

Catholic Parish of Brighton and Hove: West Group

Sacred Heart • St George's & St Theresa's • St Mary Magdalen's • St Peter's

Canon Colin Wolczak • Fr Paul Wilkinson • Fr Tony Milner • Fr Alphonse Kabore • Canon David Parmiter

Sunday 20th September 2026 • 25th Sunday of the Year • Year A • Weekdays: Week 24 • Psalter Week 1

Evangelii Gaudium Sunday

Fr Paul writes...

This Sunday, Home Mission Sunday, has, in recent years, been known as *Evangelii Gaudium Sunday* from the title of Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, meaning *The Joy of the Gospel*, published in 2013 and widely seen as setting the tone of his papacy. In it Francis reminds us that evangelisation, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, is an essential part of being a Christian. In Matthew's Gospel one of Jesus' last instructions to us is to 'make disciples of all the nations' (Matt 28:19). Francis reminds us that "We cannot forget that evangelisation is first and foremost about preaching the Gospel to those who do not know Jesus Christ or who have always rejected him. Many of these are quietly seeking God, led by a yearning to see his face... Christians have the duty to proclaim the Gospel without excluding anyone." (EG 14).

It is becoming clear that there is renewed interest in Christianity and in the Church, particularly amongst young people, perhaps 'led by a yearning to see' the face of Christ. As Christians we are all called to show that face of Christ to them. To be attractive to others it needs to be a face that shows our joy in God revealed to us in the life and teaching of Christ in the Gospel and our experience of living that joy.

If we believe that God loves us so much that his Son was prepared to die on the cross for us, we should be filled with joy and live out our trust in that joy in our everyday lives and in our encounters with others. Unless we show that our faith brings us joy, why should anyone else be attracted to faith? Today, as we focus on the Church's mission here at home in our own circumstances, we should pray that we will each allow ourselves to be drawn ever more deeply into the joy of the Gospel and be able to share that joy with others.

This Week in Our Parish

Saturday 19th September

*Reconciliation: 5:15–5:45pm at Sacred Heart & St Peter's.

Sunday 20th September

*Lauds (Morning Prayer): 8:30am at St Theresa's.

*Refreshments after Sunday Mass. St Theresa's after the 9am Mass; Sacred Heart after the 9:30am Mass; St Peter's after the 10am and 11:30am Masses; St George's after the 11am Mass; and St Mary Magdalen's in the community hall after the 11am Mass. Everyone is most welcome!

*Missionary Society of St Columban Appeal at St Peter's.

*Table Church: After the 11am Mass at St Mary Magdalen's.

*Reconciliation: After 11am Mass at St George's, on request.

Monday 21st September

*Ecumenical Men's Breakfast Club, Monday 21st September, 10am at the Royal George Pub, Stoney Lane, Shoreham.

*St Peter's Tai Chi: 10:30–11:30am in the hall, term time.

*St George's Rosary Group: 6–7pm in the Lady Chapel.

*RCIA continues at St Peter's, 7pm in the Upper Room.

Tuesday 22nd September

*Sacred Heart Prayer Group: 10:30am, Parish Room. Prayer requests can be left in the box at the back of the church.

*St George's Tea & Chat, after the 10am Mass, in the hall.

*Reconciliation: 5pm, St Mary Magdalen's, during Holy Hour.

*Sister Riccarda Hambrough Talk, 7pm at St Mary Mags.

Wednesday 23rd September

*Reconciliation: 5pm, St Mary Magdalen's, during Holy Hour.

*St Theresa's Vespers: 6:30pm at St Theresa's.

Thursday 24th September

*Gerard Eaton funeral, 12 noon at Sacred Heart.

*Reconciliation: 5pm, St Mary Magdalen's, during Holy Hour.

*Digging Deeper An online, lay-led study group exploring different aspects of our faith, Thursdays, 7:30–8:30pm. If you'd be interested in joining us or would like to know more, please email whdiggingdeeper@gmail.com.

Friday 25th September

*St Mary Magdalen's Women's Rosary: 10am in the Presbytery, followed by tea and refreshments.

*Sacred Heart Online Rosary: 11am, online only.

*St Peter's Social Group: 1–3pm in the parish hall. Join us for light refreshments and friendly conversation.

*Reconciliation: 5pm, St Mary Magdalen's, during Holy Hour.

*Reconciliation: After the 7:00pm Mass at St Theresa's.

*St Peter's Contemplative Prayer Group. 7:30–9:00pm, in person and online. Contact quietenginesprayer@gmail.com.

Sacred Heart • hovesacredheart@abdiocese.org.uk • 01273 732843

St Mary Magdalen • brightonstmarymag@abdiocese.org.uk • 01273 326793

Hospital Chaplain • Royal Sussex County Hospital • Fr Celestine Nnolim • 01273 696955 Ext. 64122 • celestine.nnolim@nhs.net

St George's & St Theresa's • westhove@abdiocese.org.uk • 01273 708227

St Peter's • hovestpeters@abdiocese.org.uk • 01273 733840

For safeguarding & other contact information, please see church noticeboards.

A warm welcome to all our visitors, we hope you enjoy your time in our parish community and feel at home among us

Serdecznie witamy wszystkich naszych gości. Mamy nadzieję, że miło spędzicie czas w naszej wspólnotie parafialnej i poczujecie się wśród nas jak w domu. (Polish)

Damos as boas-vindas a todos os nossos visitantes. Esperamos que desfrutem do tempo passado na nossa comunidade paroquial e que se sintam em casa entre nós. (Portuguese)

Damos una cálida bienvenida a todos nuestros visitantes. Esperamos que disfruten de su tiempo en nuestra comunidad parroquial y que se sientan como en casa entre nosotros. (Spanish)

Mass Schedule		
Sat 19th	September	Saint Januarius
12noon †	SMM	
6pm	SH	Conor Porter RIP (Anniversary)
6.00pm	SP	People of the Parish
6.30pm	SG	<i>Polish Mass</i>
Sun 20th	September	25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8.30am	SP	People of the Parish
9.00am	ST	Sr Catherine Ronan, Catherine Coppard & Erika Dixon RIP
9.30am	SH	Indu Gwyer RIP
9.30am	SMM	
10.00am	SP	People of the Parish
11.00am	SG	Lorenzina Strolla Thanksgiving & RIP
11.00am	SMM	Catherine and Jaco Vides Family Ints
11.30am	SH	Ann Collard RIP
11.30am	SP	Danielle Blythe-Ray RIP
5.00pm	SMM	
Mon 21st	September	Saint Matthew
10.00am †	SH	Jose Nery Alvis RIP
Tue 22nd	September	Tuesday
10.00am	SG	People of the Parish
10.00am †	SH	Lestock Hammond RIP
10.00am	SP	People of the Parish
6.00pm †	SMM	Jean Wicky RIP
7.00pm	ST	A.E. Woodcock RIP
Wed 23rd	September	Saint Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)
8.00am	CNCS	
8.00am	SH	Mr & Mrs G.W. Gillow and Relatives
10.00am	SP	Jill Rowe RIP
6.00pm †	SMM	Anita's Intentions
7.00pm	ST	Paulina Podsiadly RIP
Thurs 24th	September	Our Lady of Walsingham
10.00am ‡	SG	Irene Jee RIP
10.00am †	SP	Ronald & Elsie Garner RIP & Sylvia
12noon †	SH	Gerard Eaton RIP Funeral Mass
6.00pm †	SMM	Thanksgiving intention
7.00pm	ST	People of the Parish
Fri 25th	September	Friday
8.00am	SH	Bob White RIP (Anniversary)
10.00am	SP	<i>No Mass today</i>
7.00pm ‡	ST	People of the Parish
6.00pm †	SMM	
Sat 26th	September	Saints Cosmas and Damian
12noon †	SMM	C.W. Tyerman RIP
6pm	SH	Winifred Donaghy RIP
6.00pm	SP	John & Rosemary Sheppard RIP
6.30pm	SG	<i>Polish Mass</i>
Sun 27th	September	26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8.30am	SP	People of the Parish
9.00am	ST	Phyllis & Michael Dixon RIP
9.30am	SH	People of the Parish
9.30am	SMM	
10.00am	SP	Alison Sykes RIP
11.00am	SG	Anthony Moonjappilly RIP
11.00am	SMM	People of the Parish
11.30am	SH	Catherine Harris RIP
11.30am	SP	Maria McCarthy RIP
5.00pm	SMM	Barbara's Intentions

CNCS: Cardinal Newman · **SH:** Sacred Heart · **SG:** St George's
SMM: St Mary Magdalene's · **SP:** St Peter's · **ST:** St Theresa's
 · † Adoration before · ‡ Adoration after

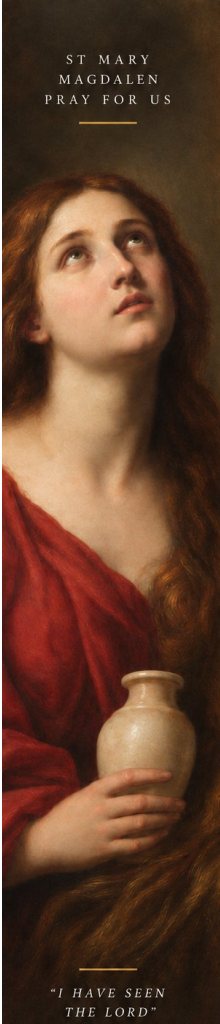
Sacraments

2026–2027 Sacramental Programmes Applications are now available. Please contact your local parish office or visit the relevant church website to apply. For First Holy Communion and Confirmation, please remember to include a copy of your child's Baptism Certificate. Completed forms, including all required documentation, should be returned to the relevant parish office by the deadline stated on the form. At Sacred Heart, the deadline for First Holy Communion and RCIA is 24 September 2026; other churches may differ.

Baptism Preparation The next two Baptism Preparation sessions will take place on Tuesday 24 November and Tuesday 1 December, 6:30–7:30pm at St Theresa's. Both sessions are required for parents and godparents preparing for Baptism. Please contact the parish office for further info.

St Peter's Archive Team For copies of Baptism or Confirmation certificates, please contact the St Peter's Archive Team at saintpeterarchives@gmail.com. Please allow two weeks for documents to be processed.

RCIA Exploring Baptism or Confirmation The RCIA programme for adults at St Peter's wishing to explore Baptism or Confirmation is now underway and continues Mondays at 7pm in the Upper Room of the St Peter's parish hall. Anyone interested in exploring the Catholic faith and the possibility of receiving the Sacraments is warmly invited.



ST MARY MAGDALEN'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH · BRIGHTON

RCIA

RITE OF CHRISTIAN
INITIATION OF ADULTS

A journey of faith, discovery
and belonging

A welcoming course for adults who are interested
in exploring the Catholic faith, or who wish to
become Catholic.



WHEN
Wednesdays, 7.00 – 8.30pm
Starting Wednesday 30 September 2026
(term time)



WHERE
St Mary Magdalen's Presbytery



WHAT TO EXPECT
Weekly sessions to learn, ask questions,
share and grow in faith, with opportunities
to experience the life and prayer of our parish.



ALL ARE WELCOME
Whether you are just curious, returning to faith,
or preparing for the sacraments at Easter 2027,
you are very welcome.



SATURDAY RETREAT DAYS
Our first RCIA Retreat Day will be held on
Saturday 28 November 2026
at St Mary Magdalen's.
Further retreat dates will be announced during the year.

Children, Young People & Schools

First Holy Communion Applications are now open for the 2026–2027 Programme for children in school Year 3 and above, apply now!

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Portslade Prospective parents are invited to visit the school and see how they encourage children to "Achieve their Ambitions". To book a tour, please call 01273 418416.

St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School and Nursery offers children a smooth transition into Reception Class, helping them feel confident and prepared for their next steps in learning. Parents are invited to book a tour and discover the nursery. Call 01273 327533.

Cottesmore St Mary Catholic Primary School Open Days are being offered for prospective parents of children starting Reception in September 2027. Visits are available at 9am throughout November 2026. Call 01273 555811.



Join us at St Theresa's! "He who sings, prays twice." – St Augustine. We are looking for children and adults to join our singers, musicians and altar servers for Feast Days and School Masses. All are welcome! Please see Nancy, Paula or James for more details.

Giving & Supporting Others

Welcomers Needed at St Theresa's Welcoming is one of the most important ministries in our community, helping every person feel seen, welcomed and at home when they arrive at church. We are looking for more Welcomers at St Theresa's to join the rota, particularly to help spread the commitment across more people. If you could spare some time to join the Welcoming team, please speak to the Parish Office.

Soup Run Volunteers are needed Monday to Friday at 7pm at the Angel of Peace statue to serve hot soup, bread

and kindness to those in need. Please contact SMM parish office for more info.

Missio Boxes If you have a Missio Red Box that needs emptying, please bring it to Moira at St Theresa's, Patricia at St George's, or leave it in the outer sacristy at Sacred Heart for Marilyn to collect. Boxes do not need to be full, but please make sure your name is clearly written on your box.

Missionary Society of St Columban This appeal supports the Columban Missionaries and their work around the world. The appeal takes place at St Peter's on 19 and 20 September. Prayers and generous support are appreciated.

Special Collections 2026

20 Sept – Columban Mission (SP)
20 Sept – Evangelii Gaudium (SH, SG, SMM & ST)

Prayer & Remembrance

Cycle of Prayer During Ordinary Time, we are asked to pray for a deeper understanding between Christians and Jews; human life; those who suffer persecution, oppression and denial of human rights; Europe; and seafarers.

Prayer List Anne Callaghan; Peter Cochlin; Clive Connor; Kathleen Davis; Julia Fleming; Rosaleen Gripper; Clive Holding; Elizabeth Houston; Margaret Keating; Eileen Kipling; Chris, Lucy, & Matt Neal; Mario Noah; Liz Perkins; Tom Piggins; Margaret Robinson; Dean Schwartz; Robert (Bob) Selwood; Hano-rah & Mat Smith; Elena White; Winifred Wilde; Canon Colin Wolczak.

Bridget Lavy RIP Please pray for Bridget, a much-loved parishioner of St Theresa's for around 65 years, who passed away peacefully on 31st August. Her Requiem Mass will be at St Theresa's on Thursday 8th October, time to be confirmed.

Florence Davis RIP Please pray for Florence, a much-loved member of the St George's community, who passed away peacefully aged 104. Her funeral will take place on Thursday 1st October at 10am at St George's.

Gerard Eaton RIP Gerard, who was a regular parishioner and Altar Server at Sacred Heart, has passed away. His funeral will be held on Thursday 24th September at 12 noon at Sacred Heart.

Paulina Podsiadly RIP We are saddened to hear of the death of Paulina Podsiadly, who may be remembered by many from her time at St Theresa's. Please keep Paulina and all who mourn her in your prayers. May she rest in peace.

Digging Deeper an online lay-led study group exploring different aspects of our faith, returns this Thursday, 24th September, meeting weekly from 7:30–8:30pm. Topics covered have included the Holy Land in the time of Jesus, the life of David taking the books of Samuel chapter by chapter, Pope Leo's encyclical Magnifica Humanitas, encountering Mother Teresa. Sessions conclude with a time of prayer. If you'd be interested in joining us or would like to know more, email: whdiggingdeeper@gmail.com.

Walking Through Loss Tuesday 29th September, 7–8pm. Join Chris Smith, who leads the Emmaus Support Service, for a Walking with Women gathering exploring grief through Catholic faith, prayer and community, and finding comfort in our hope of eternal life. Register at NBCW.co.uk.

Worth Abbey All Souls Mass Monday 2nd November. Gather with the monastic community as we remember and pray for all the faithful departed. This Mass offers families a space to honour loved ones who have gone before us.

Parish & Community Notices

Sister Riccarda Hambrough Tuesday 22nd September, 7pm at St Mary Mags. Come and hear the remarkable story of Sister Riccarda Hambrough.

Sacred Heart SVP Social Group The next gathering will be Thursday 1st October, after the 12noon Mass at Sacred Heart. Join us for refreshments, entertainment and quizzes.

Newsletter by Email receive the parish newsletter by email each week, contact hovesacredheart@abdiocese.org.uk.

Healing Service Sunday 4th October at 3pm at St Mary Magdalen's, with Fr Rod and Fr Alphonse. All are welcome.

Bishop-Elect Stephen Wang Monday 19th October at 12 noon. The Ordination at Arundel Cathedral is invitation-only, but it can be watched via the Cathedral livestream.



Sunday 20th September 2026
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

First Reading — Isaiah 55:6-9

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is close to all who call him.

Second Reading — Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a

Brothers and Sisters: Christ will be honoured in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ,

for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.
Open our hearts, O Lord, that we may pay attention to the words of your Son. Alleluia.

Gospel — Matthew 20:1-16

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market-place, and to them he said, "You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you." So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, "Why do you stand here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You go into the vineyard too." 'And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, "Call the labourers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first." And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what

belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?" So the last will be first, and the first last.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Profession of Faith

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (at the words that follow, up to and including 'and became man, all bow) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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