

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 16th August 2026, The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Principal Patron of the Diocese
Year A, Weekdays: Week 32, Psalter Week 4

Fr Tony writes...

This weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption. Although the doctrine of the Assumption was not formally defined until 1950, the belief that “the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory” goes back to the very early centuries of the Church. The eastern Church celebrates it as the ‘Dormition’ of our Lady, but the basic meaning is the same. Why is it important? Bishop Erik Varden, writes:

“Far from being a pious yarn, a holy-card romance, the Assumption, as dogma, is lodged in flesh and blood, in the sweat and tears of our human condition. It is thoroughly realistic. First, it points to the realism of the incarnation. God cannot pass corporeally on earth without leaving traces. To have borne God into the world is no trivial matter. Think how we venerate objects connected with the saints, certain that something of the grace that changed their lives remains still in what they handled. Think how the bodies of saints are often found to be incorrupt, rendered resistant, it would seem, to decay for having been touched by divine power. How many million times must we multiply the potency of such examples to fathom what she must have been, and remained, who bore God in her womb for nine months? Mary proves that the redemption Christ wrought is real. She is no half-angel, no pastel-coloured plaster-cast. She's real. She's one of us. She was conceived sinless, but not by some exclusive, private merit. The Immaculate Conception, the Church teaches, anticipates the salvation Jesus Christ won for all. The power that transformed the Virgin's life and death is the power that can transform ours, too, if we would let it. The Mother of God is humanity's trail-blazer. She goes ahead like a fearless explorer, showing us where we must go, what we are called to become.”



Monks in the City invites you to their open day at St John the Baptist: discover Brighton's historic catholic church. Fr Patrick and his team have planned an Open Day at St John the Baptist's church on 29th August, 11am to 16:30, the Memoria of the Passion of St John the Baptist.

The church has stood since 1835 and is Grade II* listed. It holds a surprising piece of royal history: Maria Fitzherbert, who secretly married the Prince of Wales, is buried there, and her memorial and relics remain in the church today. Cardinal Newman once preached there too. Alongside the history, there is fine Victorian art and stained glass to see, including work by the sculptor John

Edward Carew. All parishioners are welcome to come along, and to bring their friends and neighbours with them, whatever their church or faith background, or none. There will be guided tours and refreshments, and entry is free.

The church is more than the building, so we would be delighted if your parishioners would like to join ours as a welcoming presence on the day, so that our visitors might experience something of the real Church. If any would be willing to volunteer as welcomers, they can get in touch by email to monksinthecity@worth.org.uk or phone the parish office 01273 087839.

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 Street, BN1 3FH; 01273 326793; 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 15th	August	Saturday
12noon †	SMM	Vanessa & Guilu Pires RIP
6pm	SH	People of the Parish
6.00pm	SP	Peace in our world
6.30pm	SG	<i>Polish Mass</i>
Sun 16th	August	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin
8.30am	SP	Francis Parmiter RIP
9.00am	ST	People of the Parish
9.30am	SH	Mr Ivan D'Souza RIP
9.30am	SMM	
10.00am	SP	People of the Parish
11.00am	SG	People of the Parish
11.00am	SMM	Francelle's & Ethel's Intentions
11.30am	SH	In Thanksgiving for Jeanne Lyons
11.30am	SP	Holy Souls
5.00pm	SMM	
Mon 17th	August	Monday
10.00am †	SH	Anthony John Reynolds RIP
Tue 18th	August	Tuesday
10.00am	SG	People of the Parish
10.00am †	SH	Michael & Ashley Pye RIP
10.00am	SP	Thanksgiving
6.00pm †	SMM	
7.00pm	ST	Marie Berry RIP
Wed 19th	August	Saint John Eudes
8.00am	SH	Patrick John Cronin RIP
10.00am	SP	Belle McCullough
6.00pm †	SMM	
7.00pm	ST	Fr Celestine's own intention
Thurs 20th	August	Saint Bernard
10.00am ‡	SG	People of the Parish
10.00am †	SP	People of the Parish
12noon †	SH	Jose Nery Alvis RIP
6.00pm †	SMM	Mr and Mrs Ege O'Leary RIP
7.00pm	ST	People of the Parish
Fri 21st	August	Saint Pius X
8.00am	SH	Eric & Maureen Hardiman RIP
10.00am	SP	People of the Parish
7.00pm ‡	ST	People of the Parish
6.00pm †	SMM	Margaret Horsley RIP
Sat 22nd	August	Our Lady, Mother and Queen
12noon †	SMM	
6pm	SH	Mr & Mrs Gillow RIP and Relatives
6.00pm	SP	Henry Gabriel Tan
6.30pm	SG	<i>Polish Mass</i>
Sun 23rd	August	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
8.30am	SP	People of the Parish
9.00am	ST	People of the Parish
9.30am	SH	People of the Parish
9.30am	SMM	
10.00am	SP	People of the Parish
11.00am	SG	People of the Parish
11.00am	SMM	
11.30am	SH	Mrs Ruby D'Souza RIP
11.30am	SP	People of the Parish
5.00pm	SMM	Mary Jane Benville RIP

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

Weekly Reconciliation Times

Sacred Heart & St Peter's Saturdays from 5:15–5:45pm.

St George's After Sunday Mass, on request.

St Mary Magdalen Fridays at 5pm, and Saturdays at 11am, and during every Holy Hour at SMM.

St Theresa's Fridays after the 7pm Mass.

Prayer Groups & Devotions

Sacred Heart

Prayer Group: will resume on Tuesday, 1st September, and then every Tuesday at 10:30am, Parish Room. You may leave prayer requests in the box at the back of the church.

Online Rosary: Fridays at 11am via livestream.

St George's

Rosary Group: Mondays, 6–7pm in the Lady Chapel.

The Rosary Group does not meet on Bank Holiday Mondays.

St Mary Magdalen's

Women's Rosary: takes place every Friday in the Presbytery at 10am. Tea and refreshments are shared afterwards.

St Peter's

Contemplative Prayer Group: Fridays, 7:30pm - 9pm, in person and online.

Contact James at: quietenginesprayer@gmail.com.

St Theresa's

Lauds (Morning Prayer): Sundays at 8:30am.

Vespers (Evening Prayer): Wednesdays at 6:30pm.

Social Groups

Sacred Heart

SVP Social Group: Please note the group will break for August, returning on 3rd September.

Film Club: will be taking a break for July & August and will resume on 5th September.

St Mary Magdalen's

Table Church: a young adults' group meeting after the 11am Mass for refreshments in the community hall to share faith and life experiences. We look forward to meeting you!

St George's

Tea and Chat: takes place after the 10am Mass on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, with next gathering on Tuesday 25th August.

St Peter's

Social Group (drop in): is now taking a break and will be back in September. Please check the newsletter for our next session. (Fridays, 1–3pm in the parish hall.

Marriage Preparation Course begins on 5 October 2026. Couples wishing to take part should apply by 11 September 2026. For further details or to register, bh.marriage.prep@gmail.com

2026-2027 Sacramental Programmes

Application forms for First Holy Communion (FHC), Confirmation and RCIA are now available from Sacred Heart Church (at the front entrance) or from the Sacred Heart website. Please return your completed forms to the office before the deadline indicated on the form to avoid disappointment. Please note that other churches will open registration for First Holy Communion and Confirmation from September.

Cottesmore St Mary Catholic Primary School, Hove currently has two spaces for children in Year 2, moving to Year 3 in September. Please contact the school if you are interested in one of the places. For more information, you may wish to visit their Admissions page www.cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk/page/admissions/

St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, Brighton

APPLICATIONS OPEN! Why not join us for a tour and discover this hidden gem for yourself? stmarymags-brighton-hove.secure-dbprimary.com/brighton-hove/primary/stmarymags

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Portslade

Come and see how at St Mary's we do it differently! We warmly invite you to come and visit our school so you are able to get a true sense of how we encourage our children to 'Achieve their Ambitions.' Please call the school to book a tour 01273 418416. <https://www.stmarys.brighton-hove.sch.uk/>

St Peter's Archive Team If you require a copy of a Baptism or Confirmation Certificate, please contact our team of volunteers. Please allow up to two weeks for your request to be processed. saintpeterarchives@gmail.com

St Mary Magdalene's Healing Service will take place on first Sunday of every month at 3pm, with Fr Rod and Fr Alphonse. The next Healing Service will be on Sunday, 6th September. The car park will remain open until 6pm. All are most welcome!

Volunteers Needed for Collection

Counting at St Theresa's We are looking for more volunteers to join the collection counting team at St Theresa's. Currently, we do not have enough people available to ensure the counting rota can run smoothly, so we would be very grateful for anyone who is able to offer their support. Collection counting takes place after the Sunday Mass and usually takes around half an hour. It involves working in pairs to count the collection and complete a simple form. Training will be provided by shadowing one of our existing volunteers, so no previous experience is needed. The more volunteers we have, the less frequently each person will be needed. If you can help, or would like to find out more, please speak to Juliette or email the parish office. Thank you for helping to support the practical running of our community.

Fundraising / Giving

Martlets Hospice Sale – 23rd August

Come along to our Martlets Sale on Sunday 23rd August in St Peter's Hall, where there will be a wonderful selection of fancy goods, cakes, plants and bric-a-brac. If you are having a summer clear-out, donations of good-quality saleable items would be greatly appreciated.

Cash4Coins – Supporting the SVP

Please support the SVP by asking donating your leftover coins, old currency, or holiday money through the Cash4Coins scheme. Collection jars are available at St George's, St Peter's and St Theresa's churches. Thank you for helping the SVP continue its valuable work.

Soup Run Each week, from Monday to Friday, 7pm at the shelter next to the Angel of Peace on the seafront. For more info, please contact SMM office.

The Hangleton & West Blatchington

Food Bank is currently in need of donations in particular: **Cooking Oil, Fruit squash - all flavours (1 litre bottles), Biscuits (plain and fancy), Longlife milk.** Thank you for supporting local families.

Offertory Collection Reporting

July 2026

SH offertory = £6,692.94

SG & ST offertory = £2,842.98

SMM offertory = £3,578.53

SP offertory = £5,754.43

Cycle of Prayer

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

Global Week of Prayer 6 - 13th September 2026

Christian Action Brighton invites individuals and churches in Brighton & Hove to pray for our city and to join a continuous 24/7 rhythm of prayer throughout the week. Participants can sign up here for an hour's prayer slot, committing to specific times to pray on their own. There are other opportunities for a daily online noon prayer and two in person prayer gatherings: Tue 8th Sept. 8-10pm at St Cushman's Church, BN2 5HE and Thu 10th, 8-9:30pm at Emmanuel, BN1 4GQ. More details from Christian Action Brighton: <https://www.christianactionbrighton.org.uk/prayer#247>



Please also pray for:

Margaret Keating, Anne Callaghan; Canon Colin Wolczak; Chris, Lucy, & Matt Neal; Clive Connor; Dean Schwartz; Eileen Kipling; Elena White; Hanorah & Mat Smith; Julia Fleming; Kathleen Davis; Liz Perkins; Margaret Robinson; Mario Noah; Melvin Shirkie; Pauline Podsiadly; Peter Cochlin; Rex Curd; Robert (Bob) Selwood; Tom Piggins & Winifred Wilde.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary As we celebrate this special feast, we pray together:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

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 — Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple.

And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God. And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, 'Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

Second Reading — 1 Corinthians 15:20-27 Brothers and Sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For 'God has put all things in subjection under his feet.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.
Mary has been taken up into heaven; the host of angels rejoice.
Alleluia.

Gospel — Luke 1:39-56

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.'

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the

mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring for ever.'

And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

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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