



Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea

*Serving Southwick, Portslade,
Hangleton and West Blatchington*

St Theresa's: Old Shoreham Rd, Southwick, BN42 4RY

St George's: Court Farm Road, Hove, BN3 7QR

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Find out more: [https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/
safeguarding/home](https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/safeguarding/home)

School: St Mary's, Church Road, Portslade
www.stmarys.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Also serving the parishes:

Cottesmore: www.cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Cardinal Newman: www.cncs.co.uk



If you use Facebook, please join our group page,
Catholics West Hove

www.facebook.com/groups/1510048742698794/

Mass Changes

There are to be some changes to Masses in the area in the coming year. The principle change for us is the amalgamation of the Saturday evening Masses at St Theresa's and St Peter's. **From next weekend there will be no 5:30 Saturday Mass at St Theresa's, and Fr Tony will be celebrating the 6pm vigil Mass at St Peter's, Hove.** Confessions will be 5:15 — 5:45 at St Peter's. Also, the Sunday morning Polish Mass will be at 9:30am at St Mary Magdalene's in Brighton and not at St George's. The Sunday morning Mass in English at St Mary Magdalene's is moving to 11am. These changes are partly a consequence of the falling number of clergy. But they also represent a certain 'consolidation' of smaller congregations so the Masses are better supported. There will be further changes 'down the road' for the whole deanery as the Bishop's pastoral plan, (see right), the fruit of several years of consultation and reflection, reshapes the way we develop the mission of the Church in our parishes, deaneries, and diocese.

31st December 2023: The Holy Family Weekdays: Season of Christmas

Fr Tony Writes:

Happy Christmas! Last weekend we were still in Advent, so this is the first newsletter of Christmas. It is also good to remind ourselves that we are still in Christmastide (which ends next Monday, 8th January, with the Baptism of the Lord).

Many thanks for all your cards and gifts, and for your contributions to the Christmas Offering.



This weekend we celebrate the Holy Family. The Gospel reading this year (Year B) is the story of the Presentation, in which Simeon speaks of his joy at seeing the Saviour, but also the sorrow that is coming for Mary: "A sword shall pierce your heart".

Indeed the feast of the Holy Family always has this 'double edged' nature. Last year (Year A) we heard of the flight into Egypt, and next year (Year C) we have the finding in the temple. This reminds us that the Holy Family is more than the rather serene scenes we see on our Christmas cards and in our cribs.

That even the Holy Family struggled and suffered at times should give us hope and consolation when we struggle in our own families, whether because of external causes or simply because of the changing realities growing children bring.

The difficulties faced by the Holy Family should also give us compassion for families who want to escape crippling poverty or are fleeing violence or oppression. Sadly, the political rhetoric around migration increasingly demonises those who simply desire a secure and peaceful life for their families. It also seems to forget the huge contribution migrants have made to our society over the decades.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, watch over us and our families. Help us to grow in love and understanding of one another. Amen.

Bishop Richard's Pastoral Plan for the Diocese



Bishop Richard has written a Pastoral Plan for the diocese, which will be released in the New Year: 'The Word Who is Life: The Call to Mission'.

As society becomes more secular our parishes must be ever-clearer beacons of light guiding people to Christ. The new Plan highlights how our community of faith can embrace this important time of renewal, forging diocesan parishes into communities of saints and strong, lively, and welcoming schools of discipleship. The Pastoral Plan will be released on the **diocesan website on Tue 2nd Jan:**

www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/pastoral-plan.

Bishop Richard will be hosting a Pastoral Plan Webinar for people across our diocesan community on Wednesday 10th January at 7:30pm. Please use the following link to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86457734895>.

This link will be available to 'click' on the front page of the parish website. We will also be 'screening' the webinar at St Theresa's after the 7pm Mass.

Please Pray For...

All who are sick in the parish particularly:

Cheryl Evans, Colette, Elizabeth Hopkins, Julie Laker, Terry Phipps, Tom Hulse and Winifred Wilde.

Those on our regular prayer list including:

Florence Davis, Kathleen Davis, Paddy Dixon, Cheryl Evans, Margaret Gilligan and Eileen Kipling.

Those who have died recently especially:

Joyce Monasingh. As well as those whose anniversaries occur this month. A full list of sick parishioners and anniversaries can be found on the parish website.



After a busy Christmas period we have quite a number of shelves that are looking a little empty. If you would like to donate to the food bank this week we are most in need of:

Tinned tomatoes, corned beef, pasta sauces including pasta bakes, sugar, toilet rolls, squash, oil, UHT milk, dried noodles.

Donations may be dropped into the boxes at the back of either of our churches. *Thank you for your support.*

CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030.

Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need.



Crib Offering 2023

To support the Catholic Children's Society A&B Crisis Fund

The Catholic Children's Society (CCS) is helping local families in crisis who are struggling to put food on the table, keep warm and provide a safe home for their children.

There are many more vulnerable families in need of support and our parish will be donating our Crib Offering to support this important work. Every penny donated will be given out via CCS's A&B Crisis Fund to support local families in need. You can donate in church using the gift aid envelopes provided, or via our new 'Dona' contactless giving device, alternatively donate via the CCS website:

www.cathchild.org.uk/crib/



Weekly Timetable

Sat 30th Dec	4:45-5:15pm Confessions 5:30pm Mass, St Theresa's	
Sunday 31st Dec Holy Family	9am Mass, St Theresa's 11am Mass, St George's	<i>All Parishioners Guilu Pires RIP</i>
Monday 1st January Mary, mother of God	10am Mass, St George's	
Tuesday 2nd Jan Sts Basil & Gregory	No Mass	
Wed 3rd Jan The Most Holy Name of Jesus	7pm Mass, St Theresa's	
Thurs 4th Jan	10am Mass, St George's <i>Adoration to 10:45</i>	
Fri 5th Jan	10am Mass, St Theresa's <i>Adoration to 10:45</i>	
Sat 6th Jan	5:15- 5:45pm Confessions St Peters, Hove 6pm Mass, St Peters, Hove	
Sunday 7th Jan Epiphany of the Lord	9am Mass, St Theresa's 11am Mass, St George's	<i>Cosme Rodrigues RIP All Parishioners</i>

FHC Prayer Sponsors

If you would like to be a prayer sponsor for one of our young people making their FHC in May 2024, please email the office or speak to Fr Tony.



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**Note changes of dates
(owing to the Bishop's
webinar being on 10th Jan)**

A series of talks on the Gospel of Mark

Wednesday, 17th & 24th January, & 7th February, St Theresa's, 7:45pm. (Mass 7pm, followed by refreshments.) This year on Sundays we will be hearing the Gospel of Mark. It is the shortest and most dynamic of Gospels. It was probably written in Rome, for a small Church community that had known St Peter, and was now enduring persecution and seeing people falling away.

What was it like to hear the Gospel for the first time, possibly hidden secretly in a room in the city? The first session on the 17th January, will be a 'read through' of the whole Gospel, after a brief 'scene setting' to try to 'capture' its atmosphere. Then on the 24th January and the 7th February we will look more closely at key features and themes of Mark's story of Jesus.

We continue to pray for the people of Ukraine. For more information and ways to support them see:
cbcew.org.uk/category/cbcew/international/countries/ukraine/