



ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, HORSHAM PARISH NEWSLETTER

Fourth 'Laetare' Sunday of Lent, Year A | 15th March 2026

3 Springfield Rd, Horsham, RH12 2PJ, West Sussex | 01403 253667 | horsham@abdiocese.org.uk | www.stjohnshorsham.com

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

14th March – Saturday of the Third Week in Lent

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

Followed by Confession, Adoration & Benediction

1:30 pm - First Holy Communion Programme Session 6

3:30 pm - Silent Prayer (*Meet upstairs in the Parish Hall for refreshments, then proceed to the Church*)

5:00 pm to 5:45 pm - Confession

6:00 pm Vigil Mass - Lis McIntyre RIP

15th March – Fourth 'Laetare' Sunday of Lent

8:00 am to 8:30 am - Confession

9:15 am Mass - Pro Populo

11:15 am Mass - John Pentony RIP

1:45 pm - Polish Mass

2:45 pm – Syro-Malabar Rite Mass

5:00 pm - Italian Mass

16th March – Monday of the Fourth Week in Lent

8:00 am to 8:30 am - Confession

11:00 am Requiem Mass for Derek Warwick RIP

17th March – Tuesday, St Patrick, Bishop, Missionary (Feast)

7:30 am Mass - Muriel Aristide RIP

No Confession

12:00 noon Mass - For the Wellbeing of John Jordan

12:30 pm to 3:00 pm - Adoration

18th March – Wednesday of the Fourth Week in Lent

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

19th March – Thursday, St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity)

12:00 noon Mass - In Thanksgiving for Bincy

No Confession

20th March – Friday of the Fourth Week in Lent

11:15 am - Stations of the Cross

12:00 noon Mass - Angelique Toupan RIP

Followed by Confession

No evening Confession

6:00 pm - Rosary & Adoration

7:00 pm - Stations of the Cross

21st March – Saturday of the Fourth Week in Lent

10:00 am Mass – Maria Lione RIP

Followed by Confession, Adoration & Benediction

5:00 pm to 5:45 pm - Confession

6:00 pm Vigil Mass - Frank Maguire RIP

22nd March – Fifth ('First Passion') Sunday of Lent

No Confession

9:15 am Mass - Pro Populo

11:15 am Mass - Sunny Moonan RIP

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

Health & Safety
hs1.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

£3,208.17

(£1,458.17 Offertory;
£1,750 Standing Orders).

Second Collection

No Collections.

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

OUR VISITING SEMINARIAN, BARNABAS, WRITES

**“Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;”**

Laetare Sunday is already upon us! “Laetare” meaning “rejoice”, the Church now encourages us to remember the ultimate destination we are journeying to on our Lenten pilgrimage; the joyful celebration of Christ’s conquering sin and death. Therefore, we can take this as an opportunity to slightly relax our observances, whilst keeping in mind that this is merely a little foretaste of the paschal celebrations that are to come.

It is particularly fitting therefore to see which passage of scripture the Church has given us for this Sunday’s Gospel; Jesus’s healing of the man born blind. Whilst others see in the man’s misfortune an indication of guilt, Christ sees this man’s vulnerability as an opportunity for God’s grace to shine through, and brings him healing and transformation ‘that the works of God might be displayed in him’. Through his healing the man is transformed beyond recognition...crucially, not only did Christ show the power of the Father over natural evil by working this miracle, but also He showed His disciples a sign of the inner transformation that was to come to us once He had defeated sin and death on the Cross, and ascended to His Father, sending the Holy Spirit to His Church. A cause to rejoice indeed, and yet all the Pharisees choose to see is an infraction of the Law, given that a work had been performed on the Sabbath...

Laetare Sunday is a timely reminder to us in Lent as to why we fast, pray, and give. It is not merely to satisfy a rule, or prove to ourselves and others how religious we are; quite the opposite! It is, amongst other things, to show more clearly our vulnerabilities, our frailties, and our wounds, so that Christ may enter into them to bring them healing, or indeed, so that the works of God might be displayed in us. Ultimately, it is to prepare us to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ, He who gives us eyes to see and ears to hear, and transforms us beyond recognition into the people we are called to be. Let us joyfully continue our Lenten resolve to draw closer to Christ then, and ask Him to strip away any obstacles in our lives to Him as we continue this holy season of Lent.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EXTRA MASS ON THE FEAST OF ST PATRICK, TUESDAY 17TH MARCH – In addition to our normal Tuesday morning Mass at 7:30am, there will be Mass at 12 noon on Tuesday 17th March, to celebrate the Feast of St Patrick.

GRANDPARENTS GROUP - The next meeting of the Grandparents Group at St John's will take place on Thursday 19th March in the church hall, beginning with coffee at 10.15am and ending at 11.30am.

SVP SOUP LUNCHESES - The SVP cordially invite you to their remaining Wednesday Lenten Soup Lunches in the church hall from 12.00 – 1.30, on Wednesday 18th and 25th March. Donations will again go to South Sudan.

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 21st March, 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.

MEN’S WAY OF THE CROSS 2026, FRIDAY 20TH MARCH TO SATURDAY 21ST MARCH 2026 - beginning at Our Lady of Ransom Church, Eastbourne, with Adoration and Confessions at 9pm, Holy Mass at 10pm, and the Way of the Cross departing at 11pm. We return at dawn for a period of quiet Adoration, testimonials, and breakfast together. This event is for men only. Join us for a prayer over the South Downs Beachy Head trail to rediscover yourself and reflect on your God given purpose on this earth. Full details, including routes and how to confirm your attendance, can be found at www.menswayofthecross.co.uk.

RESTRICTED PARKING IN THE CHURCH CAR PARK, SATURDAY 21ST MARCH – Please note that there will be work going on in the church car park on Saturday 21st March to prune all of the shrubs. This will mean that some spaces may not be available during parts of the day. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

REQUIEM MASS - The Requiem Mass for Norah Hart will take place here at St John the Evangelist on Monday 23rd March at 12 noon, followed by the Wake in the Church Hall. All are very welcome.

NOTICE FOR ALTAR SERVERS, ARUNDEL CATHEDRAL CHRISM MASS, WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL - Those planning to attend the Chrism Mass, who would like to altar serve, should please note that there are new protocols in place at the Cathedral to ensure that the appropriate Safeguarding procedures are followed. Anyone who wishes to altar serve at the Cathedral will need a DBS and appropriate training and will need to contact the Cathedral Office; E: arundel@abdiocese.org.uk or T: 01903 882297 to register for events. **To register to altar serve for the Chrism Mass please contact the cathedral team by Wednesday 18 March.**

“THIS IS MY BELOVED SON, WITH WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED; LISTEN TO HIM” (MATTHEW 17:5) - At St John’s, we have the opportunity to experience some catechesis in the parish to help us in our journey of growing closer to Jesus and listening more closely to him this Lent.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

On **Mondays at 17:00**, Fr Tristan will be giving a live online talk on the liturgy on YouTube (to access, head to his YouTube channel Fr_Tristan_Cranfield), which will be recorded so you can watch it later if you wish. Moreover, Barnabas will be facilitating a video course by Dr Scott Hahn on the Gospel of Matthew, with prayer and group discussion, in the Main Hall on **Fridays at 19:30**. Both series are intended for anyone in the parish, and indeed any friends who may be interested in learning more about Christ and his Church. All are welcome!

IMPORTANT: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR OUR TRIDUUM AND EASTER SERVICES (THURSDAY 2ND TO SUNDAY 5TH APRIL) - 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 willing to help at any of our Triduum or Easter services, please add your name to the sheet, **by Sunday 15th March**. We especially need Readers (8 in total) for the Easter Vigil! Thank you, as always, for your help with these important ministries.

MARRIAGE CATECHISTS & AMBASSADORS' FORMATION DAY, CHRIST THE PRINCE OF PEACE, WEYBRIDGE, SATURDAY 18 APRIL 10.30AM – 3PM - For all those involved in the Marriage Preparation process across the Diocese or anyone who is keen to support and build the understanding of sacramental marriage in their parishes. Join us for a day of sharing, listening and learning from the many teams across the diocese; sharing your experience and ideas from the important work you are doing. We will also be discussing ways of engaging, educating and raising the understanding of a sacramental marriage with the young adults of our parishes. Please bring a packed lunch. To register, go to the Events page of the Diocesan website W: www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events or scan the QR code on the poster. If you have any questions about the day please contact Deacon Simon South, Diocesan Marriage & Family Life Adviser E: simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2027 IN SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA – The next World Youth Day will take place from 3rd to 8th August next year in Seoul, South Korea. There is further information on the website: <https://wydseoul.org/en>. If you're aged between 18 and 35 and would like to go, please register your interest via the Parish Office or speak to Fr Tristan.

RECLAIMING HUMANITY: ATTENTION & LOVE IN A FRAGMENTED WORLD - An afternoon Exploring Catholic Social Teaching with **Fr Toby Lees OP**. **Sunday 22 March · 1:30–4:15pm · Fitzherbert Community Hub**. Fr Toby Lees OP — Dominican priest, moral theologian, and Priest Director of Radio Maria England — will explore how forces in our culture fight for our attention, weakening our capacity to love; how fragmentation affects our humanity, and how we can stay grounded through contemplation, communion, and generosity. All are welcome to join early for a shared lunch at 12:45pm (please bring a packed lunch or a dish to share). No booking required. Donation only. Tea, coffee, and cake provided. **Venue:** The Fitzherbert Hub, St John the Baptist Church, BN2 1AP. **More info:** joanna.gilbert@abdiocese.org.uk.

GRANDPARENTS' FORMATION DAY – Thursday 23 April 10-4pm at St John the Evangelist parish hall, Horsham. Join us for what promises to be a wonderful, engaging and affirming day with guest speaker, David Wells. You will be able to listen to the inspirational experience of David Wells as evangelist, father and grandfather. A chance to meet with people from across the grandparent network of the diocese and those who are keen to bring the faith to the next generation. For more details on David's powerful, fun and engaging talks on our faith you might like to visit his website W: davidwellslive.com To register, go to the Events page of the Diocesan website W: www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events If you have any questions about the day please contact Deacon Simon South, Diocesan Marriage & Family Life Adviser E: simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk

GRANDPARENTS PILGRIMAGE, THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION & ST FRANCIS, WEST GRINSTEAD, WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE 11AM – 3PM - A day of sharing and prayer with other Grandparents to include Mass, Benediction, Rosary, tours of the secret chapel and lots of chat. Please bring a packed lunch. To register, go to the Events page of the Diocesan website W: www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events or scan the QR code on the poster. If you have any questions about the day please contact Deacon Simon South, Diocesan Marriage & Family Life Adviser E: simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk

YOUNG ADULTS' EASTER RETREAT AT WORTH ABBEY! - Maundy Thursday 2nd April - Easter Sunday 5th April. (Plus, optional walking pilgrimage from Brighton, leaving Palm Sunday). Come and celebrate together the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the greatest Feast of the year and climax of our faith. Talks from monks / space for personal reflection / group discussion / social time / beautiful liturgy. Retreat cost: £200 (£100 places available - please enquire at retreats@worth.org.uk for more details). To book your place visit: www.worthabbey.org/our-retreats and [click on the 'young adults' tab](#).

CLAUSE 208 OF THE CRIME AND POLICING BILL - PLEASE ACT NOW TO PROTECT PREGNANT WOMEN AND THEIR BABIES - Clause 208 of the Crime and Policing Bill would change the law, so that it is no longer illegal for women to perform their own abortions for any reason and at any point, up to and during birth. The Bill is now at Report Stage in the Lords, with the key votes likely to take place on Wednesday 18 March. Please [write to members of the House of Lords](#) to urge them to oppose Clause 208 and support Baroness Stroud's amendment to reinstate the requirement for an in-person consultation before providing abortion pills. For further information and a quick facility to ask Peers to oppose abortion up to birth visit: righttolife.org.uk/uptobirthlords. Please keep this issue in your prayers. Enquiries to Pauline Gately, Co-ordinator of the [Diocesan Cherish Life Network](#), E: p.gately@outlook.com

LIVE SIMPLY “Live simply so others may simply live”

SPRING HAS ARRIVED! - A time to embrace nature and to think about being kinder to our environment. Hang washing outside. Start a compost heap. Collect rainwater for watering your plants. Every small change makes a difference.

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

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

THE COLLECT

O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. 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 (First Book of Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a)

In those days: The LORD said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.'

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the LORD's anointed is before him.' But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.' And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, 'The LORD has not chosen these.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.' And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, 'Arise, anoint him, for this is he.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R: The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The LORD is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me;
he revives my soul. **R**

He guides me along the right path,
for the sake of his name.
Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death,
no evil would I fear, for you are with me.
Your crook and your staff will give me comfort. **R**

You have prepared a table before me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **R**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the LORD's own house shall I dwell
for length of days unending. **R**

SECOND READING (Letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 5:8-14)

Brothers and Sisters: At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true, and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus. I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

GOSPEL (John 9:1-41)

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: As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'It is he.' Others said, 'No, but he is like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." So I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.' They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the

Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?' And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, 'Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.' He answered, 'Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' And they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man answered, 'Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshipper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' They answered him, 'You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?' And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.' He said, 'Lord, I believe', and he worshipped him. Jesus said, 'For judgement I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.' Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, 'Are we also blind?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, "We see", your guilt remains.'

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

We place before you with joy these offerings, which bring eternal remedy, O Lord, praying that we may both faithfully revere them and present them to you, as is fitting, for the salvation of all the world. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world, illuminate our hearts, we pray, with the splendour of your grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty and love you in all sincerity. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

LET US PRAY FOR

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK INCLUDING

Paul Wycliffe, John Maher, Charlotte Curson, Edwina Slater, Tony Sefton, Baby Ruby, Sheila Pike, Bill Hughes, Geraldine Garvley, Ashley Elliott, Diana Foley, Robin Sheffield, 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

Norah Hart RIP, Derek Warwick RIP, and ALL HOLY SOULS.

Collections Announcements

NEXT WEEKEND'S SECOND COLLECTION IS FOR FLOWERS FOR EASTER (eligible for Diocesan Gift Aid envelopes).

Other Announcements

THURSDAY IS THE SOLEMNITY OF ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY – no Lenten discipline on this day.

Coffee After 9:15 am Mass Host

THE CATENIANS.

Readings for Next Week

Reading 1 - Prophet Ezekiel 37:12-14
Psalm - Ps 130(129): 1-2.3-4.5-6b.6c-8. R. 7bc
Reading 2 - Letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:8-11
Gospel - John 11:1-45