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21st December 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Year A

## WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

Alleluia, alleluia.

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which means, God with us.

Alleluia.

## From Deacon Simon

I am sure that many of you will have put up your Christmas decorations, and many of you will have an advent wreath with four candles, and today all four will be lit. There are just three sleeps till the long-expected day and an end to Advent. But the spirit of Christmas is not just for one day, 25th December. That day marks a beginning not an end. With a world in turmoil, we need to redouble our Christian efforts for what Jesus came for, to spread justice and peace, now, before it is too late and wrong and chaos disrupt our world. With this in mind, here is a poem we can all take to heart.

## I Will Light the Candles This Christmas

From "The Mood of Christmas..." by Howard Thurman



*I will light Candles this Christmas,  
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,  
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,  
Candles of courage for fears ever present,  
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,  
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,  
Candles of love to inspire all my living,  
Candles that will burn all year long.*  
With every blessing, Deacon Simon.

## Fourth Sunday of Advent 'O Oriens' (Year A)

## Mass Intention

Sat 20 Dec	17.30	TT	Vigil Mass <i>(for Sunday)</i>	For all parishioners
Sun 21 Dec	09.00	SP	Mass	René & Marie-Emilia Labelle RIP
	11.00	CTK	Mass	John Oliver Pitman RIP
Mon 22 Dec	08.00	TT	Mass <i>with Morning Prayer</i>	
'O Rex Gentium'	09.00	SP	Adoration	
	09.30	SP	Mass & Rosary	Eileen Mary Daly Iacono RIP
	19.30	Zoom	Rosary	
Tue 23 Dec	09.30	CTK	Rosary	
'O Emmanuel'	10.00	CTK	Mass & Confessions	For deceased family & friends
	17.30	TT	Mass	
Wed 24 Dec	08.00	TT	Mass <i>with Morning Prayer</i>	

## The Season of Christmas

Wed 24 Dec	18.00	SP	Vigil Mass of the Nativity	Bunty Brooks RIP
	20.30	TT	Mass during the Night	Ints of the Sisters
Thur 25 Dec	09.00	SP	Mass	Christopher Thorpe RIP
	11.00	CTK	Mass	Ints of Mollie & Chris

Fri 26 Dec	10.00	TT	Mass	
Sat 27 Dec	08.30	TT	Mass <i>with Morning Prayer</i>	
Sat 27 Dec	17.30	TT	Vigil Mass <i>(for Sunday)</i>	Terry Burchett RIP
Sun 28 Dec	09.00	SP	Mass	Michael Taylor RIP
The Holy Family	11.00	CTK	Mass	For all Parishioners
Mon 29 Dec	08.00	TT	Mass <i>with Morning Prayer</i>	
Tues 30 Dec	17.30	TT	Mass	
Wed 31 Dec	10.00	TT	Mass <i>with Morning Prayer</i>	
Thu 1 Jan	16.30	TT	Mass	
Fri 2 Jan	08.00	TT	Mass <i>with Morning Prayer</i>	
Sat 3 Jan	08.30	TT	Mass <i>with Morning Prayer</i>	
Most Holy Name of Jesus	10.00	SP	Mass & Rosary with Fatima Devotions	For Celia & Antonio
Sat 3 Jan	17.30	TT	Vigil Mass <i>(for Sunday)</i>	For all Parishioners
Sun 4 Jan	09.00	SP	Mass	Holy Souls RIP
	11.00	CTK	Mass	Kim Dunne 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, from Father Graham...

Everyone is invited and welcome to our parish and our celebration of Mass especially if you are visiting or if you are searching - catholic or not. You are here because God has found you and the yearning you feel in your heart for truth, meaning, healing or mercy is really for Him. I know because that is how I realised that God is real and He knew me even though I didn't know Him. Christmas shows us how far He is prepared to go to find us.

You might not feel lost, but unless we know where we are going then we are lost. Jesus, the Son of God made visible, comes to us as a man. So He knows our thoughts, anxieties, fears and joys. If you are coming to Mass tentatively then be confident He is waiting for you here. We are as safe in His arms as He was in Mary's arms.



You are welcome to discover more every Sunday and at our Come and See group on Tuesdays (see flyers and below for details).

*"and you shall call His name Jesus".*

From Right to Life

Let us pray for all parents expecting a new child, that they might be blessed with a safe and healthy pregnancy for mother and baby.

From YouCat Daily

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

148: Can Mary really help us?

Yes. Since the beginning of the Church, experience has taught that Mary helps. Millions of Christians testify to it.

Being the Mother of Jesus, Mary is also our Mother. Good mothers always stand up for their children. Certainly this Mother does. While still on earth she interceded with Jesus for others; for example, she protected a bride and groom in Cana from embarrassment. In the Upper Room on Pentecost she prayed in the midst of the disciples. Because her love for us never ceases, we can be sure that she will plead for us in the two most important moments of our life: "now and at the hour of our death".

To Sing is to Pray Twice (St Augustin)

Two more Advent pieces of music. The first is a setting of 'Adam Lay Ybounden' composed by Phillip Ledger (1937-2012).

The second piece 'Lo! He comes with clouds descending' was written by Charles Wesley and first sung in 1758.



Come and See group

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 6th January 2026, 7.30pm**

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.



Saint Francis of Assisi prayed...

*O Lord, I am safe in your arms. If you hold me, I have nothing to fear. I know nothing of the future, but I trust in you.*

Photo taken at CTK Church, Steyning

Thinking about becoming a Catholic?

Or are you already a Catholic but would like to learn more about the faith?

Come and See

Upcoming dates (all start 7.30pm)

6th & 20th January 2026

3rd & 24th February 2026

10th & 24th March 2026

No need to book, just come along to any session.

Venue: St Peter's Church Parish Room, West Street, Shoreham-by-Sea, BN43 5WG

adurvalley@abdioocese.org.uk / 01273 452654



## HAPPENING THIS WEEK

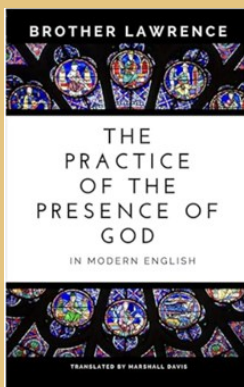
## EVENTS &amp; NOTICES

Fri 19	The Parish Office is now closed until Monday 5th January 2026. Please use the parish email to make contact: <a href="mailto:adurvalley@abdiocese.org.uk">adurvalley@abdiocese.org.uk</a> , as telephone messages will not be checked as regularly. Thank you.
Sat 20	SP Choir Practice
Sun 21	<i>Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers</i>  St Peter's Choir has been invited to join the St Nicholas' Choir for the Nine Lessons and Carols Service on Sunday 21st December at 6pm at St Nicholas Church, Old Shoreham. All are welcome.
Wed 24	SP Parish Room, 7.00pm: Please join us for mince pies and mulled wine (non-alcoholic so you can drive!).  Carols from 8.10pm at The Towers, before Mass at 8.30pm.
Fri 26	Please note weekday masses only at The Towers until Saturday 3rd January.

**A Book Recommendation from Pope Leo**

During a recent interview, Pope Leo revealed one of his favourite books: 'The Practice of the Presence of God'. It is attributed simply to a 'Brother Lawrence'.

There are many translations available, but a really good one to start with is this one in Modern English. Available to borrow from our Library in the Parish Room. Please help yourself.

**Parish Christmas Lunch**

Huge thanks to the team behind the recent Parish Christmas Lunch. They worked tirelessly for days to get it all ready. Appreciated by all who came.

**An update from the SVP...**

*Thank you to everyone who contributed to our SVP Christmas sale last week raising over £1400 which has already been spent on a Fridge, Cooker and Mattresses for needy local people making their Christmas just that little bit brighter. Any further donations always welcome.*

Ann Olliver, President.

**Thank you...**

...to all who have helped prepare our churches and souls for the celebration of the birth of our Saviour at Christmas. So much work goes on behind the scenes.

**Called to Serve**

Did you serve when you were younger? Perhaps you've never thought it was for you. Altar Servers are an integral part of Sunday worship. Tasked with assisting the priest, they ensure that at each section of the mass, the various books and sacred vessels are brought to the altar at the correct time.



There is arguably no better way to be so closely part of the Eucharist, to serve God and your community. We welcome people of any age, who have made their First Communion, to consider this important role. Full training is provided. For more information speak to Fr Graham, or one of the servers.

**Diocesan Directories**

The new 2026 Diocesan Directory including liturgical calendar, diocesan and parish information is now available. £5.00.

**Crib Collection: For the Catholic Children's Society's A&B Crisis Fund**

All are invited to come and spend some time at the Crib. Please take one of our prayer cards. We are very grateful for those who will be setting these up in our churches. If you are able to, please consider giving a donation at the crib. In recent years, the Arundel & Brighton Crisis Fund of the Catholic Children's Society has been a tremendous help to many families in the Diocese (read more overleaf).



**Thank you for all your prayers, cards, presents, gifts, generosity and kindness. May the Lord grant you a blessed and happy Christmas. You will be in our prayers - Fr Graham, Deacon Simon, Fr Tony, Antonia and the Blessed Sacrament Sisters.**



## DIOCESAN NEWS

## Pastoral Plan Update

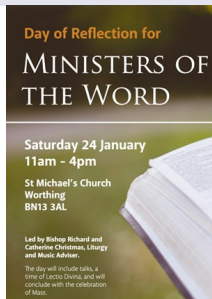
Bishop Richard issued a new Pastoral Plan for the Diocese The Word Who is Life: The Call to Mission in January 2024. The Plan marks an important new stage in the development of diocesan parish structures, with the 11 former deaneries of the Diocese becoming 11 new parishes.

Three new parishes have been established this year; Brighton & Hove (14 September), Guildford (29 November) and Weybridge (7 December). You can pick up a copy of the Pastoral Plan in the church porch or visit the diocesan website: [www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/pastoral-plan](http://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](#)

**Exploring the vocation to teaching in our diocesan schools – online event – Tuesday 13 January – 5.30pm to 6.30pm**

If you are interested in hearing more about the vocation to teaching and what teaching in a Catholic school involves, Dave Legrand, Diocesan Secondary RE Advisor, will be running this online information event. This event would be suitable for anyone considering a career change or simply interested in finding out more about the role of teachers in our Catholic schools for any age group or for any subject specialism. To book a place, please use the link: [abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/vqrcnwzi](http://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/vqrcnwzi)

**Crib Offering to support the Catholic Children's Society's A&B Crisis Fund**

The Catholic Children's Society (CCS) helps families in our diocese who are facing a crisis in their lives. Through their A&B Crisis Fund they provide immediate support when families need it most. For example, helping a newly bereaved family put food on the table, or simply providing a child living in poverty with a warm winter coat.

Recently CCS helped a mother and her two young children who had fled domestic abuse with just the clothes on their backs. They were rehoused but their new flat was completely bare, without basic items such as beds or a cooker. For weeks the family slept huddled together under blankets on the cold floor, surviving on instant soup made with an old kettle.

When the children's school contacted CCS, they responded immediately and provided the family with the essentials they needed. The children can now sleep comfortably in their own beds and enjoy warm meals together. The mother said: *I'm so grateful for this support. It's made a huge difference to my children's wellbeing. Thank you for your kindness during such a difficult time.*

There are many more vulnerable families in need of support and our parish will be donating our Crib Offering to support this important work. You can donate at the Crib or via the CCS website: [www.cathchild.org.uk/crib](http://www.cathchild.org.uk/crib).



## From Bishop Richard

Dear brothers and sisters,

With the focus in Advent moving, from the 17<sup>th</sup> December, to the proximate preparation for our celebration of the Lord's birth, this Sunday's readings focus very clearly on the Incarnation.

Isaiah's message is clear: the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call him Emmanuel – God-with-us. St Paul, in the first words of his letter to the Romans, is clear in his witness to the Saviour, from the House of David.

Matthew's account of the announcement of Jesus' coming focuses on Joseph – of the House of David, and the angel's words to this man of integrity, astounded at what he has been told, are those of Isaiah.

The One who is to be born is the fulfilment of the prophecies of old, of David's line and coming to the world in simplicity and in wonder. As we prepare in these final few days before the celebration of Christmas, may our response be that of Joseph: wonder, reflection and – now that our salvation has been won for us – obedience to the Word made flesh, God-with-us.

With every blessing,

+ Richard

