

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.

November / December 2025

Saturday Evening First Sunday of Advent	
6.00 <u>Thanksgiving (N.H.)</u>	20/0010
Sunday 30th FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
8.00 People of the Parish	
10.00 <u>Celebrant's Int</u>	
Monday 1st Monday of First Week of Advent	
9.30 <u>Celebrant's Int</u>	
Tuesday 2nd Tuesday of First Week of Advent	
9.30 <u>Steve Baker's well-being</u>	24/0011
Wednesday 3rd Wednesday of First Week of Advent	
No Liturgy today	
Thursday 4th Thursday of First Week of Advent	
9.30 <u>Dec'd Members of the Odyniec Family</u>	13/0011
Friday 5th Friday of First Week of Advent	
12.00 <u>Geraldine Hunt's well-being</u>	21/0011
Saturday 6th Mem. St. Nicholas, Bishop	
9.30 <u>Josie & Edward Mooney R.I.P</u>	1/0012
Saturday Evening Second Sunday of Advent	
6.00 <u>Celebrant's Int</u>	
Sunday 7th FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
8.00 People of the Parish	
10.00 <u>Charlie Goldsmith's well-being</u>	17/0011

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

ROSARY CIRCLE FOR PRIESTLY VOCATIONS:- There is a new 'Rosary Circle Chart' on the noticeboard, to encourage us all to pray for vocations to the Priesthood.

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 December, 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.

Eucharistic Adoration: We have the monthly Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament this Thursday 4th December from 7.00pm - 8.00pm everyone is welcome to come along.

BLESSING OF ADVENT WREATHES

You are invited to bring any Advent wreathes along to be blessed at the beginning of Mass this weekend. There will be nothing complicated, other than to stand at the front of the sanctuary with your wreath which will be blessed with holy water, after which you'll simply return to your seat.

ADULT FORMATION:- Continues this Monday 1st December at 7.30 pm. Having covered some basics about different Bibles and how to use them, this week we will look further at of the unfolding of Divine revelation to get an overview of where the Bible comes from and something of the historical context of the inspired Word of God. Everyone is welcome to attend.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME:- Parents need to work through the second chapter of the book 'We need God to Save Us' with their child/ren before the meeting THIS THURSDAY 4th December at 5 pm. The catechist will review the chapter with the children, while parents, with Fr. Ian, will look at the next chapter, chapter 4. Donations towards the cost of the books and Bibles would be welcome.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2025 /2026:- The programme will begin on January 8th but remember the expectations of you, one of which was and is, to be at Sunday Mass, whether you come on Saturday evening or Sunday morning is entirely up to you; if you are going to be elsewhere at the weekend, to make sure you get the priest to sign the 'attendance card' you were given. Thank you. Many thanks.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY at the 10.00 am Sunday Mass:- The remaining dates are each Sunday during the **Advent Season: November 30th, December 7th, 14th, and 21st.** Let's keep growing together in faith and friendship!

Christmas cards & cribs:- This weekend, 29th November and next, 6th December, the parish 'Christmas' repository will be selling items in the parish hall after the Masses. If you don't have a Christmas crib for the family this would be an opportunity to buy one to use as a 'centre piece' at home, perhaps adding figures to it, year by year. Your purchases will support the work of 'Aid to the Church in Need', their work in the Holy Land and those parts of the world where the Church is suppressed.

Mass and Meet:- on Friday 5th December IS NOT a 'Christmas Lunch' but just a simple buffet lunch; apologies then, for having led any thoughts astray! Mass will be at 12 mid-day followed by the lunch in the hall at approximately 12.40

ADVENT STUDY GROUP:- Our Advent Course begins this Tuesday at 11am in the main hall. "ILLUMINATE" looks at Christ coming as the Light of the World and asks us to reflect on what this means for us and for the world. Meetings will last about an hour for four weekly sessions.

THE SEASON OF ADVENT:- A penitential season in which the Church calls us to conversion of mind and heart as we begin to focus our thoughts upon the humble birth of our Lord in Bethlehem. So, like the season of Lent, the liturgical colour is purple, reminding us that prayer, fasting, abstinence and the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Confession, should be part of our preparation for the birth of our Lord. Just as we might clean and tidy our homes, investigate the Christmas decorations so we should make the spiritual preparation to celebrate the great feast of the Incarnation. It is a celebration which reminds us that 'God sent His Son into the world so that everyone who believes in him, may not be lost, but may have eternal life.' (Cf. Jn 3:16)

So, for all of us then, to make the effort to have a penitential season, with prayer, fasting, abstinence and almsgiving, our self-denial, saying 'no' to self for the sake of Christ, offering our penance so as to be more conformed to the person of Christ and for the conversion of the world, then we will be truly able to rejoice in the real meaning of Christmas, the birth of Christ Jesus, our Lord and God become a man like us in all things but sin.

To help us in our spiritual preparation we will have a **Penitential Services on Sunday 21st December at 3.00 pm.** Additionally, there will be Penitential Services on 16th Dec at Epsom at 7:30 pm; 19th Dec in Cobham at 7:30 pm.

We should remember and be reminded that in this Sacrament, it is the grace and mercy of our Lord which is being offered, and that it is through His priests, both worthy and unworthy, that He chooses to minister to us.

Diocesan Pastoral Plan:-The Word Who is Life - ***You're Invited!*** Bishop Richard's Pastoral Plan is an invitation to everyone in the Diocese to live out the call, given to us in baptism, to spread the Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ. How do we best do this in the world of today? What are the unchanging treasures of the faith we bring to this mission? What changes will help us respond to the circumstances of our time and place? What gifts can you offer in all of this?

Over the last few months, a team drawn from the nine existing parishes of the Epsom Deanery have been reflecting on how best to encourage and involve all parishioners in this task, which includes YOU. To that end, in the New Year, there will be a meeting in each of our parishes (St Joseph's, Dorking: Sunday 25th Jan, 11.30 am) to reflect on the journey so far and going forward. To help you, and us, prepare for these meetings, we are asking you to pick up a "***You're Invited!***" postcard and flyer. These give some sense of what we hope the Pastoral Plan will achieve as well as some consideration to what might change as we go forward. Please make a note of our meeting date in your diary, and return the postcard to the box available in the Church by Sunday 14th December. Thank you for your response and we look forward to seeing you at the meetings. Many thanks, Fr Chris (Epsom Parish Administrator)

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:- Are as follows: Monday 22nd Dec 9.30 am Tues 23rd 9.30

Christmas Eve: Wednesday 24th Vigil / Children's Mass 6 pm – 11.30 Carols & Reading

CHRISTMAS DAY: Mid-night Mass: 12.00 mid-night

Dawn Mass at 8.00 am

10.00 Mass of Christmas Day

Friday 26th December: 10.00 for the parish altar servers

Saturday 27th 9.30 am, Vigil for Sunday 6 pm

Sunday 28th 8.00 am & 10.00 am

Worth a look:- [Coalition for Marriage](#) Latest on what's become available to 13 Y.O. c/o UK Gov. [Jamie Bambrick on marriage, the morning after pill and lots more - interview with Tony Rucinski](#)