



Parish Priest: Fr. Graham Ricketts
01273 464048
graham.ricketts@abdiocese.org.uk

Parish Deacon: Deacon Simon Wright
simon.wright@abdiocese.org.uk
Safeguarding Rep: Georgina Carter
sg2.adurvalley@abdiocese.org.uk

Administrator: Antonia Hyatt
01273 452654
adurvalley@abdiocese.org.uk

Also Resident: Fr. Tony Lovegrove

7th December 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

Year A

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

From Fr Graham

I do not think that you would like Saint John the Baptist to be your parish priest. I may be wrong, but I think he might have upset many of you with his direct speech. But what he said would be true. Many came to him in the wilderness out of curiosity, some to ridicule him and some would have been religious groupies not wanting to miss out. Some came in sincerity, wanting to change their lives and repent.

It was of course, to prepare the way for Jesus, who was to baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire - look at Pentecost. But many would have seen this event as a one-off and an end in itself. If it didn't work, then find something or someone else to fix my life. Religion is not an end in itself but worship of God unites us with God who is the beginning and the end of all that is.

The sincere would have been small in number. They were prepared to meet Jesus and out of this small number, like a shoot from a stump, grows the beginning of the Church. The Church is never what you think her to be, and she may have to say things that we find uncomfortable at times or consoling at others. But the Church is called to be and is a "signal for the peoples". A sign and taste of what is real, eternal and true and still preparing the way for the Lord in His second coming in glory.

With my daily prayer for a really blessed Advent.

God bless you.

Fr Graham

Second Sunday of Advent (Year A)

Mass Intention

Sat 6 Dec	08.30	TT	Mass <i>with Morning Prayer</i>	
<i>Sat of the 1st week in Advent (St Nicholas)</i>	10.00	SP	Mass	For Vocations
	10.30	SP	Rosary & Fatima devotions	
Sat 6 Dec	17.30	TT	Vigil Mass <i>(for Sunday)</i>	For all parishioners
Sun 7 Dec	09.00	SP	Mass	Bridget Kelly & Marie O'Kane RIP
	11.00	CTK	Mass	Brian & Sondra Palmer RIP
	13.00	SP	Holy Baptism: Aurora Atkinson	
Mon 8 Dec	08.00	TT	Mass <i>with Morning Prayer</i>	
<i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	09.00	SP	Adoration	
	09.30	SP	Mass	Ints of Eva
	10.00	SP	Rosary	
	19.30	Zoom	Rosary	
Tue 9 Dec	09.30	CTK	Rosary	
<i>Tuesday of the 2nd week in Advent</i>	10.00	CTK	Mass	Michael Fuller RIP
	10.30	CTK	Adoration & Advent Confessions	
	17.30	TT	Mass	
Wed 10 Dec	08.00	TT	Mass <i>with Morning Prayer</i>	
Thu 11 Dec	09.00	SP	Adoration	
<i>Thursday of the 2nd week in Advent</i>	09.30	SP	Mass	Christopher Thorpe RIP
	16.30	TT	Mass	
	19.30	SP	Adoration & Divine Mercy Chaplet (no Confessions)	
Fri 12 Dec	08.00	TT	Mass <i>with Morning Prayer</i>	
<i>Friday of the 2nd week in Advent</i>	09.00	SP	Adoration	
	09.30	SP	Mass	Holy Souls RIP
	10.00	SP	Confessions	
	15.00	Zoom	Divine Mercy Chaplet <i>with Stations of the Cross</i>	
Sat 13 Dec	08.30	TT	Mass <i>with Morning Prayer</i>	
<i>St Lucy</i>	10.00	SP	Mass & Rosary	World Apostolate of Fatima

Third 'Gaudete' Sunday of Advent (Year A)

Sat 13 Dec	17.30	TT	Vigil Mass <i>(for Sunday)</i>	Margaret & Michael Burchett RIP
Sun 14 Dec	09.00	SP	Mass	For all parishioners
	11.00	CTK	Mass	Reginald & Bridget Argent RIP

SP | St Peter's Shoreham, BN43 5WG

44 (0) 1273 452654

Parish Office open Thursdays 09.00—13.00

CTK | Christ the King, Steyning, BN44 3PB

Please email/telephone to book an appointment at other times.

TT | The Towers Convent, Upper Beeding, BN44 3TF

44 (0) 1903 812185



OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT WITH YOUR FAITH

Welcome to any newcomers or visitors to our Parish

Welcome to our parish. Where are you on your faith journey? Do you have questions? Maybe it is useful for you to know that no one has all the answers. God does. We are all growing in faith, day by day. God bless you.

We have a group, 'Come & See', for people to come and discuss/learn more about our faith and ask questions in an informal setting (see posters and leaflets in the porch). In the meantime, please feel free to bring your questions to Father Graham or Deacon Simon.

Next session: Tues 16th December, 7.30pm



Mission Appeal Weekend: The White Fathers

Thank you for the generous support and welcome shown to Fr Hugh last weekend. If you missed the chance to donate, you can visit their website:

www.missionariesofafrica.org.uk/donations, or you can make a transfer directly to their bank account:

Account name: Society of Missionaries of Africa

Account number: 82296731, Sort code: 60-21-07

Reference: OLQP Adur Valley, BN43 5WG



From YouCat Daily

<https://www.youcat.org/daily>

229: What prepares a person for repentance?

The insight into one's personal guilt produces a longing to better oneself; this is called contrition. We arrive at contrition when we see the contradiction between God's love and our sin. Then we are full of sorrow for our sins; we resolve to change our life and place all our hope in God's help.

The reality of sin is often repressed. Some people even think that guilt feelings should be dealt with in a merely psychological way. But genuine guilt feelings are important. It is like driving an automobile: When the speedometer indicates that the speed limit has been exceeded, the speedometer is not responsible, but the driver is. The closer we come to God, who is all light, the clearer our dark sides come to light also. Yet God is not a light that burns but, rather, a light that heals. That is why repentance impels us to go into the Light in which we will be completely healed.

Advent Reconciliation Services in our Deanery

Tues 9th December, 10.30am: Christ the King, Steyning

Sun 14th December, 3.00pm: St Michaels, High Salvington

Tues 16th December, 7.00pm: St Catherine's, Littlehampton

Wed 17th December, 10.30am: St Joseph, Rustington

Wed 17th December, 6.00pm: Our Lady Star of the Sea, East Preston

Thurs 18th December, 7.00pm: English Martyrs, Goring-by-Sea

Thurs 18th December, 7.30pm: St Peter's, Shoreham-by-Sea

Sat 20th December, 10.30am & 3.00pm: St Mary of the Angels, Worthing

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please pray for Christine, Mary, Margaret, June, Tommie, Sr Zita, Sarah, Christine B, Joanne, Anne C, Ian, Daisy, Lynn, Jenny, David, Michael C, Mary F, Margaret A, Pat O'C, Crispin M, Jennifer R, David R, Harvey R, Phil R, Michael H, Joan T, Joanna, Richenda, Rachel, Mike D, Ashley R, Mike & Jess D, Trish Y, Maureen C, Peter P and all who are sick.

Please pray for PEACE, for the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, vocations, enquirers to Catholicism and the sacraments, Saint Peter's school, the Holy Souls, our First Holy Communion children and families and confirmation candidates.

From Right to Life

Let us pray for all those who are alone and suffering with a terminal illness in hospital or hospice care, that they might experience the love of Christ from their carers and that their suffering might be eased.

To Sing is to Pray Twice (St Augustin)

Two more Advent pieces of music. The first is Creator of the Stars at Night composed by Malcolm Archer b.1952 and sung by the choir at St Matthew's Westminster.

The second is I Sing Of A Maiden composed by Lennox Berkeley (1903-1989).

Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort prayed...

Since she is the sure means, the direct and immaculate way to Jesus and the perfect guide to him, it is through her that souls who are to shine forth in sanctity must find him. He who finds Mary finds life, that is, Jesus Christ who is the way, the truth and the life.



(Treatise on True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin)



HAPPENING THIS WEEK

EVENTS & NOTICES

Sat 6	First Holy Communion children session 1 OLQP Bible Study Group SP Choir practice
Sun 7	Enrolment of First Holy Communion children SP Parish Room, 10.00am: SVP Christmas Gifts Sale. <i>2nd Collection: Christmas Flowers</i>
Mon 8	SP Parish Room, 2.30pm: SVP meeting
Tue 9	Advent Confessions at CTK (with Father Tony as well). <i>See overleaf for details of Advent Confessions at churches across the Deanery.</i>
Thur 11	SP Parish Room, 10.00am: Coffee Pop-in followed at 12.00pm with the Parish Christmas Lunch <i>Clergy Deanery Meeting</i>
Fri 12	Film night and Fish & Chips at CTK
Sun 14	Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation, West Grinstead, 3.00pm: EF Latin Mass

Advent Prayer Resources

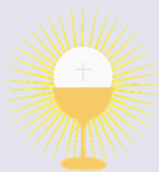
Please help yourself to the prayer booklets and advent calendars in the church porches.

Christmas Flowers

There will be a second collection this weekend for Christmas Flowers. Thank you for your support.

First Holy Communion enrolment

Please welcome and pray for our First Holy Communion children, Antonia, Daniel, Nuala, Orlagh and Samuel, as they make their enrolment this Sunday. Please pray for them and their families.



Parish Christmas Lunch: Thursday 11th December, 12.00pm

Last chance to buy tickets this weekend. Thank you in advance to all those who are working hard behind the scenes to make it so special for everyone.

SVP Christmas Gifts Sale: this Sunday after 9.00am mass

Come and join us for coffee where there will be sweet and savoury treats on sale to enjoy with your coffee or take home. Also lots of Christmas gifts: jumpers, books, pyjamas, glittery outfits, plus a raffle.



St Vincent de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

All proceeds to the work of the SVP supporting people in need this Christmas.

Devotions, Adoration and Confessions this week

Rosary: Monday (SP) 10.00 & (Zoom) 19.30; Tuesday (CTK) 09.30; Saturday (SP) after Mass

Confessions: Tuesday (CTK) 10.30; Thursday (SP) 19.30; Friday (SP) 10.00; or by appointment or request

Adoration: Monday (SP) 09.00; Tuesday (CTK) 10.30; Thursday (SP) 09.00; Thursday (SP) 19.30; Friday (SP) 09.00

Divine Mercy Chaplet: Thursday (SP) 20.00; Friday (Zoom) 15.00 (with Stations)

CTK Film Night and Fish & Chips

We will be watching 'The Way', a film which has inspired thousands to walk the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage.



Friday 12th December at 7:30pm

Fish and Chips will be provided as an optional addition for £10. Please email moviectkchurch@gmail.com if you would like to pre order food. All are welcome.

Carol Singing at the Shoreham Christmas farmers Market

Please join members of Shoreham Churches Together on Saturday 13 December 11 - 11.30 to sing carols at the Christmas market. We shall be near the tree in East Street.

Robin Olivier 07732 707311 robinolivier86@gmail.com

Christmas Eve at St Peter's: 6pm Mass

If any children of the parish would like to take part in the mimed telling of the Gospel on Christmas Eve, please speak to Mrs Carter on Sunday, or contact the office: adurvalley@abdiocese.org.uk, so we can get an idea of numbers. Thank you.

There will be mince pies and mulled wine served in the Parish Room after the mass. All are welcome.



DIOCESAN NEWS

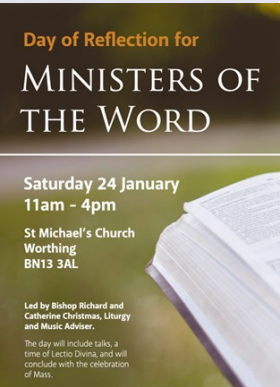
Pastoral Plan Update

Bishop Richard issued a new Pastoral Plan for the Diocese The Word Who is Life: The Call to Mission 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: www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/pastoral-plan.

Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Word
Saturday 24 January 2026 11-4pm at St Michael's Church, 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



Novena to the Immaculate Conception 29/11-7/12

O most pure Virgin Mary conceived without sin, from the very first instant, you were entirely immaculate. O glorious Mary full of grace, you are the mother of my God – the Queen of Angels and of men. I humbly venerate you as the chosen mother of my Savior, Jesus Christ.

<https://www.praymorenovenas.com/immaculate-conception-novena>



From Bishop Richard

Dear brothers and sisters,

The Prophet Isaiah, writing some 800 years before the birth of Jesus, looks forward to a time when there will be peace and justice. His prophecy, which we hear in today's first reading, speaks of openness to those gifts that we now recognise as the gifts of the Spirit, of mercy and justice for those who are oppressed, of total harmony for all of creation.

In the Gospel this weekend, we find the last of all the prophets – John the Baptist – speaking out against the oppressors of his day and warning them of the coming of the Messiah, the Christ, whose message St Paul preaches to the Romans in a way that reflects the prophecy of Isaiah – for Christ has come that all may live in harmony.

At a time in our own history when we see so clearly that this message of peace and justice, of harmony between peoples and across the whole of creation – itself, God's gift to us – is in peril, let us pray fervently for a renewed openness to the gift of peace. Let us pray for the recognition of the dignity of every person, especially on the part of all those in positions of power. May the world hear the warnings of John the Baptist and be open to the gifts of the Spirit and the peace that is Jesus' gift to us.

With every blessing,

+ Richard



CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2025

Christmas Eve

Wed 24 Dec	18.00	SP	Vigil Mass
	20.30	TT	Night Mass

Christmas Day

Thur 25 Dec	09.00	SP	Mass
	11.00	CTK	Mass



Readings: 2nd Sunday of Advent A

1st Reading Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72(71):1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R cf. 7
2nd Reading Romans 15:4-9
Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

To see the readings for the coming week visit www.universalis.com.

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