

St Joseph's Catholic Church
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Parish Priest: Fr Ian Vane ian.vane@abdiocese.org.uk Parish Office: dorking@abdiocese.org.uk

Parish office hours: 10.15 am until 2 pm Monday, Tuesday and Friday. Parish Secretary: Maria O'Neil

The Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Trust is a Registered Charity, Number 252878.

April 2026

Saturday 11th Easter Saturday

9.30 Celebrant's Int

Saturday Evening

6.00 pm Second "Low" Sunday of Easter

Sunday 12th SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.00 People of the Parish

10.00 Holy Souls

Monday 13th after Second Sunday of Easter

9.30 Mark & Isabel van der Lande's Int

23/0013

Tuesday 14th after Second Sunday of Easter

9.30 Brendan Crosby R.I.P (A.D.)

22/0013

Wednesday 15th after Second Sunday of Easter

No liturgy today

Thursday 16th after Second Sunday of Easter

9.30 Celebrant's Int

Friday 17th after Second Sunday of Easter

9.30 Holy Souls

Saturday 18th after Second Sunday of Easter

9.30 Celebrant's Int

Saturday Evening

6.00 pm Third Sunday of Easter

Sunday 19th THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.00 People of the Parish

10.00 Holy Souls

The Sacrament of Reconciliation / Confession

is available after the Saturday morning Mass and from 5.15 to 5.45 Saturday afternoon.

Each Saturday Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & the Rosary follow on from Mass until 11.00 am

Peter Hudson R.I.P.:- Will take place on Tuesday 21st April at 10.00 am. Peter's family would like us to have a small reception in the hall afterwards with the provision for his sisters to be able to speak to parishioners via 'what's app'. Our thanks to those who have offered to take care of catering after the Funeral Mass.

Brendan Crosby R.I.P.:- Who returned to Ireland earlier this year to be with family and friends in the last weeks of his life, died on Good Friday. May they rest in peace. We offer our prayers and sympathy to their families and friends at this time.

ROSARY CIRCLE FOR PRIESTLY VOCATIONS:- If you haven't already done so, but would still like to commit to praying a decade of the Rosary each day during March, then please do put your initial or a tick in one of the boxes on the 'Rosary Circle' chart in the church porch.

The 'Chart' lists the 20 decades of the Rosary and a number of columns for people to put their initial or a tick in a box to indicate they will commit to praying the particular decade each day for the month of March, and hopefully, this will create a number of 'circles' praying for this intention. This is a very simple spiritual exercise many of us could join in with; at least 20 people praying one decade of the Rosary each day, so the whole of the Rosary is prayed for this particular intention, thus creating a 'Rosary Circle'. Let it be said, however, that anyone can join the Rosary Circles at any time.

CONFIRMATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMMES 2025 /2026:- Will continue this Thursday, 16th April at 5 & 7 pm respectively. The children in the First Holy Communion programme should have completed work on chapter 13 'Jesus at the Last Supper'. The Confirmation programme on the theme of being a part of the Church.

ADULT FORMATION:- Our programme continues on Monday 20th April, when we look at the sacrament of Baptism. Please note we will begin at the earlier time of 7.00 pm; all are welcome.

Significant dates in May:- On May 2nd we have a memorial Mass for Fr. Dominic Rolls, some ten years since his death; Mass will be at 11.00 am followed by a reception in the main hall. We welcome members of Fr. Dominic's family and other friends that day.

On Saturday, May 9th number of our young people will be Confirmed at St. Joseph's, Epsom and on Sunday 17th May we have our parish First Holy Communion Mass; please keep the children, young people and their families in your prayers at this time.

EASTER OFFERING :- Many thanks for your Easter Offering, details of which, should be available next weekend; thanks also for the cake, chocolate, wine and Easter cards, the latter not having been consumed, but the others are a work in progress.

Thanks also to all those who helped with the Holy Week liturgies in various ways! Thanks to those who prepared things in the sacristy, the flower arrangers, who made the church look so beautiful. Our thanks to our altar servers, who gave their time not only for the liturgies, but the rehearsals as well! A lot of time on their feet! Thanks to those who did the readings each day and to those who assisted with the music.

Also, to take the opportunity to thank all those of you who help in the life of the parish in so many varied and different ways; particular thanks to those who look after the church linen, the flower arrangers, to the Special Ministers of Holy Communion, especially those who go out to the sick and housebound with Holy Communion; thanks to the gift aid organiser, the money counters, the finance team, the sacristans, the readers rota organisers, those who tidy up both in and around the church, attending to the plants, drains etc. the cleaners, the 'Core Team' and the roles they have undertaken, those who look after the coffee after the Masses on Sunday and Tuesday, those who organise and prepare the 'First Friday lunch' and of course the people that I will have forgotten to mention.

Thanks also to Maria for the generous manner in which she has taken on the role of parish secretary, especially in getting the hall bookings sorted out and up to date. Again, my thanks, *Fr. Ian*

The dawn crow of the cockerel in the Passion Narrative: - (Part 2) The Midrash, about King Solomon who desires to build the Temple, the *shamir* and the *Hoopoe* begins by announcing that King Solomon got himself a male and female demon (derived from *shiddah* and *shiddot* which could mean 'singers' (see Jerusalem Bible version) but is obscure enough, according to the footnote, to possibly mean demons) who, in turn, eventually got a hold of the king of the demons, Ashmedai, who pointed King Solomon in the direction of the hoopoe, the guardian of the '*shamir*'.

The text continues:- "Solomon replied, "I want nothing at all that is yours. But because I desire to build the Temple, I need the *shamir*." Ashmedai (the king of demons) said to him. "The *shamir* was not placed in my charge but given to the prince of the sea, and he gave sole charge of it to the wild cock, (the hoopoe) who is entrusted with it on oath. Do you know what he does with it? He takes it to an uninhabited mountain and sets it down upon a peak, and **the mountain splits asunder. Then the wild cock gathers seeds of trees and scatters them in the split, which consequently attracts settlers.**" (Hence the Aramai Targum calls the wild cock the "splitter of mountains.")" (See:- "The Book of Legends *Sefer Ha-Aggadah*" No. 122 P. 130 Ed. Hayim Nahman Ravnitzky, Schocken Books, New York, 1992)

If, in Judaism at the time of our Lord, the cockerel announces the new day and the call to first prayers, the clearing by the priestly caste of the ashes of the previous days sacrificial oblations in the Temple as preparation for sacrifices of the new day, and indeed, the cockerel is recognised as the one who has charge of the *shamir* then surely, we can equate the *shamir* with our Lord and the wood of the cross!

The cross upon which our Lord was nailed, would have been erected in the rock, that is, it would have split the rock, and so we could say that symbolically, Christ is indeed the *shamir* who 'attracts settlers', the new Covenant, which is the Church, and therefore it is no surprise, the *shamir* disappeared after the building of the Second Temple, because Christ is the *shamir*, the tool required to build the (new) Temple, announced by the cockerel on Good Friday morning.

When, as the Gospel recounts our Lord died upon the cross, the veil of the Temple was torn from top to bottom (Mk 15:37, Matt 27:51) and thus the Covenant of Sinai is superseded, the New and Everlasting Covenant (of the Church) is established through the Resurrection of Jesus and the institution of the Ministerial priesthood and the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper; these surely all point to Jesus as being the *shamir*. The cock crow on that Good Friday would see our Lord died upon the Cross and again, as the Gospel relates, there was an earthquake and the ground was split open and the souls of many rose from the dead (Matt 27:51).

Is it that Christ is the *shamir*, the tool who enables the new temple to be built, the 'keystone' over which many would stumble, but upon whom, the Church, the New Temple or Tabernacle is built? In which case, the dawn crow of the cockerel, the splitter of stone, if the Gospel narrative references the Midrash, is of greater significance than we may think!

Youth Group at St Joseph's will begin on Thursday 23rd April and will meet **fortnightly from 6:00–8:00pm in the Church Hall** (dinner provided). The group is open to **young people in Years 6 to 11**, offering a welcoming space to build friendships, have fun, and explore faith and life together.

MASS INTENTIONS:- You will see from the 'diary' for this week, Masses are the 'celebrant's intention'; however, if you would like to have Mass offered for a personal or particular intention, please put details on a 'Mass Intention' envelope and hand it to Fr. Ian or drop it through the presbytery letterbox. You might like to have Mass offered for someone's well-being, the repose of their soul, birthday etc. By tradition, the Mass 'offering', (rooted in Leviticus 7:28-34 and Deuteronomy 18:3-8) should be sufficient to sustain a priest for the day. Many thanks.