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4th January 2026

Second Sunday of Christmas

Year A

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

Alleluia, alleluia.

*Glory to you, O Christ, proclaimed
among the nations.*

*Glory to you, O Christ, believed in
throughout the world.*

Alleluia.

From Deacon Simon

In the opening verses of the Gospel of John, we are greeted with profound words: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." This powerful statement sets the tone for everything that follows. John invites us to contemplate the mystery of Christ, present with God from the very start, the Word through whom all things were made.

In our world, we often search for meaning and purpose. We look for something solid, something eternal upon which to build our lives. John tells us that this foundation is found not in things, but in a person—Jesus Christ, the Word. The coming of Christ into the world is not merely a historical event; it is God's ongoing gift to humanity. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Even amidst difficulties, uncertainties, and the shadows that sometimes fall upon our journey, Christ remains a light that can never be extinguished.

As we reflect on this passage, let us remember that God's Word continues to dwell among us. Christ, the true light, offers hope and new life to all. May we welcome him, walk in his light, and bear witness to his love in the world.

With my prayers for you all

Deacon Simon

Second Sunday of Christmas

Mass Intention

Sat 3 Jan	08.30	TT	Mass <i>with Morning Prayer</i>	
<i>Most Holy Name of Jesus</i>	10.00	SP	Mass	<i>For Celia & Antonio</i>
	10.30	SP	Rosary and Fatima Devotions	
Sat 3 Jan	17.30	TT	Vigil Mass <i>(for Sunday)</i>	<i>For all Parishioners</i>
Sun 4 Jan	09.00	SP	Mass	<i>Holy Souls RIP</i>
	11.00	CTK	Mass	<i>Kim Dunne RIP</i>
Mon 5 Jan	08.00	TT	Mass <i>with Morning Prayer</i>	
<i>Feria in Christmastide</i>	09.00	SP	Adoration	
	09.30	SP	Mass & Rosary	<i>Fr Stephen Ortiger RIP</i>
	19.30	Zoom	Rosary	
Tue 6 Jan	09.30	CTK	Rosary	
<i>The Epiphany of the Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)</i>	10.00	CTK	Mass	<i>Holy Souls RIP</i>
	10.30	CTK	Adoration & Confessions	
	17.30	TT	Mass	
	19.00	SP	Mass	<i>For all Parishioners</i>
Wed 7 Jan	08.00	TT	Mass <i>with Morning Prayer</i>	
Thur 8 Jan	09.00	SP	Adoration	
<i>Feria after the Epiphany</i>	09.30	SP	Mass	<i>In Thanksgiving, Bishop Richard</i>
	16.30	TT	Mass	
	19.30	SP	Adoration, Divine Mercy Chaplet & Confessions	
Fri 9 Jan	08.00	TT	Mass <i>with Morning Prayer</i>	
<i>Feria after the Epiphany Day of abstinence</i>	09.00	SP	Adoration	
	09.30	SP	Mass	<i>Pope Leo, for guidance</i>
	10.00	SP	Confessions	
	15.00	Zoom	Divine Mercy Chaplet <i>with Stations of the Cross</i>	
Sat 10 Jan	08.30	TT	Mass <i>with Morning Prayer</i>	
<i>Feria after the Epiphany</i>	10.00	SP	Mass & Rosary	<i>World Apostolate of Fatima</i>
The Baptism of the Lord				
Sat 10 Jan	17.30	TT	Vigil Mass <i>(for Sunday)</i>	<i>For all Parishioners</i>
Sun 11 Jan	09.00	SP	Mass	
	11.00	CTK	Mass	<i>Private Intention</i>

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 YouCat Daily

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

285: What is eternal happiness?

Eternal happiness is seeing God and being taken up into God's happiness.

In God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit there is unending life, joy, and communion. To be taken up into it will be an incomprehensible, infinite happiness for us men. This happiness is the pure gift of God's grace, for we men can neither bring it about ourselves nor comprehend it in its magnitude. God would like us to decide in favour of our happiness; we should choose God freely, love him above all things, do good and avoid evil insofar as we are able.

Mass of Thanksgiving at Arundel Cathedral

Archbishop-Elect Richard will celebrate a Mass of thanksgiving for his ministry amongst us at 6.30pm on Friday 30 January in Arundel Cathedral. The Mass will be followed by a reception in the Baron's Hall in Arundel Castle, by kind permission of His Grace, the Duke of Norfolk.

If you are interested in attending the mass, please contact Antonia in the Parish Office: adurvalley@abdiocese.org.uk, so we can get an idea of numbers. There will be more details available soon.

See back page for the full press release about Bishop Richard's appointment.

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. All are welcome.



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.

Archbishop Elect Richard

We pray for Archbishop-elect Richard as he prepares to be installed as the next Archbishop of Westminster. We now do not have a Bishop of our diocese and an Administrator will be appointed by Pope Leo until he names a new Bishop for us. Until that time we ask the Holy Spirit to send us a holy, prayerful and courageous Bishop. This prayer can be used to help us in our prayer:

Prayer for the Election of a Bishop

O God, eternal shepherd, who govern your flock with unfailing care, grant in your boundless fatherly love a pastor for your Church who will please you by his holiness and to us show watchful care. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



To Sing is to Pray Twice (St Augustin)

Two very well-known carols this week beautifully sung by Voces 8: Once in Royal David's City & the Coventry Carol.

From Right to Life

On Tuesday, we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord. We pray that, like the Magi, the Lord may give us the grace to recognise the Christ-child in all babies, both born and unborn.



HAPPENING THIS WEEK

EVENTS & NOTICES

Tue 6 Jan	SP, 7.00pm: additional mass for The Epiphany (Holy day of obligation) SP Parish Room, 7.30pm: Come & See group, discussing 'The Gift of the Church'. All are welcome.
Thu 8 Jan	SP Parish Room, 10.00am: Coffee pop-in SP Parish Room, 12.00pm: OLQP Community Lunch Club
Fri 9 Jan	SP Parish Room, 10.00am: Mothers Prayers

Diocesan Directories

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

Readings: 2nd Sunday of Christmas A

1st Reading Sirach 24: 1-2, 8-12

Psalm 147: 12-13, 14-15, 19-20, R12a

2nd Reading Ephesians 1: 3-6, 15-18

Gospel John1: 1-18

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

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.

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. 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.

Thank you for your support.



Mary's Meals

Mary's Meals is looking for volunteers. Could you spare a few hours during the year to help? We are looking for parish reps, volunteer speakers (training and support provided!) and volunteers who can help at events. We are very much a volunteer-led movement, so any little you can offer will make a huge difference to the children we serve in some of the world's poorest communities. Please contact Roy Peachey (roy.peachey@marysmeals.org or 07593 447297) if you can help. To find out more about Mary's Meals, please visit marysmeals.org.uk. Thank you for your support.

Father Mark-Mary Ames CFr, on The Epiphany of the Lord

"God offers us everything and demands nothing in return. What can you give back to God? Maybe you can give him more time in prayer or acts of charity. Maybe you can devote your talent to him and build up the kingdom of God. Giving back to God doesn't just show him our gratitude. It also causes God's goodness to shine through us and bring others closer to him in the process."

Saint Bernard of Clairvaux prayed...

"What are you doing, O Magi? Do you adore a little Babe, in a wretched hovel, wrapped in miserable rags? Can this Child be truly God? ... Are you become foolish, O Wise Men ...

Yes, these Wise Men have become fools that they may be wise".





DIOCESAN NEWS

Bishop Richard Moth appointed new Archbishop of Westminster

His Holiness Pope Leo XIV has today, 19 December 2025, appointed the Right Reverend Richard Moth as Archbishop of Westminster. Ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Southwark on 3 July 1982, Archbishop-elect Moth has served as Bishop of Arundel and Brighton since 2015. Prior to that, he was the Catholic Bishop of the Forces from 2009 to 2015.

Archbishop-elect Moth will become the 12th Archbishop of Westminster, succeeding Cardinal Vincent Nichols, who has served in the role since 2009. Cardinal Nichols will now become Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Westminster until Archbishop-elect Moth is Installed at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday, 14 February 2026.

On hearing of his appointment, Archbishop-elect Moth said: "I am moved greatly by the trust that Pope Leo has placed in me, in appointing me to the Diocese of Westminster. As I prepare to move to the Diocese, I am so grateful for the support being given to me by Cardinal Vincent Nichols at this time. He has given dedicated service to the Diocese and will be missed greatly.

"Serving the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton has given me the wonderful opportunity of sharing the Church's mission with lay faithful and clergy, and I give thanks for the many blessings of these last ten years.

"My first task will be to get to know the priests and people of Westminster and I look forward, now, to serving them. With them, and building on the firm foundations that have been laid by so many down the years, I look forward to continuing the great adventure that is the life of the Church and witness to the Gospel."

Cardinal Vincent Nichols said: "I am delighted at this news. Archbishop-elect Richard will bring to our Diocese many gifts and considerable episcopal experience from his years of ministry in the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton, and before that as Bishop of the Forces. I look forward very much to his Installation as our new Archbishop on Saturday, 14 February 2026. It is, of course, St Valentine's Day, as well as the Feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius, co-Patrons of Europe.

"I remember being present in Westminster Cathedral on 29 September 2009 for the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Richard as Bishop of the Forces. So today I can say: 'Welcome back, dear Bishop Richard. You are most welcome indeed.'"

Biography continued...

Bishop Richard has been an Oblate of Pluscarden Abbey for over 40 years and is a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, travelling many times to the Holy Land. In 2020 he was appointed Prior of the Southern Section of the Lieutenancy of England and Wales.

He is a Liveryman and Extra Court Member of the Skinners' Company and a Freeman the City of London, serving the Company as Chair of its History Committee.

He enjoys horse riding and walking.

Biography of Bishop Richard Moth



Bishop Richard was born in Chingola, Zambia, in 1958. He was brought up in Kent and, after leaving The Judd School, Tonbridge, began formation for the Priesthood at St John's Seminary, Womersley. He was ordained Priest for the Archdiocese of Southwark on 3rd June 1982.

He served as assistant priest at St Bede's, Clapham Park, before pursuing studies in Canon Law at St Paul University, Ottawa. In 1987, he was appointed assistant priest at St Saviour's Lewisham, during which time he also served as a Territorial Army Chaplain with 217 General Hospital RAMC(V).

He served as Private Secretary to Archbishop Michael Bowen from 1992 until 2001, during which time he was also President of the Interdiocesan Tribunal of Second Instance of Southwark and Vocations Director. In 2001 he was appointed Vicar General and Chancellor of the Diocese.

He was ordained Bishop of the Forces on 29 September 2009 in Westminster Cathedral and served in this capacity until his appointment as Bishop of Arundel & Brighton on 21 March 2015.

He is Chair of Governors at St Mary's University, Twickenham, Chair of the Department for Social Justice of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, and Liaison Bishop for Prisons. He serves on the Standing Committee of the Bishops' Conference. He chairs The Plater Trust, dedicated to the support of projects across England and Wales that put into practice the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. He is also a member of the Mixed Commission of the Bishops' Conference – a body that brings together bishops and those living Religious Life.

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