



ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, HORSHAM PARISH NEWSLETTER

First Sunday of Lent, Year A | 22nd February 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

21st February – Saturday after Ash Wednesday

10:00 am Mass - Elena, Pilar and Rosario Palacios RIP

Followed by Confession, Adoration & Benediction

5:00 pm to 5:45 pm - Confession

6:00 pm Vigil Mass - Pro Populo

22nd February – First Sunday of Lent

8:00 am to 8:30 am - Confession

9:15 am Mass - Intentions of the White Family

11:15 am Mass - Alfredo and Angela Tavolieri RIP

1:45 pm - Polish Mass

5:00 pm - Italian Mass

23rd February – Monday of the First Week in Lent

8:00 am to 8:30 am - Confession

12:00 noon Mass - Intentions of Bessie Moloney

24th February – Tuesday of the First Week in Lent

7:30 am Mass - Stephen Hornung RIP FM

8:00 am to 8:30 am - Confession

10:30 am to 3:00 pm - Adoration

25th February – Wednesday of the First 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

26th February – Thursday of the First Week in Lent

12:00 noon Requiem Mass for Audrey Eager RIP

5:00pm to 5:45pm – Confession

(6:45 pm - Confirmation Programme Session 5 in the Parish Hall)

27th February – Friday of the First Week in Lent

11:15 am - Stations of the Cross

12:00 noon Mass - Brian Madeley RIP FM

Followed by Confession

5:00 pm to 5:45 pm - Confession

6:00 pm - Rosary & Adoration

7:00 pm - Stations of the Cross

28th February – Saturday of the First Week in Lent

10:00 am Mass - Deceased Members of the Hornung Family RIP

Followed by Confession, Adoration & Benediction

1:30 pm - First Holy Communion Programme Session 4

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 - Intentions of Pauline Law

1st March – Second, 'Transfiguration' Sunday of Lent

8:00 am to 8:30 am - Confession

9:15 am Mass - Jacques Cyril Le Roy 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@abdiocese.org.uk

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

£3,028.28

(£1,278.28 Offertory;
£1,750 Standing Orders).

Second Collection

No Collection.

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

Today's Gospel reminds us of the importance of fasting and abstinence in the face of temptation. In the first of his annual Messages for Lent, Pope Leo XIV reminds us: "Fasting is a concrete way to prepare ourselves to receive the word of God. Abstaining from food is an ancient ascetic practice that is essential on the path of conversion. Precisely because it involves the body, fasting makes it easier to recognize what we "hunger" for and what we deem necessary for our sustenance. Moreover, it helps us to identify and order our "appetites," keeping our hunger and thirst for justice alive and freeing us from complacency. Thus, it teaches us to pray and act responsibly towards our neighbor. [...] In this regard, I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbor. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOODBANK COLLECTION (THIS WEEKEND) - SVP Horsham will be collecting goods for the Horsham Foodbank this weekend, 21st and 22nd February. Over 90% of the food that is distributed by foodbanks is donated by the public – that's why your food donations are absolutely vital to the continuing work of the Foodbank. The Foodbank is grateful for whatever you can provide but they currently have a particular need for the following goods: Tinned Vegetables, Rice, Instant / Pot Noodles, Tinned Spaghetti, Cooking Sauces, Jams and Spreads. You can leave your goods at the back of the church on the table provided. Many Thanks.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY COLLECTION (NEXT WEEKEND) - This Lent, live out the Gospel call to love your neighbour. By fasting and giving what you save, you join in Christ's compassion and help another family put food on the table. Your donation can help families around the world grow food in difficult conditions. Collect a CAFOD envelope to bless others with your support, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030. Text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10. Thank you for your generous support this family fast day. Find out how your donations are helping to build a better world at cafod.org.uk/thankyou. PS It's not too late to donate – pick up a CAFOD envelope in church or visit cafod.org.uk/envelope. Also if you wish to fund raise please join our Big Lent Walk at Big Lent Walk: <https://cafod.org.uk/fundraise/big-lent-walk>.

CALLING ALL EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION - You should by now have received an email from the Parish Office, asking you to come for your annual training, prayer, and to be re-commissioned for service bringing Holy Communion to the Sick, distributing the Blessed Sacrament at Mass and helping with Eucharistic Exposition. This year, those who do not receive a note of 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 office.

OUR LIVESTREAM – You can now join our livestreamed Masses either via our website or via Church Services TV (our new livestream partner) at <https://www.churchservices.tv/horsham>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

DISCERNMENT RETREATS - at Minster Abbey Benedictine Monastery. These are for single catholic women aged 18-35 who are open to discerning a monastic vocation. The next Retreats are Palm Sunday weekend 27th-29th March 2026, 7th-9th August 2026 and 9th-11th October 2026. For more information and to book a place, please contact Sister Walburga at ministervocations@gmail.com. The website for the Monastery is www.minsterabbeynuns.org.

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.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 24TH – 30TH JULY 2026 – Applications are now open for this year's diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes. Full details are available at <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/lourdes/home>.

PROTECT THE SANCTITY OF LIFE - Two major bills are currently before Parliament that threaten the dignity of human life:

- The Assisted Suicide Bill
- The "Up to Birth" Abortion Clause (Crime and Policing Bill)

Our local MP John Milne has supported both in previous votes. We are organizing a parish petition to urge him to reconsider before the final decisions this March. Please sign the petition at the back of the church today. Every signature helps us send a powerful message to our local MP to protect the most vulnerable.

LIVE SIMPLY “Live simply so others may simply live”

GREEN HUB SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28TH 10AM - 2:30PM

The Green Hub will be open at the United Reformed Church, across the road from St John's, on Saturday February 28th. The Hub provides a recycling advice service - bring along any items you're not sure about - and a repair service for electrical items and textiles. Booking required. Also Zero waste shop, Horsham Community Fridge, Horsham Eco Churches, Community Energy Horsham and Transition Horsham.

Repair cafe booking form and more info here: <https://www.sussexgreenliving.org.uk/sussex-green-hub/>

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

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

THE COLLECT

Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects. 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 (Genesis 2:7-9.3:1-7)

The LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God actually say, "You shall not eat of any tree in the garden"?' And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your merciful love;
according to your great compassion,
blot out my transgressions.
Wash me completely from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin. **R**

My transgressions, truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done. **R**

Create a pure heart for me, O God;
renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence;
take not your holy spirit from me. **R**

Restore in me the joy of your salvation;
sustain in me a willing spirit.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. **R**

SECOND READING (Letter of St Paul to the Romans 5:12-19)

Brothers and Sisters: Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned — for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man; much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, O Christ. One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God. Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL (Matthew 4:1-11)

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: Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

And the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."'

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the Temple and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone."' Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test."'

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."' Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Give us the right dispositions, O Lord, we pray, to make these offerings, for with them we celebrate the beginning of this venerable and sacred time. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed now with heavenly bread, by which faith is nourished, hope increased, and charity strengthened, we pray, O Lord, that we may learn to hunger for Christ, the true and living Bread, and strive to live by every word which proceeds from your mouth. 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 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, Alan Frendo-Cumbo, and Katrina Sharpe.

WE PRAY FOR

Audrey Eager RIP, Anna Juster RIP and ALL HOLY SOULS.

Collections Announcements

FRIDAY IS CAFOD LENT FAST DAY.

Envelopes and other contributions will be collected next Sunday.

This collection is voluntary; not Gift Aid.

Coffee After 9:15 am Mass Host

YOUTH OF THE PARISH.

Readings for Next Week

Reading 1 - Genesis 12: 1-4

Psalm - Psalm 32(33):4-5, 18-20, 22

Reading 2 - Second Letter of St Paul to Timothy 1:8b-10

Gospel - Matthew 17: 1-9