

Catholic Parish of Brighton and Hove: West Hub

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 14th December 2025, Third Sunday of Advent, Year A. Weekdays: Week 3, Psalter Week 3

Canon David Writes...

The entrance antiphon for Mass this Sunday is very clear about what we should do at this time of the year. Here it is: *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.* The source of our joy is the Lord and his nearness to us and anticipating his second coming when he will be revealed in glory at the end of time. In the Gospel John the Baptist asks: "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" We know that the answer to this question is that Jesus is the one to look for and we are not to look for another. But we often do look for someone or something else as a substitute. So this Gaudete Sunday invites us to focus on Jesus in these last few days before Christmas, even though there might still be plenty to do in terms of the arrangements for the day and that will need to be done, and so may crowd out our spiritual reflections.

So, how about also using the days after Christmas? Would it be possible for us to focus on Jesus during the Christmas season? This starts on Christmas day and concludes when we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord in mid-January. As well as Christmas day itself there are also other celebrations to focus on during the season. We might be tempted into making New Year resolutions or out into the Winter sales. But this could be the period when we look for Jesus and not for someone or something else. One of the best ways to look for Jesus is in the pages of the Gospel. So in the Christmas season we could read the Christmas story each day and we could choose from three texts Matthew 1: 18-25; Luke 2: 1-7 and / or John 1: 1-18, with the aim of deepening our appreciation of how close God is to us in Jesus Christ.

Community building at St Peter's During Advent at St Peter's at the beginning of Mass, I will be asking parishioners to turn to the person next to them and offer to pray for them during that Mass. If you don't know them it's also an opportunity to exchange first names and if you do know them, I am sure they will appreciate the support for our pilgrim journey. I hope you feel you will be able to take part in this preparation for the birth of Christ who came to walk alongside us each day and especially when we are at Mass. Canon David.

Christmas Services – West Hub

St Peter's (SP)

21 December – 18:30: Carols, followed by mince pies
24 December – 18:00 Vigil Mass; 00:00 Midnight Mass
25 December – 10:00 & 11:30 Masses

Sacred Heart (SH)

24 December – 20:00: Nativity of the Lord
(Carols from 19:30)
25 December – 09:30 & 11:30 Christmas Day Masses

St Theresa's (ST)

24 December – 18:00 Vigil Family Mass
25 December – 09:00 Christmas Day Mass

St George's (SG)

25 December – 11:00 Christmas Day Mass

St Mary Magdalen's (SMM)

24 December – 10:00 Holy Hour; 11:00 Mass
24 December – 20:00 Vigil (candlelit); 21:45 Polish Mass
25 December – 11:00 English Mass; 13:00 Polish Mass
26 December – 12:30 Polish Mass; 17:00 HH; 18:00 Mass

Advent / Christmas Events

Candlelit Rorate Caeli Mass Saturdays, 7am: 13th and 20th December at St Mary Mags. And 7am on Wednesday 17th for the final one at St Peter's. This is a Votive Mass celebrated in honour of the Virgin Mary during the Advent season. For the first three Saturdays a candlelit Mass will be held 7am before dawn, symbolising the anticipation of Christ's birth.

Decorating the Christmas Trees On the 4th Sunday of Advent (21 Dec), during Mass we will place the figures in the crib. After Mass, we warmly invite families at both St Theresa's & St George's to stay and help decorate the Christmas tree. Let's make our churches bright and festive!

Advent Reconciliation Service Sacred Heart Church will host a Reconciliation Service on the Fourth Sunday of Advent (21 Dec) at 3:00pm. Canon David will preside. The service will take place within simple Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and will conclude with Benediction. Four priests will be available to hear confessions.

Sacred Heart, 39 Norton Road, BN3 3BF, 01273 732843, www.sacredhearthove.org.uk;
hovesacredheart@abdiocese.org.uk. All Masses at SH are Live Streamed: www.sacredhearthove.org.uk/videos.html

St George's, Court Farm Road, BN3 7QR and **St Theresa's**, Old Shoreham Road, BN42 4RY, 01273 708227;
www.brightondeanerywest.org.uk; westhove@abdiocese.org.uk

St Mary Magdalen's, 55 Upper North St, BN1 3FH; brightonstmarymag@abdiocese.org.uk

St Peter's, Portland Road, BN3 5GD, 01273 733840, <https://www.stpeters-hove.org.uk/>; hovestpeters@abdiocese.org.uk

For any other contact information, including Safeguarding, please see the relevant parish website or church noticeboards

Mass Schedule		
Sat 13	Dec	St Lucy
7:00am	SMM	People of the Parish
12noon†	SMM	People of the Parish
6.00pm †	SH	People of the Parish
6.00	SP	Jane Cuthbe RIP
6.30	SG	<i>Polish Mass</i>
Sun 14	Dec	Third Sunday of Advent
8.30 am	SP	Jude Fletcher RIP
9.00	ST	Sabino Rato RIP
9.30	SH	Gillian Botting RIP
9:30	SMM	People of the Parish
10.00	SP	Jean & Larry Donnelly RIP
11.00	SG	People of the Parish
11.00	SMM	Gerry McGrellis RIP
11.30	SH	Bob White RIP
11.30	SP	Margaret McGoldrick RIP
5.00 pm	SP	<i>Portuguese Mass</i>
5.00	SMM	People of the Parish
Mon 15	Dec	
10.00 am †	SH	Dorothy Pew RIP
Tue 16	Dec	
10.00 am	SG	People of the Parish
10.00 †	SH	Anthony John Reynolds RIP
10.00	SP	People of the Parish
6.00pm †	SMM	People of the Parish
7.00pm	ST	People of the Parish
Wed 17	Dec	
7.00am	SP	<i>Rorate Caeli Mass</i>
8.00am	SH	Rosemary Barratt RIP
8.00am	CNCS	<i>Term Time Only</i>
6.00pm †	SMM	People of the Parish
7.00pm	ST	People of the Parish
Thurs 18	Dec	
10.00am	SP	UCM St Peter's Foundation
10.00 ‡	SG	People of the Parish
12 noon †	SH	Mary Mathew RIP
6.00pm †	SMM	People of the Parish
7.00pm	ST	People of the Parish
Fri 19	Dec	
8.00 am	SH	Keith Simpson RIP
10:00 AM	SP	People of the Parish
6.00pm †	SMM	People of the Parish
7.00	ST	People of the Parish
Sat 20	Dec	
7:00am	SMM	People of the Parish
12noon†	SMM	People of the Parish
6.00pm †	SH	Eithne McGovern Int
6.00	SP	Peace in our World
6.30	SG	<i>Polish Mass</i>
Sun 21	Dec	Fourth Sunday of Advent
8.30 am	SP	Jude Fletcher RIP
9.00	ST	Wyn Wilde Ints
9.30	SH	Jose Nery Alvis RIP
9:30	SMM	People of the Parish
10.00	SP	Michael Grennan RIP
11.00	SG	People of the Parish
11.00	SMM	Gerry McGrellis RIP
11.30	SH	People of the Parish
11.30	SP	Ignacy MacKowak RIP
5.00 pm	SP	<i>Portuguese Mass</i>
5.00	SMM	People of the Parish

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

Advent Sycamore at St Peter's Would you like Wednesday evenings during Advent to add something special to the season? You are most welcome to join us on Wednesdays from 7:30pm for drinks, snacks, a short Advent focused film, and lively discussion. We will consider *Welcoming the Stranger* as a key theme. Venture forth!

Regular Events

Weekly Reconciliation Times

Sacred Heart & St Peter's Saturdays, before Mass at 5:15pm.

St Mary Magdalen Fridays during Holy Hour at 5:00pm, Saturdays at 11:00am, and after the Rorate Caeli Mass.

St Theresa's Fridays after the 7:00pm Mass.

Take this opportunity to prepare your heart for Christmas.

Prayer Groups

Tuesday Prayer Group – Sacred Heart Every Tuesday at 10:30am, SH Parish Room. The Prayer group will run on December 16th and then will take a break until the new year and resume on 6th January 2026. All Welcome. You may leave prayer requests in the box at the back of the church.

Online Prayer Group – Thursdays at 8pm via video-link

A small and informal group, meeting to pray and read the scriptures together. If you would like to join the group, or just 'come and see' you are very welcome. Just send an email to westhove@abdiocese.org.uk and you will receive the link for the meeting. You may leave prayer requests in the box at the back on St Theresa's.

St Peter's You are warmly invited to join the online contemplative prayer group on Fridays from 7:30–8:30pm.

For more information, please email:

quietenginesprayer@gmail.com.

Bible Course at Sacred Heart In the new year, we hope to run the excellent new video-and-discussion course from the Bible Society. Sessions will take place on either Tuesday or Wednesday evenings for eight weeks. Further details will follow. In the meantime, please contact faith@ag4.it.

Faith Formation Group Thursdays, 6:45pm, St Mary Mags

This informal group is designed for those wishing to join the Church and is open to anyone who would like to learn more about the Catholic faith. The next programme begins on 8th January 2026.

Social Groups

St George's Tea and Chat On the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, the 10am Mass at St George's is followed by a time of socialisation and activity, in the hall, aimed at the older people in the parish. No need to book. Just turn up! Next date Tues 23rd December, for a Christmas Party!

Sacred Heart SVP Social Group Soup, sandwiches, tea, and cakes. Entertainment, quizzes, etc. after 12noon Mass.

The SVP will take a break for the rest of December and resume in the new year on 8th January 2026. All Welcome.

St Peter's Social group on Fridays at 1:30pm in our parish hall please do join us for some light refreshment and friendly conversation.

Sacred Heart Film Club Next Date
Saturday 3rd January after 12:00pm
Mass. Refreshments served, all
welcome.

Other Events/Notices

Confirmation Catechists Urgently Needed! The Confirmation programme is now closed for applications, but we have had over 20 young people across the West Hove churches apply for the 2026 programme, which is great! As a result, we do need extra Catechists to run the programme to comply with Safeguarding and Health and Safety ratio rules. If you are someone who has skills in communicating with young people and have a passion for passing on the Catholic faith, we would love to hear from you. The programme will start in February 2026 on Monday evenings from 6-7pm in the Sacred Heart Parish Rooms. The position is open to all churches, and support and learning materials will be provided, so you will not be expected to do everything yourself. The Programme will not be able to run without an additional adult present so your help will really be appreciated. Please contact your Parish Office if you are interested.

Request for a Large Print Jerusalem Bible We are looking for a Large Print Jerusalem Bible for one of our elderly parishioners. If you happen to have one that you no longer need and would be happy to donate, please contact
E: westhove@abdiocese.org.uk
T: 01273 708227.

Newsletter by email If you would like to receive a copy of the newsletter to your inbox each week, email Lisa at,
hovesacredheart@abdiocese.org.uk.

St Peter's Archive For baptism, or confirmation certificates, contact
SaintPeterArchives@gmail.com.

Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Word – Saturday 24th January 2026
11-4pm, St Michael's church,
High Salvington, Worthing, BN13 3AL,
Cost: £40 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 If you have any questions about this day, do not hesitate to contact Catherine Christmas catherine.christmas@abdiocese.org.uk

Fundraising / Giving

St Peter's Offertory Collection
1st Collection 7th December = £1,408.86

Hangleton & West Blatchington Foodbank Items especially needed are;
Crackers for cheese;
Biscuits & chocolate; Crisps and nuts;
Long-life fruit juice & fizzy drinks;
Selection boxes; Christmas tablecloths & napkins; Pickles and chutneys; Mince pies (non-alcoholic); Christmas puddings (non-alcoholic); Sanitary towels; Shampoo & matching conditioner; Sugar (500g bags); Instant coffee (granules/powder).

Carrier bags for Foodbank St Theresa's and St Peter's are in need of carrier bags to help transport items to the foodbank. If you have any spare bags, please leave them in the porch at St Theresa's or in the outer sacristy at St Peter's along with your foodbank donations. Thank you for your support.

Card sale for Lewes Prison Chaplaincy
Thank you for your generosity in buying Christmas Cards from Paul Hebdon, a fantastic amount of £236.50 was raised and has already been donated to Lewes Prison Chaplaincy.

Soup Run Each week, from Monday to Friday, 7pm at the shelter next to the Angel of Peace on the seafront. Please consider giving your time to this valuable work of charity. For more information, please contact SMM office.

Please pray for...

Canon Colin Wolczak; Cathy Howes; Cheryl Evans; Chris, Lucy, Matt, & Vince Neal; Clive Connor; Clive Holding; Eileen Kipling; Tony Spear; Elena White; Hanorah & Mat Smith; Michael Edwards; Rex Curd; Tom Piggins & Winifred Wilde.

Please pray for all the sick and/or housebound members of our parishes. Please pray for all those who have died recently, especially:

From St Peter's, Caroline Lamb, Ann Western and Angela Bennett. We have also heard the sad news of the death of **Jenny Shippam RIP** (St Peter's) please pray for her husband Mike at this sad time.

Gerry McGrellis RIP, holder of the Papal Cross Award and long-time server at St Mary Magdalen Church, may he rest in peace.

The funeral of **Angela Bennett**, who died suddenly at home on the 20th November, age 70 years, will take place at St Peters on 16th December at 11:30am followed by burial at Hove Cemetery.

The Committal of **Ann Western** will take place at St Peter's on 17th December with a Memorial Service at St Peters at 12:30pm.

Caroline Lamb's funeral will be at St Peter's at **11am** on Monday 22nd December.

Please remember them all and their families in your prayers. May they rest in peace.

Hospital Chaplaincy If you are in hospital at the Royal Sussex County, please contact the Hospital Chaplain Fr Celestine Nnolim who is available for visits on request, T. 01273 696955 Ext. 64122, email celestine.nnolim@nhs.net.

Cardinal Newman Catholic School and Newman College
The Upper Drive, Hove, BN3 6ND

Advent Carol Service

Thursday 18th December 2025
6.00pm in the Chapel



Please book your free tickets by scanning the QR code below.
We're fundraising for Project Antifreeze, a program run by the local charity 'Off the Fence' that supports people experiencing homelessness in the Brighton area. Any donation you can make would be greatly appreciated.



CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Refreshments available to purchase.
NEWMAN COLLEGE

Sunday 14th December 2025,

Third Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, 'Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Sion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm Response

Come, Lord, and save us.

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia.
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he has sent me to proclaim good news
to the poor.
Alleluia.**

Matthew 11:2-11

At that time: When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'

And Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.

'What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you."

'Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

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,
(all bow during the next three lines)
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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