spirit in the Parish Hall)*

*5:15 pm to 5:45 pm – Confession*

**6:00 pm Vigil Mass** – Enrique Salonga RIP (First Anniversary)

### 7<sup>th</sup> December – Second Sunday of Advent

**9:15 am Mass** - Anna Smith RIP

**11:15 am Mass** - In Thanksgiving for 25th Wedding Anniversary for Shibu and Femina

*(including Rite of Welcome for the Recently Baptised)*

**1:45 pm** - Polish Mass

**3:00 pm** - Family Come and Sing Carols (in the Parish Hall)

**5:00 pm** - Italian Mass

### 8<sup>th</sup> December – Monday, The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity)

**12:00 noon Mass** - Joan and Phillip Davis RIP

### 9<sup>th</sup> December – Tuesday, St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin (Memorial)

**N.B. 7:00am 'Rorate' Mass** – In Thanksgiving for Dany Kochikkat

*(Followed by breakfast in the Hall)*

*10:30 am to 3:00 pm - Adoration*

*(Pray for Vocations to the Priesthood)*

### 10<sup>th</sup> December – Wednesday of the Second Week in Advent

**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

### 11<sup>th</sup> December – Thursday, St Damasus I, Pope (Memorial)

**12:00 noon Mass** - Deceased Members of the Hayes Family RIP

**5:00 pm** - St Robert Southwell Primary School Carol Service

*(Tickets only)*

### 12<sup>th</sup> December – Friday, Our Lady of Guadalupe (Memorial)

**12:00 noon Mass** - Annette Molloy RIP

*Followed by Confession*

**7:00 pm** - Rosary & Adoration

### 13<sup>th</sup> December – Saturday, St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr (Memorial)

**10:00 am Mass** - Intentions of Miguel Bravo

*Followed by Confession, Adoration & Benediction*

*5:15 pm to 5:45 pm – Confession*

**6:00 pm Vigil Mass** – Michael Gurton RIP

### 14<sup>th</sup> December – Third 'Gaudete' Sunday of Advent

**9:15 am Mass** - Charles Corcoran RIP

**11:15 am Mass** Pro Populo

**1:45 pm** - Polish Mass

**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](mailto:sg1.horsham@abdiocese.org.uk)

Mark Beckett - [sg2.horsham@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:sg2.horsham@abdiocese.org.uk)

Adeline Hawkes - [sg3.horsham@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:sg3.horsham@abdiocese.org.uk)

#### Health & Safety

[hs1.horsham@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:hs1.horsham@abdiocese.org.uk)

#### Parish Hall Hire

Please inquire at the Parish Office

#### Baptism Team

[horsham@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:horsham@abdiocese.org.uk)

#### Chair of Parish Finance

David Innes | [stjohnsfin@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsfin@gmail.com)

#### SVP President

[A010810@svp.org.uk](mailto:A010810@svp.org.uk)

07765778413

#### Bereavement Support

Please email [stjhorsham@gmail.com](mailto: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

## Last Week's Collection

**£2,926.80**

(£1,176.80 Offertory;  
£1,750 Standing Orders).

## Second Collection

**£1,380.87**

Thank You

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

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

[horsham@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:horsham@abdiocese.org.uk)

*"Bid the Lord welcome!"* This is the phrase that I would recommend us to take as a bit of a spiritual motto for this Advent. Welcome is not a natural state of affairs for us. It means opening our hearts to others in a way that can leave us vulnerable. I have often been surprised when travelling in economically poorer regions to find how rich the welcome of people can be; when I was working in an orphanage in India, for example, it was humbling how often a family would invite me to eat with them, or to attend a wedding or family celebration: all with the sense that a guest confers honour (rather than merely inconvenience!) This Monday we celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - a feast which in some regard speaks of the welcoming nature of Our Lady, who gave of herself without counting the cost. The feast celebrates the dogma of the Church by which we believe that Mary - unlike us - was never marked by the stain of original sin even from the moment of her conception. It is difficult for us to comprehend, except through prayer, how this special grace would have come out deeply in her loving character, in her way of being. The Carmelite writer Fr Wilfrid Stinissen explains by making a comparison with other saints. "When Saint Therese of Lisieux writes that she never refused God anything from the time she was three years old, she means that she never said a conscious No to God. But in reality, Therese, without knowing it, often gave in to a certain self-centredness. Her conscious Yes could not have been without many small unconscious Nos. Mary's Yes, on the other hand, filled not only her consciousness, but her entire being. She was a living "Yes, Father" [...] [S]aying Yes was her life."

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ADVENT IS HERE!

- Candlelit **'RORATE' MASSES** will take place on the **first three TUESDAYS of ADVENT** starting 2nd December at **7am**. **Please note the earlier start time.** The Mass will take no more than 30 minutes and be followed by breakfast served in Hall, so people have time to get to school and work afterwards. All are welcome to join us for this beautiful way to mark the Advent season.
- **ADVENT RECONCILIATION** - Advent is a good time to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, so that, as He cleanses from the sin with which we all too often reject Him, we can welcome Him anew to be born into our hearts at Christmas, just as Mary, Joseph and the shepherds welcomed His birth into the world. **Canon Tim Madeley will be hearing Confessions here on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December from 10.30am.** Additional Advent times in our soon-to-be parish communities are:
  - HENFIELD – Monday, 8th December at 7.00pm (Fr Hugh)
  - WEST GRINSTEAD – Friday, 12th December at 7.00pm (Canon Tim & Fr Tristan)
  - BILLINGSHURST – Saturday, 13th December at 10.00am (Fr Tristan)
  - CRAWLEY – Friday, 19th December at 6.00pm (Fr Nelson, Fr Anthony, Fr Peter, Fr Joachim, Fr Tristan)
  - CRAWLEY – Saturday, 20th December at 10.30am (Fr Nelson, Fr Anthony, Fr Peter, Fr Joachim)
  - WORTH ABBEY – Monday, 22nd December at 7.30pm (Priests of the Benedictine community)
- **'GAUDETE' SUNDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER** – Please remember to **bring your crib figures and Nativity sets to Mass** on the weekend of 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> December, when they will be blessed at the end of all Masses. You will also be able to pick up some blessed straw on your way out of Church, for placing in your home Nativity scenes.

**FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS** – This weekend's Second Collection is for Flowers for Christmas, when we ask you to give generously, so that the church can look at its majestic best for the Season of Christmas. You can use your Diocesan Gift Aid envelopes for this collection. Thank you!

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR OUR CHRISTMAS MASSES** – There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the Church, for Sacristans, Co-ordinators, Welcomers, Readers, Offertory Collectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. If you are able to assist at any of our Christmas Masses, please add your name to the sheet, **by Sunday 7th December**. Thank you so much for your help with these important ministries.

**OUR CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASSES** – You'll find details of these in a flyer, copies of which are available from the back of the Church. Please take one home with you and encourage family and friends to join us as we celebrate the Season of Christmas.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS OVER CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR** – The Parish Office will **close at 2:30pm on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December**. It will **reopen on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January**. During this period, please note that any emails you send will not be monitored. We wish you all a very Happy and Blessed Christmas.

**CAR PARK RENEWALS 2025/26** - Car parking Renewals for 2025-2026 are now due. This year's parking subscriptions for 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 2025 – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2026 are: £135 Short Term Carpark – 3 Hours; £405 Long Term Carpark – All day. Renewals can be made using the following link <https://www.stjohnshorsham.com/car-parking>. We would encourage those that do not have access to the internet to get family or close friends to help with the renewals, as the Parish Office is not involved in this process. Once we have an idea of the number of renewals, any registered parishioner who is interested in obtaining a fob, may be put onto a waiting list, which will be held by the parish office.

**SIGNING OF SCHOOL FORMS** – Fr Tristan will be available on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> and Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December, between 4:30pm and 5:30pm, to sign Supplementary Information Forms (SIFs) for 2026/27 admissions to St John's and to St Robert Southwell primary schools. There is no need to make an appointment – please just come along to the Parish Office and bring the completed form, together with a copy of your child's Baptism Certificate, with you.

**VIDEOGRAPHY/RECORDING IN CHURCH** - It has come to our attention that certain people have been filming/streaming during Mass on their phones; please be aware this is **not** permitted under safeguarding regulations.

**SVP ADVENT SOUP LUNCHESES** - The SVP would like to invite you to our Soup Lunches in the Parish Hall from 12.00-1.30 on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December. Any money donated will again go to SVP projects in South Sudan.

**TODDLER GROUP** – The final meeting of the Toddler Group before they break for Christmas will be on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December**. Their next meeting after that will be on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January**.

**HORSHAM COMMUNITY FRIDGE POP UP @ ST JOHN'S** - SVP and friends in conjunction with Horsham Community Fridge will host this event in the Church Hall on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December, 10am - 11am. The aim of the Community Fridge is to provide people with free good food, saved from incineration or landfill. Everybody is welcome irrespective of their circumstances. To ensure everyone has a choice of food, every adult visitor is welcome to 5 free items of fresh produce plus bread/bakery items. SVP will also serve tea/coffee during this event.

**DAY OF REFLECTION FOR MINISTERS OF THE WORD** – **Saturday 24 January 2026 11-4pm at St Michael's church, High Salvington, Worthing BN13 3AL**. Led by Bishop Richard and Catherine Christmas, Liturgy and Music Adviser. On the weekend of the [Sunday of the Word of God](#), this day will include talks on the Scriptures, the Lectionary and its use in the Liturgy, the Liturgy of the Word, and preparing to minister as a reader. There will be a time of Lectio Divina, and the day will conclude with the celebration of Mass. To book a place go to the Events page of the Diocesan website or use this link [Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Word \(24-Jan-2026\) · ChurchSuite Events](#). If you have any questions about this day, do not hesitate to contact Catherine Christmas at [catherine.christmas@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:catherine.christmas@abdiocese.org.uk).

**THE COMMUNITY OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM** - seeks help to purchase a property to accommodate their growing community and further their apostolates of prayer, parish missions, hospitality, chaplaincy and youth work. Any amount, large or small is greatly appreciated and the community assure you of their prayers. Cheques payable to **COLW** can be sent to *House of the Divine Will, Neatherd Moor, Dereham, NR20 4AZ*. More information, as well as the option to donate online, can be found at: [www.maryshouseappeal.org](http://www.maryshouseappeal.org) E: [office@walsinghamcommunity.org](mailto:office@walsinghamcommunity.org) T: 01362 692574.

## LIVE SIMPLY “Live simply so others may simply live”

### PLAN FOR A SUSTAINABLE CHRISTMAS:

- Buy local
- Avoid items with wasteful packaging
- Reduce food waste by planning ahead and freezing any leftovers

Email [livesimply\\_stjohnshorsham@yahoo.com](mailto:livesimply_stjohnshorsham@yahoo.com)  
with your Live Simply questions and ideas.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

THE COLLECT

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

FIRST READING (Prophet Isaiah 11:1-10)

On that day: There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples — of him shall the nations enquire, and his resting-place shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R: In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever.**

O God, give your judgement to the king,  
to a king's son your justice,  
that he may judge your people in justice,  
and your poor in right judgement. **R**

In his days justice shall flourish,  
and great peace till the moon is no more.  
He shall rule from sea to sea,  
from the River to the bounds of the earth. **R**

For he shall rescue the needy when they cry,  
the poor who have no one to help.  
He will have pity on the weak and the needy,  
and save the lives of the needy. **R**

May his name endure for ever,  
his name continue like the sun.  
Every tribe shall be blest in him,  
all nations shall call him blessed. **R**

SECOND READING (Letter of St Paul to the Romans 15:4-9)

Brothers and sisters: Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.'

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.

GOSPEL (Matthew 3:1-12)

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.' For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight."'

Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father", for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

'I baptise you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings, and, since we have no merits to plead our cause, come, we pray, to our rescue with the protection of your mercy. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, through our partaking in this mystery, you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth and hold firm to the things of heaven. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

LET US PRAY FOR

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK INCLUDING

Edwina Slater, Tony Sefton, Baby Ruby, Canon Lisa Barnett,  
Sheila Pike, Bill Hughes, Geraldine Garvley, Ashley Elliott,  
Diana Foley, Robin Sherfield, Helen Daly, Pat Danielian,  
Anne Mullarky, Vilma Marshall, Derek Warwick,  
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, and Katrina Sharpe.

**WE PRAY FOR  
ALL HOLY SOULS.**

Collection Notice

**THIS WEEKEND'S SECOND COLLECTION IS FOR  
FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS**

*(eligible for Diocesan gift-aid envelopes).*

Coffee After 9:15 am Mass Host

**JUSTICE & PEACE GROUP**

*(fundraising for Turning Tides, a local homeless charity).*

Readings for Next Week

**Reading 1** - Prophet Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

**Psalm** - Ps 146(145):6c-7.8-9a.9b-10.R.cf. Is 35:4

**Reading 2** - Letter of St James 5:7-10

**Gospel** - Matthew 11:2-11