



**St George's & St Theresa's**  
*Serving Southwick, Portslade,  
 Hangleton and West Blatchington*

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**School:** St Mary's, Church Road, Portslade  
[www.stmarys.brighton-hove.sch.uk](http://www.stmarys.brighton-hove.sch.uk)

**Also serving the parishes:**  
**Cottesmore:** [www.cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk](http://www.cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk)  
**Newman:** [www.cncs.co.uk](http://www.cncs.co.uk)

**2nd Jan: 2nd Sun of Christmas**  
**Sundays: Year C Weekdays: of Christmas**

**Bishop Richard Writes:**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,



May I begin this reflection by wishing you every blessing for this wonderful Christmas Season. Yesterday, we celebrated the Lord's birth. The Lord Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us. This

Season continues for some days – beyond Epiphany to the Baptism of the Lord, which we celebrate on the 9th January. While, traditionally, Christmas decorations come down on the 6th, do keep your cribs in place until at least January 9th – or even (as in some countries) until the 2nd February – the Feast of the Presentation. May this Christmas Season be a time of peace and joy for you and your families and, indeed, for the world.

Last Sunday we celebrated the Holy Family and our Gospel Reading took us on a jump in time, as it were, to the time when, aged 12, Jesus goes missing in Jerusalem and is found after three days conversing with the doctors in the Temple. The Lord's words "Do you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?" might seem difficult. They are a sign of what is to come – the Lord does the Father's work even to His death on the Cross. "Thy will, not mine be done" we hear Him say in Gethsemane.

In the first reading, Hannah gives her son, Samuel, to the Lord – in the person of Eli. Could the account of this event in the First Book of Samuel come to the mind of Mary as she pondered on all that had happened? Might there be a sense in which Mary and Joseph were preparing themselves for what Jesus would do when the time came?

What is clear in these readings is that God's purpose comes before all else. It is the same for us. We too, in our own small way, are called to do God's work. As John points out in his letter, this will not necessarily mean an easy path, but it will bring us a joy beyond our imagining: "we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He really is."

This is a wonderful focus for our family lives. As we reflect on the Holy Family of Nazareth, may our homes be places where we are prepared for the Lord's work; may our families be holy, communities of the love of God.

With every Blessing,  
 + Richard



**Afghanistan Crisis**

At present, more than half the population of Afghanistan are facing extreme hunger, with some parts of the country close to famine conditions. The situation will deteriorate with the onset of winter. Due to the instability of the country, many – as we know – are leaving their homes in search of sanctuary elsewhere.

CAFOD's partners and sister agencies are already at work in Afghanistan, but the numbers of people seeking aid increases daily.

Please pray for the people of Afghanistan, and respond to the CAFOD appeal. Further information and links to make donations can be found at:

[cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk)

## Please pray for

All who are sick in the parish, especially Pietro Addis, those who have died recently, especially Pauline Penfold and Mick Blamey. Those who have been recently bereaved and those whose anniversaries occur around this time.

## Fr. Tony writes:

Many thanks for the welcome you have given me in the past months, for your Christmas offerings, and for all your cards and gifts. I am beginning to feel at home!

Thanks too to all who played a part in preparing the churches for Christmas. Both St George's and St Theresa's look beautiful!

As I said in the Christmas Mass sheet, it has been another challenging year for most of us. We come to greet the Christ Child with hearts that are at times fearful and uncertain. Yet we know ourselves to be fortunate compared with many in our world. We are reminded in our Christmas liturgy that, while Jesus came to save us all, he comes first to the lowly, the poor, the marginalised. So, if we want to find him we must too turn our hearts towards these people. It is all too easy, both as individuals and as a community, indeed as a nation, to 'batten down the hatches' when times get tough.

Yet, closing in on ourselves is the opposite of the Christmas message. So I invite you this Christmas to ask yourself: "how can I spread the message of Christmas to others, not just in these days, but throughout the year." Maybe, though, we struggle at times to believe it even for ourselves. We can't do it alone. This is what the Church is for. To remind us of the 'news of great joy', to celebrate it together, and to support one another as we take that message to the world, especially to those who need it most.

## Weekly Timetable

<b>Saturday 1st Jan</b> <b>Mary Mother of God</b>	12:00pm Mass, St George's 4:45 - 5:15pm Confessions 5:30pm Mass, St Theresa's	
<b>Sunday 2nd Jan</b> <b>2nd Sun of Christmas</b>	9am Mass, St Theresa's 11am Mass, St George's	All Parishioners
Tuesday 4th Jan	10am Mass, St George's	
Wednesday 5th Jan	6:30pm Adoration 7:30pm Mass, St Theresa's (Vigil of the Epiphany)	Patricia Weatherseed RIP
<b>Thursday 6th Jan</b> <b>Epiphany of the Lord</b>	10am Mass, St George's	
Friday 7th Jan	10am Mass, St Theresa's	Sue Addis RIP
<b>Saturday 8th Jan</b>	4:45 - 5:15pm Confessions 5:30pm Mass, St Theresa's	
<b>Sunday 9th Jan</b> <b>Baptism of the Lord</b>	9am Mass, St Theresa's 11am Mass, St George's	All Parishioners

***May God,  
the source of grace and all blessing,  
grant you grace  
pour out his blessing in abundance,  
and keep you safe from harm  
throughout the year.  
May he order your days and deeds  
in his peace,  
grant your payers in this and every place,  
and lead you happily to eternal life***

From the Blessing for the Beginning of the Year

Adoration this Wednesday will be accompanied by words and music on the theme of the Epiphany and the New Year

## Justice & Peace Assembly with Bishop Richard: 'To a Safer Shore?'

Focussing on the challenges faced by people compelled to leave their homes and seek refuge in other countries. **Why must we and how can we** respond to their needs, especially in light of Fratelli Tutti.

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January, from 9.45am, for 10:00am to 1:00pm, this will take place online.

For more details and to book see [www.abdiocese.org.uk/news/jp2022](http://www.abdiocese.org.uk/news/jp2022) or contact Tessa Ricketts at [Tessa.Ricketts@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:Tessa.Ricketts@abdiocese.org.uk)

