

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 21st December 2025, Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A. Weekdays: Week 4, Psalter Week 4
Expectant Mothers

Canon Colin Writes...

The Advent theme of love is celebrated during the fourth and final week of Advent, highlighting God's deep and boundless love for humanity. Love is at the heart of the Christmas story: God sent his only Son, Jesus, as an act of selfless love to redeem the world.

Sometimes called the "Angel Candle," the fourth candle lit on the Advent wreath symbolises peace, which is the ultimate gift brought by Christ.

It is a time to reflect on the faith and trust of Mary and Joseph in God's promises, and to try and imitate them in our own lives. It serves as the final preparation for celebrating Christ's birth on Christmas Day.

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraph #1766 it says, "Love is to will the good of the other".

There is a story about a small boy who went to a pet shop. "Mister," he said to the owner, "I want to buy that puppy." The owner's eyes followed the boy's finger to a little crippled puppy all by himself. "Son," replied, "that pup is worthless. We're going to have him put to sleep in the next few days." But the boy protested, "I've saved my money just to buy that one puppy. I have been looking at him in the window every day. He's the only one I want." Once again, the owner explained the problem—the dog was crippled—the dog was worthless—the dog would be put to sleep. The small boy then reached down with two little hands and pulled up his trousers. The man observed two little legs enclosed in braces. "Mister," he said, "You don't know what love can do!" — Jesus, Emmanuel, has worn our braces and died for our sins. Now with grateful hearts let us enthrone him as Saviour and Lord.

Solidarity with our Jewish communities This weekend, when we light our fourth advent candle, let us offer prayers for the Jewish community, who are lighting a Chanukah candle each day this week. We stand together in solidarity with them, facing off darkness and evil, and spreading light, peace and love. Let us all flood the world with joy and goodness.

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

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!

St. Thérèse of Lisieux Catholic Church, Southwick



From our church families to your family...

**Free treats & toys available for families in need this Christmas...
...whilst donations last.**

**SATURDAY 20th & SUNDAY 21st, 1100hrs-1500hrs
St. Thérèse of Lisieux Church, BN42 4RY**

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

Hospital Chaplain, Royal Sussex County Hospital, T. 01273 696955 Ext. 64122, email celestine.nnolim@nhs.net

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

Mass Schedule		
Sat 20	Dec	
7:00am	SMM	People of the Parish
12noon†	SMM	Maria Isabel Reis RIP
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	Maria Isabel Reis 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
Mon 22	Dec	
10.00 am †	SH	Joyce Monasingh RIP
11.00	SP	Funeral Mass: Caroline Lamb RIP
Tue 23	Dec	Saint John of Kanty
10.00 am	SG	People of the Parish
10.00 †	SH	Charles Emmanuel Osezua Int
10.00	SP	Maureen Hardiman RIP
6.00pm †	SMM	Maria Isabel Reis RIP
7.00pm	ST	People of the Parish
Wed 24	Dec	Christmas Eve
8.00am	SH	Ehianeta Osezua Int
10.00	SP	Mary Peyton RIP
11.00am †	SMM	Maria Isabel Reis RIP
6.00	SP	People of the Parish
6.00pm	ST	People of the Parish
8.00pm	SH	People of the Parish
8.00pm	SMM	People of the Parish
00.00	SP	Gerard and Danae
Thurs 25	Dec	Christmas Day
9.00	ST	People of the Parish
9.30am	SH	Wiktor & Yvonne Wolczak RIP
10.00am	SP	People of the Parish
11am	SG	People of the Parish
11am	SMM	Maria Isabel Reis RIP
11.30am	SH	Bloy & Hodgson Families Int
11.30am	SP	Stanislaw Szczerbiak RIP
Fri 26	Dec	St Stephen
8.00 am	SH	Emmanuel Izazoboh Int
10:00 AM	SP	People of the Parish
6.00pm †	SMM	People of the Parish
7.00	ST	People of the Parish
Sat 27	Dec	St John
12noon†	SMM	People of the Parish
6.00pm †	SH	Bertram Head RIP
6.00	SP	Freda and John McAntamney RIP
6.30	SG	<i>Polish Mass</i>
Sun 28	Dec	The Holy Family
8.30 am	SP	People of the Parish
9.00	ST	Suzanne Muggeridge Ints
9.30	SH	Gillian Botting RIP
9:30	SMM	<i>Polish Mass</i>
10.00	SP	Mrs Martin MacIsaac RIP
11.00	SG	People of the Parish
11.00	SMM	People of the Parish
11.30	SH	People of the Parish
11.30	SP	Valerie Marlow RIP
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 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.

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.

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 on request
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 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 – The Online Prayer Group meets on Thursdays at 8:00pm via video link. This is a small, informal group that comes together to pray and reflect on the Scriptures. If you would like to join the group, or simply "come and see" you are very welcome. Please email westhove@abdiocese.org.uk and you will be sent the meeting link. Prayer requests may also be left in the box at the back of St Theresa's Church. Please note that the group is now taking a short break and will resume on Thursday 8th January 2026.
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.

Sacred Heart Online Rosary: Friday's 11am Rosary, available online only. The Rosary will take a break and resume on 2nd January. Please join via our livestream.

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 refreshments and friendly conversation.

Sacred Heart Film Club Next Date is Saturday 3rd January after 12:00pm Mass. The film that will be showing is 'The Name of the Rose', which is a medieval whodunit set in a Monastery and stars Sean Connery. 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.

Sacred Heart Repository Christmas Cards are available in the Sacred Heart Repository after weekend Masses. We also have Aid to the Church in Need items for sale too including rosaries and prayer books.

St Peter's Repository has a wide range of religious cards and gifts available to purchase including various Carlo Acutis items please do pop in to see what is on offer. Available to purchase are Carlo Acutis items, 3rd class relics, silver plated necklaces with different religious icons and saints, statues, and candles. Opening times are before and after Mass every day apart from Monday, please use our Dona machine in the porch to pay for any purchases.

Fundraising / Giving

St Peter's Offertory Collection

1st Collection 14th December = £1,458.

Christmas Crib Offering – Catholic Children's Society's (CCS) A & B's Crisis Fund

As usual, the Christmas Crib offering will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society. All funds raised will help local children and families in need. You can donate in Church, use the QR code on the posters, or via the CCS website: www.cathchild.org/crib

Hangleton & West Blatchington

Foodbank We will be closed on Wednesday 24th December 2025. Happy Christmas!

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.

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...

Ann Price; Canon Colin Wolczak; Cathy Howes; Cheryl Evans; Chris, Lucy, Matt, & Vince Neal; Clive Connor; Eileen Kipling; Elena White; Hanorah & Mat Smith; Rex Curd; Tom Piggins; Tony Spears; & 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:

Michael Pye RIP (SH) We have recently heard of the death of Michael Pye (husband to Marilyn Balmer) and our thoughts and prayers are with Marilyn and her family at this difficult time.

Caroline Lamb RIP (SP) funeral will be at St Peter's at 12 noon on Monday 22nd December 2025.

Ann Weston RIP (SP)

Angela Bennett RIP (SP)

Bernadette McCauley RIP (SP)

Michael (Mick) Edwards RIP (SG) husband of Corinne.

Please remember all of them and their families in your prayers.

**Sunday 21st December 2025,
Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Collect

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

In those days: The Lord spoke to Ahaz: 'Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.' And Isaiah said, 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms Response

Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an Apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel — which means, God with us. Alleluia.

Gospel Matthew 1:18-24

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel' — which means, God with us.

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife.

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.

Prayer after Communion

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption, we pray, almighty God, that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

Copyright notice

Scripture quotations are from the English Standard Version of the Bible, Catholic Edition (ESV-CE), published by Asian Trading Corporation, copyright 2017 by Crossway. All rights are reserved. Excerpts from Abbey Psalms and Canticles are copyright 2018 USCCB.