



# ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, HORSHAM PARISH NEWSLETTER

Third 'Gaudete' Sunday of Advent, Year A | 14th 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

### 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**

### 15<sup>th</sup> December – Monday of the Third Week in Advent

**12:00 noon Mass** - Ilona Brockbank RIP

### 16<sup>th</sup> December – Tuesday of the Third Week in Advent

**N.B. 7:00am 'Rorate' Mass** – For the people of North Korea

*(Followed by breakfast in the Hall)*

**N.B. 10:30 am to 1:00 pm - Adoration**

**2:00 pm - St John's Primary School Advent Service**

### 17<sup>th</sup> December – Wednesday, 17 December in Greater Advent, 'O Sapientia'

**NO MASS**

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

**NO POLISH ADORATION**

**NO POLISH MASS**

### 18<sup>th</sup> December – Thursday, 18 December in Greater Advent, 'O Adonai'

**12:00 noon Mass** - Mr and Mrs Edwards RIP

### 19<sup>th</sup> December – Friday, 19 December in Greater Advent, 'O Radix Jesse'

**12:00 noon Mass** - Yvonne Frisby RIP

*Followed by Confession*

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

### 20<sup>th</sup> December – Saturday, 20 December in Greater Advent, 'O Clavis David'

**10:00 am Mass** - Mark Forster RIP

*Followed by Confession, Adoration & Benediction*

**5:15 pm to 5:45 pm – Confession**

**6:00 pm Vigil Mass** – Paulose Vithayathil RIP and Devassy Kallrackal RIP

### 21<sup>st</sup> December – Fourth Sunday of Advent, 'O Oriens'

**9:15 am Mass** - Pro Populo

**11:15 am Mass** - Jim McNeil RIP

**1:45 pm - Polish Mass**

**2:45 pm - Syro-Malabar Rite Mass**

**5:00 pm - Italian Mass**

**6:30 pm - Simbang Gabi 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

**£2,823.14**

(£1,073.14 Offertory;  
£1,750 Standing Orders).

## Second Collection

**£776.29**

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!' Our theme of "Welcome" for this Advent emerges once again in the readings and texts of this Sunday, which is called 'Gaudete Sunday' after the Latin word that begins the Mass's Introit meaning "Rejoice!" After the challenging words of Jesus and St John the Baptist in the first two weeks of Advent, admonishing us to be ready for the Second Coming, in this week that theme continues, but with a new tone or shade shining through: a lightness, a joy, and to signify this the vestments of the Mass change colour on this Sunday from solemn purple to a lighter rose. The readings focus on the signs that accompany the arrival of the Messiah: the blind see, the lame walk, the dead are raised up... The justice of God is to be done! And that in itself, as much as it challenges us, also is a cause for great joy: salvation is at hand for sinners, and Death is to be no more! Joy is an essential effect of the spirit of welcome. When we no longer resist Christ, who knocks at the heart's door and waits for us patiently to open it, anguish is extinguished, and joy begins to suffuse us. The strange thing about this is that this takes place even in the darkness, in painful experience. And when we welcome others, we experience God's welcoming joy in us AND spread it to others in the very same moment. A parish community where people make a genuine effort to love one another - smile, greet, pray, assist one another - is an extraordinary place, and a place of evangelisation that others want to be part of. St James reminds us of this today: "Do not grumble against one another, brothers and sisters... behold, the Judge is standing at the door." (Jas 5:9) This joy to each other does not always come naturally, but what a difference it makes. The Benedictine spiritual writer Dom Prosper Guéranger noted that joy may require a victory over self, writing that we must: 'make an effort to be cheerful [...] Cheerfulness takes courage, as does everything else; and it is for God that we must overcome ourselves in this way. Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say Rejoice...! We must pull the ground out from under the feet of that melancholy that is no good for either this world or the next.'

One very good reason to be joyful in this season is that we welcome among us Barnabas Mercer, a fourth-year seminarian for our diocese who will be spending the next 6 months with us as part of his formation for the priesthood. It is an amazing joy to see God calling young men into His service and to the service of His people. Please pray for him, welcome him - and pray for the others who will one day follow the same path, if it be God's will. Some of them are here in Horsham too!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ADVENT IS HERE!

- Candlelit '**RORATE**' **MASSSES** 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. Additional Advent times in our soon-to-be parish communities are:
  - 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).

**FROM THE PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE** – Fr Tristan does not receive a salary – his main source of income is the collection taken at our Christmas Eve/Christmas Day Masses and at the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday Masses. **Please give generously when you come to Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day**, via the Offertory Basket, Card Machine or Online Banking. For Online Banking please use "Christmas" as a reference along with your Gift Aid number, if applicable. For the Offertory Basket, if you gift aid, please put your offering in an envelope of any kind and write your name or Gift Aid number on it – cheques should be made payable to 'St John the Evangelist'. Please note that if you have a standing order with the parish, this is your parish offertory and it is NOT treated as part of the Christmas collection. Thank you! (More details about online giving, and gift aid can be found at: <https://www.stjohnshorsham.com/church-giving>).

**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.

**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.

**PASTORAL PLAN UPDATE** - Bishop Richard issued a new Pastoral Plan for the Diocese [The Word Who is Life: The Call to Mission](https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/pastoral-plan) in January 2024. The Plan marks an important new stage in the development of diocesan parish structures, with the 11 former deaneries of the Diocese becoming 11 new parishes. Two new parishes have been established this year; Brighton & Hove (14 September) and Guildford (29 November). Weybridge will be inaugurated on 7 December. To find out more about the Pastoral Plan, visit the diocesan website W: [www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/pastoral-plan](https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/pastoral-plan).

**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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 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.

**SVP ADVENT SOUP LUNCHES** - The SVP would like to invite you to our Soup Lunches in the Parish Hall from 12.00-1.30 on Wednesday 17th 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 was on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December**. Their next meeting after that will be on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January**.

**MARY'S MEALS - DOUBLE THE LOVE** - Mary's Meals, the wonderful Scottish based charity now feeding over 3 million children every day at school are delighted to be able to announce that all donations this festive season will be matched by a group of generous supporters up to £11million so anything you donate will be doubled. To take advantage of this wonderful opportunity go to <http://www.Marysmeals.org> to donate online. £19.90 will feed one child for a whole year in a place of education.

**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 20th 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).

**FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND** - The Second collections at all Masses and the talk in the hall for Friends of the Holy Land, on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November, raised the grand sum of £1,663.21. This money will go directly to Palestine, to fund projects and aid on the ground. Many, many thanks for your generosity. This is a wonderful result.

**VICTOR TOMPKINS RIP** - Vanessa and Geraldine, the daughters of Victor Tompkins RIP, would like to thank the parishioners for their kind thoughts, prayers and Mass Cards. Also to those attending the funeral - we were so touched. We ask for your continued prayers and we will pray for all of you.

**RETRouvaille** - helps marriages. It can bring hope and healing to relationships. Next date: 12th February 2026. [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) Tel: 07887 296983.

**MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS TRAINING – SATURDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2026 10-3PM AT THE ST PHILIP HOWARD CENTRE, CRAWLEY** - One of the challenges that we are experiencing in our modern world is the growing number of people, of all ages, experiencing the darkness and challenge of various mental health conditions. Thanks to the support of Mental Health England, we are able to offer this training, to explore the realities, symptoms and impact of living with these many debilitating conditions. Thanks to the support of the trainer, we are able to highly subsidise the event. Tickets are now £40 per delegate (usual price £120). To register scan the QR code, or go to the Events page of the Diocesan website W: [www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events](http://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events) If you have any questions about this course, do not hesitate to contact Simon South, Marriage & Family Life Adviser at E: [simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk).



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

**CHARITY RECYCLING** - A wide variety of items can be recycled through Sussex Green Living, raising money for charity in the process. These include: Pens and pencils, make-up, rubber gloves and many more. See the full list of accepted items and full instructions here: <https://www.sussexgreenliving.org.uk/single-use/>. There is a collection point outside Friends Meeting House, opposite the bus station, and many others throughout the Horsham district. For ease of sorting please place the different categories of item in individual plastic bags. Bread bags are ideal for this.

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

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

## THE COLLECT

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. 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 (Prophet Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10)

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, 'Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Sion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R: Come, Lord, and save us.**

It is the LORD who preserves fidelity for ever,  
who does justice to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the LORD who sets prisoners free. **R**

The LORD who opens the eyes of the blind,  
the LORD who raises up those who are bowed down.  
It is the LORD who loves the just,  
the LORD who protects the stranger. **R**

The LORD upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The LORD will reign for ever,  
your God, O Sion, from age to age. **R**

## SECOND READING (Letter of St James 5:7-10)

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor. Alleluia.

## GOSPEL (Matthew 11:2-11)

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

At that time: When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'

And Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.

'What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you."

'Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

The Gospel of the Lord

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

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts. 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

**NO SECOND COLLECTIONS FOR THIS WEEKEND.**

**Coffee After 9:15 am Mass Host**

**THE SVP.**

## Readings for Next Week

**Reading 1** - Prophet Isaiah 7:10-14

**Psalm** - Ps 24(23):1-2. 3-4b.5-6. R.cf.7c, 10b

**Reading 2** - Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 1:1-7

**Gospel** - Matthew 1:18-24