

Brighton and Hove Deanery: Western Churches

Sacred Heart; St George's & St Theresa's; St Mary Magdalen's; St Peter's

Canon Colin Wolczak; Fr Tony Milner (on sabbatical); Canon David Parmiter

Sunday 14th September 2025, Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Year C. Weekdays: Week 24

Canon David Writes...

I remember watching the film *Jesus of Nazareth* when it was shown as a miniseries on the television in what I have found out now was the year 1977! It doesn't seem that long ago. I was just a teenager at the time, and I can remember struggling to work out why Jesus had to die on the Cross. I also recall not looking forward to watching the scene as it seemed so violent and cruel. Compared with what came in a later film, *The Passion of the Christ*, by a different director, it wasn't that graphic. So, I understand if today's feast, the *Exaltation of the Holy Cross*, is not an easy celebration for us and causes us to watch, pray and think especially in the light of the suffering of so many around our world at this time.

As time has gone on and I have learnt more, gained more life experience, exercised ministry in the Church, prayed and meditated the mystery of God's love has opened up for me. Entering into the mystery of God's love is one reason for celebrating today's feast with as much openness and attention as we can manage. Jesus gave his life in this way out of love for God the Father and for each person, good and bad alike and this is what brings us salvation. It was an act of solidarity with our suffering, so that the crosses we each carry in life can be united with him in his love for God and for humanity. The mystery of God's love and the mystery of suffering are joined together in this feast, and their 'resolution' is revealed in the entrance antiphon of the Mass: *'We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered.'* An invitation for us to trust in God.

In our part of the Church, we celebrate today Education Sunday, and this offers us an opportunity for us to pray for our Catholic schools, to thank staff, governors and other volunteers, especially parents, and perhaps think about offering our services and support to them. Through Catholic Education we gradually help children to learn about the mystery of God's love.

Finally, as mentioned last week, Bishop Richard inaugurates the new Parish of Brighton and Hove today with Mass at 5:30pm in St. John the Baptist Church. Any parishioner can attend and would be welcome. Please pray for the new parish.

Education Sunday – 14th September 2025

Today's Special Collection: a note from Julie Oldroyd, Director of Education. We are seeking to promote our schools within parish communities and to appeal for more people to come forward as foundation governors. As key places of prayer, formation and mission, it will always be necessary for our schools to have very close relationships with the parish communities of which they are part. With the development of the Catholic Education Trusts and mindful that all our schools will either be members of trusts or on the journey towards membership by 2030, this is a time to strengthen the relationship between schools and parishes.

Sacred Heart, 39 Norton Road, BN3 3BF, 01273 732843,

www.sacredheartrove.org.uk; hovesacredheart@abdiocese.org.uk.

All Masses Live Streamed: www.sacredheartrove.org.uk/videos.html

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

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

St Peter's, Portland Road, BN3 5GD, 01273 733840, hovestpeters@abdiocese.org.uk.

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

Mass Schedule

Sat 13	Sept St John Chrysostom
6.00pm †	SH Daniel Adam RIP
6.00	SP People of the Parish
6.30	SG <i>Polish Mass</i>
Sun 14	Sept Exaltation of the Holy Cross
8.30 am	SP People of the Parish
9.00	ST Albert Baker RIP
9.30	SH People of the Parish
9:30	SMM <i>Polish Mass</i>
10.00	SP The Bayston Family
11.00	SG All Parishioners
11.00	SMM People of the Parish (Sung)
11.30	SH Lucy Edwards RIP
11.30	SP Michael Fitzgerald RIP
5.00 pm	SP <i>NO MASS</i>
5.00	SMM People of the Parish
Mon 15	Sept Our Lady of Sorrows
10.00 am †	SH For Students starting University
Tue 16	Sept Ss Cornelius & Cyprian
10.00 am	SG All Parishioners
10.00 †	SH Anthony John Reynolds RIP
10.00	SP Mary Nolan
7.00pm	ST Robert Nash RIP
Wed 17	Sept St Robert Bellarmine
8.00am	SH Holy Souls
10.00am	SP People of the Parish
7.00pm	ST All Parishioners
Thurs 18	Sept
10.00am	SP Eric Hardiman RIP
10.00 †	SG <i>NO MASS</i>
12 noon †	SH Brian & Elisabeth Rowe RIP
7.00pm	ST All Parishioners
Fri 19	Sept Saint Januarius
8.00 am	SH Peter King RIP
10:00 AM	SP People of the Parish
7.00	ST All Parishioners
Sat 20	Sept Sts Andrew Kim Taegon & Paul Chong Hasang
6.00pm †	SH Winifred Donaghy RIP
6.00	SP <i>No Mass - due to Festival of Hope</i>
6.30	SG <i>Polish Mass</i>
Sun 21	Sept 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8.30 am	SP People of the Parish
9.00	ST Rod Dearling RIP
9.30	SH Jose Nery Alvis RIP
9:30	SMM <i>Polish Mass</i>
10.00	SP People of the Parish
11.00	SG All Parishioners
11.00	SMM People of the Parish (Sung)
11.30	SH Conor Porter RIP
11.30	SP Danielle Blyth-Ray RIP
5.00 pm	SP <i>NO MASS</i>
5.00	SMM People of the Parish

SH: Sacred Heart; **SG:** St George's

SMM: St Mary Magdalene's

SP: St Peter's; **ST:** St Theresa of Lisieux

† Adoration before. ‡ Adoration after

Churches Together calls for prayer for peace in the Middle East

21st September 2025

Churches Together in England (CTE) is encouraging churches and partner organisations to pray for peace in the Middle East on Sunday, 21 September. The General Secretary of Churches Together in England, Bishop Mike Royal, said: "There is a growing consensus amongst churches and Christian organisations engaged in the Middle East that it's high time we act together as one... On 21 September, Churches Together in England is supporting Christian Aid and other partners [to] encourage congregations across the nation to hold a minute's silence to pray for an end to hostilities, unfettered humanitarian access to Gaza, the release of Israeli hostages, and for work to continue to secure a lasting peace." The Times of Israel recently published details of a letter signed by 1,000 rabbis to Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu - the letter highlighted a "deep concern for the fate of both the Palestinians in Gaza, the Israeli hostages, and everyone else in both Israel and Palestine who are caught up in this horrific war." An article on the CTE website continues: "We are witnessing the devastating escalation of violence in Gaza and the West Bank. The cries of Palestinian church leaders for peace and solidarity have echoed across the global Church, urging us to respond with clarity, compassion, and conviction. As Christian agencies rooted in faith and justice, we believe the gravity of this moment demands a visible, united Christian witness—one that speaks to our shared commitment to peace, reconciliation, and the dignity of all people." *You can find out more about CTE's call to prayer for peace and access resources, on the charity's website.*

St Carlo Acutis

Last Sunday 7th September, Pope Leo XIV declared London-born Carlo Acutis the Catholic Church's first Millennial saint. Acutis, a computer prodigy who died in 2006 at the age of 15, is a real saint for our times. His commitment to the fundamental truths of Catholicism, particularly his deep devotion to the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist,

are an inspiration to this and future generations of young people. The ceremony, Pope Leo's first saint-making Mass, drew tens of thousands of attendees, including many millennials and young families. Bishop Nicholas Hudson, Episcopal Secretary for the Bishops' Conference, has written a personal reflection on Carlo Acutis and explains his close ties with the Catholic Church in this country. To read more go to <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/dont-forget-millennial-saints-london-roots/>

Regular Events

Sycamore

Please note there will be no meeting this week Monday 15th September.

Sacred Heart Prayer Group

Every Tuesday after Mass at 10:30am, SH Parish Room All Welcome. You may leave prayer requests in the box at the back of SH.

Finding Christ in the World

A Twelve Week Ignatian Retreat in Daily Life based on the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola. Available soon to all parishioners. *AMDG.*

Weekly Reconciliation

5:15-5:45pm before Mass every Saturday at Sacred Heart, and also at St Peter's.

Sacred Heart Film Club

The Sacred Heart Film Club restarts on 4th October from 12:30pm after Mass. Save the date, more details to follow.

UCM at St Peter's is back in the hall, from 2-4pm, all welcome.

Sacred Heart SVP Social Group

For all parishioners. Soup, sandwiches, tea, and cakes. Entertainment, quizzes, etc. The next date is 25th September, and every two weeks thereafter. All Welcome.

St Peter's Social group is back from 5th September, in our parish hall on Fridays, from 1:30pm, please do join us.

Eucharistic Adoration

Fridays, 5:30pm, SMM The Church opens 4pm, with Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 5:30-6:30pm. Come and spend time in prayer with us, interceding for our city, our parish, and our loved ones, now with confession.

St Peter's Tai Chi term time only, in the hall, 10:30-11:30am on Monday's.

Southwick Churches Together

9:30 every Wednesday morning, at St Michael's Church in Southwick, for a short service, led by people from churches in the local area. There are refreshments afterwards. All are welcome to join us!

Other Events / Notices

First Holy Communion 2025-2026 at St George's & St Theresa's

The First Holy Communion Preparation Programme will be starting this Autumn. If you would like your child to make their First Holy Communion this Spring, please fill out, and return an application form. There will be an information evening for all those who have applied at St Theresa's in October. This is for any children in school years 3 - 9, and their parents. The deadline for forms is Tuesday 23rd September. The forms are available from Juliette in the Parish office. Please return completed forms to the parish office asap. Any late applications may not be considered for this year's programme. We look forward to meeting you.

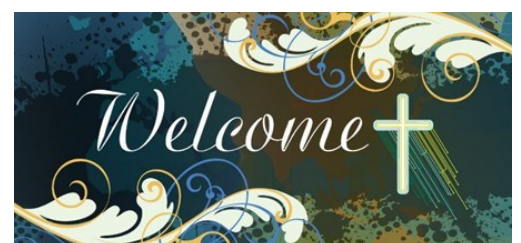
St Peter's Parish Website

We have a live website again, <https://www.stpeters-hove.org.uk/> please visit it again for all the parish information as before, and you can now again access the parish newsletter online, apologies it took so long.

Children's Craft Activity for SVP Sunday 14th and 21st September, After St Theresa's Mass, 10am - 10:30am

Join me after Mass in the children's liturgy room to make table decorations and place settings. Enjoy a fun craft whilst helping prepare for SVP charity tea party on Sunday 28th September. Thanks for sharing your time and creativity. Charlotte.

St Mary's School Reception Class Welcome Mass Sunday 21st September, 9am, St Theresa's Church, Southwick



Hospital Chaplaincy

If you are going into hospital for a period of time at the Royal Sussex County & would like a visit, contact Fr Celestine or ask a friend or relative to contact him. He will then arrange for a visit. Call 01273 696955 Ext. 64122, or email celestine.nnolim@nhs.net.

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's 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.

St Peter's Money Counters

We really need more people to volunteer and join the three teams we have. It's a simple enough job, you work in pairs, training will be provided, with a cup of coffee thrown in. Please contact the office if you can help.

Readers required at SH

We need Readers for the Saturday 6pm Mass at the Sacred Heart. Please contact Cassie on 01273 732843, or speak to one of the Readers after the Saturday Mass. Thank you.

2025-2026 Sacramental Programmes Application Forms – For All Churches

First Holy Communion, Confirmation, and RCIA Application Forms, for the 2025-2026 programmes are now available to pick up from your church, parish office, or website. Please be prompt in returning your forms before the deadlines that are stated on the forms. The deadline for first holy communion is 23 September. Any late applications may not be considered for this year's programmes. *The FHC programme is filling up fast at the Sacred Heart, so please submit your application soon if you don't want to miss out on a place.*

Photography at SH

28th September, 9:30am Mass

There will be a photographer attending Mass at the Sacred Heart on Sunday 28th September, 9:30am to capture imagery for use on our new parish

website and parish and diocesan digital and print channels. If you would prefer not to be photographed, please let the priest know beforehand, so that we can ensure you are not pictured by the photographer. All photos will be captured on behalf of The Diocese of Arundel & Brighton in accordance with their privacy policy which can be found on the diocesan website:

www.abdiocese.org.uk.

St Peter's Archive

For baptism, or confirmation certificates, please email: SaintPeterArchives@gmail.com.

Newsletter by email

If you would like to receive a copy of the newsletter to your inbox each week, email Lisa, Sacred Heart Secretary: hovesacredheart@abdiocese.org.uk to be added to the distribution list, this list is for all our churches.

Children's Liturgy at St Peter's

Returns on Sunday 14th September, many thanks to all our wonderful volunteers for giving their time for this important ministry.

St Peter's Church opening times

We have taken the decision to close the church after 10am Mass during the week due to safeguarding reasons. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to ask Canon David or the office.

Fundraising / Giving

UCM Bring and Buy Sale

Date: Tuesday 30th September 2025

Time: 2–4pm

Venue: St Peter's Parish Hall

Everyone is very welcome – come along for a browse and a chat, and help support a good cause!

Special Collections 2025

14th September; Education Sunday

21st September; Evangelii Gaudium

28th September; SVP at SG & ST

Easyfundraising

Sign up and shop via the easyfundraising website when you are shopping with over 7,500 brands including eBay, Tesco, M&S, & more!

Our Lady Star of the Sea

easyfundraising.org.uk/the-catholic-parish-of-our-lady-star-of-the-sea/

Sacred Heart:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/sacred-heart-church-hove/

Please also download the donation reminder www.easyfundraising.org.uk/donation-reminder/ which can be installed on your device and will alert you when a website provides donations when you shop online.

SVP Cash4Coins

We can collect: **All foreign coins and banknotes; Current UK coins and banknotes; Any old British and Irish money; and Obsolete currency, such as pre-decimal.** Working with Cash4Coins, a currency service for charities, all the above can be converted into UK legal tender for the benefit of the SVP both locally and to support the wider work of the Society. There are collection jars at St George's, St Theresa's, and St Peter's.

St Peter's Sale

Sunday 14th September Coffee and cakes and small sale for charity after 10:00 Mass. Cash donations only accepted.

Hangleton and West Blatchington Food Bank

If you would like to donate this week, we would be incredibly grateful for: **Chocolate; Non-dairy milk; Noodles (flavoured and plain); Pasta sauce; Squash; Toothpaste; & Weetabix or equivalent (12 or 24 biscuits).** Donations may be brought to the hall on Wednesdays 10:30-11:45am, Books Alive in Elm Drive and One Stop in Court Farm Road, or the donation boxes in our churches.

Please pray for...

Bob and Elena White, Canon Colin Wolczak, Cathy Howes, Cheryl Evans, Denise Lavaud, Rex Curd, Tom Piggins, and Winifred Wilde.

Please tell your parish office if you would like to add someone to the prayer list above.

Please pray for all the sick and/or housebound members of our parishes.

Please also pray for all those who have died recently, especially:

Shirley Carroll RIP (St Theresa's) – we have heard the sad news that Shirley died recently. Her funeral will take place at St Theresa's on Tuesday 23rd September at 11am.

**Sunday 14th September 2025,
Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

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.

Collect

O God, who willed that your Only
Begotten Son should undergo the Cross
to save the human race, grant, we pray,
that we, who have known his mystery
on earth, may merit the grace of his
redemption in heaven.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the
unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

First Reading: Numbers 21:4b-9

In those days: The people became
impatient on the way. And the people
spoke against God and against Moses,
‘Why have you brought us up out of
Egypt to die in the wilderness? For
there is no food and no water, and we
loathe this worthless food.’ Then the
Lord sent fiery serpents among the
people, and they bit the people, so that
many people of Israel died. And the
people came to Moses and said, ‘We
have sinned, for we have spoken
against the Lord and against you. Pray
to the Lord, that he take away the
serpents from us.’ So Moses prayed for
the people. And the Lord said to Moses,
‘Make a fiery serpent and set it on a
pole, and everyone who is bitten, when
he sees it, shall live.’ So Moses made a
bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And

if a serpent bit anyone, he would look
at the bronze serpent and live.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm Response

Never forget the deeds of the Lord!

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form
of God, did not count equality with God
a thing to be grasped, but emptied
himself, by taking the form of a servant,
being born in the likeness of men. And
being found in human form, he
humbled himself by becoming obedient
to the point of death, even death on a
cross. Therefore God has highly exalted
him and bestowed on him the name
that is above every name, so that at the
name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the
earth, and every tongue confess that
Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God
the Father.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless
you, because by your Cross you have
redeemed the world.**

Alleluia.

Gospel: John 3:13-17

At that time: Jesus said to Nicodemus,
‘No one has ascended into heaven
except he who descended from heaven,
the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up
the serpent in the wilderness, so must
the Son of Man be lifted up, that
whoever believes in him may have
eternal life. For God so loved the world,
that he gave his only begotten Son, that
whoever believes in him should not
perish but have eternal life. For God did
not send his Son into the world to
condemn the world, but in order that
the world might be saved through him.’

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 been nourished by your holy
banquet, we beseech you, Lord Jesus
Christ, to bring those you have
redeemed by the wood of your life-
giving Cross to the glory of the
resurrection. Who live and reign 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.*