

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 13th September 2026 • 24th Sunday of the Year • Year A • Weekdays: Week 23 • Psalter Week 4

Canon David writes...

The news this past week has had some bleak moments and here I am thinking of the warnings given to us by two people working closely with the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI). If you do not know about this, you can consult your news feeds or ask someone else. I have been surprised that this warning was greeted so passively. Maybe people shrug their shoulders and think there is nothing they can do. Perhaps they don't believe it or think that whatever they do will not make any difference. These attitudes are not those held by Pope Leo nor is he likely to agree with them given what he wrote in his latest Encyclical Letter Magnifica Humanitas. The subtitle says it is 'On safeguarding the Human Person in the time of Artificial Intelligence.'

Pope Leo puts before us two biblical images. The first is the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11: 1-9) which is an act of pride that ends in disaster. The other is the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem (Nehemiah 1-2) where the returning exiled people work together under the guidance of the Lord to build something good for all and everyone takes part. So, taking this latter approach, AI could be a force for good as the Pope recognises: "Scientific discoveries are talents entrusted to humanity that they may bear fruit (cf. Mt 25: 14-30). Technology has the power to heal, connect, educate and protect our common home; but it can divide, exclude and generate new forms of injustice."

So, Pope Leo puts before us a challenge: "We are to be servants of the coming kingdom, instead of lords of towers destined for ruin. I ask everyone to abandon the construction of yet another Tower of Babel and join forces in building up the common good so that humanity will never lose its beauty, and the world once again will come to recognise the human heart as the place where God desires to dwell." Now is the time to be more active as Catholics, contacting our politicians and putting forward our views. Through organisations like Citizens UK and the Church's own synodal process the young people in our Catholic schools have made their voices heard. Could we join our voices to theirs in making our world and locality better places?

This Week in Our Parish

Saturday 12th September

*Reconciliation: 5:15–5:45pm at Sacred Heart & St Peter's.

Sunday 13th September

*Lauds (Morning Prayer): 8:30am at St Theresa's.

*Refreshments after Sunday Mass. St Theresa's after the 9am Mass; Sacred Heart after the 9:30am Mass; St Peter's after the 10am and 11:30am Masses; St George's after the 11am Mass; and St Mary Magdalen's in the community hall after the 11am Mass. Everyone is most welcome!

*Missionary Society of St Columban Appeal at St Theresa's and St George's, with Fr Kevin McDonagh.

*Table Church: After the 11am Mass at St Mary Magdalen's, in the community hall. This young adults' group meets for refreshments, to discuss life and share faith and experiences.

*Reconciliation: After 11am Mass at St George's, on request.

Monday 14th September

*St Peter's Tai Chi: 10:30–11:30am in the hall, term time.

*St George's Rosary Group: 6–7pm in the Lady Chapel.

*RCIA begins at St Peter's, 7pm in the Upper Room of the hall, for adults wishing to explore Baptism or Confirmation.

Tuesday 15th September

*Sacred Heart Prayer Group: 10:30am, Parish Room. Prayer requests can be left in the box at the back of the church.

*Reconciliation: 5pm, St Mary Magdalen's, during Holy Hour.

Wednesday 16th September

*Reconciliation: 5pm, St Mary Magdalen's, during Holy Hour.

*St Theresa's Vespers: 6:30pm at St Theresa's.

Thursday 17th September

*Sacred Heart SVP Social Group. After the 12noon Mass. Soup, sandwiches, tea, cakes, entertainment and quizzes.

*Reconciliation: 5pm, St Mary Magdalen's, during Holy Hour.

Friday 18th September

*St Mary Magdalen's Women's Rosary: 10am in the Presbytery, followed by tea and refreshments.

*Sacred Heart Online Rosary: 11am, online only.

*St Peter's Social Group: 1–3pm in the parish hall. Join us for light refreshments and friendly conversation.

*Reconciliation: 5pm, St Mary Magdalen's, during Holy Hour.

*Reconciliation: After the 7:00pm Mass at St Theresa's.

*St Peter's Contemplative Prayer Group. 7:30–9:00pm, in person and online. Contact quietenginesprayer@gmail.com.

Sacred Heart • hovesacredheart@abdiocese.org.uk • 01273 732843

St Mary Magdalen • brightonstmarymag@abdiocese.org.uk • 01273 326793

Hospital Chaplain • Royal Sussex County Hospital • Fr Celestine Nnolim • 01273 696955 Ext. 64122 • celestine.nnolim@nhs.net

St George's & St Theresa's • westhove@abdiocese.org.uk • 01273 708227

St Peter's • hovestpeters@abdiocese.org.uk • 01273 733840

For safeguarding & other contact information, please see church noticeboards.

A warm welcome to all our visitors, we hope you enjoy your time in our parish community and feel at home among us

Serdecznie witamy wszystkich naszych gości. Mamy nadzieję, że miło spędzicie czas w naszej wspólnocie parafialnej i poczujecie się wśród nas jak w domu. (Polish)
Damos as boas-vindas a todos os nossos visitantes. Esperamos que desfrutem do tempo passado na nossa comunidade paroquial e que se sintam em casa entre nós. (Portuguese)

Damos una cálida bienvenida a todos nuestros visitantes. Esperamos que disfruten de su tiempo en nuestra comunidad parroquial y que se sientan como en casa entre nosotros. (Spanish)

Mass Schedule		
Sat 12th	September	The Most Holy Name of Mary
12noon †	SMM	
6pm	SH	Mrs Leslie Cohen's Intentions
6.00pm	SP	People of the Parish
6.30pm	SG	<i>Polish Mass</i>
Sun 13th	September	24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8.30am	SP	People of the Parish
9.00am	ST	Mary Wells Birthday
9.30am	SH	People of the Parish
9.30am	SMM	
10.00am	SP	Anthony Basil Reynauld RIP
11.00am	SG	Florence Davis RIP
11.00am	SMM	
11.30am	SH	Anna & James Kendall RIP
11.30am	SP	Maria Colewell
5.00pm	SMM	
Mon 14th	September	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
10.00am †	SH	Lucy Edwards RIP
Tue 15th	September	Our Lady of Sorrows
10.00am	SG	People of the Parish
10.00am †	SH	Michael & Ashley Pye RIP
10.00am	SP	Michael Fitzgerald RIP
6.00pm †	SMM	Cecile Picklewood RIP
7.00pm	ST	Albert Baker RIP
Wed 16th	September	Saints Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian
8.00am	CNCS	-
8.00am	SH	Jeanette Hill RIP
10.00am	SP	Stella Grinham RIP & family
6.00pm †	SMM	Mary Theresa Coulston RIP
7.00pm	ST	Robert Nash RIP
Thurs 17th	September	Saint Robert Bellarmine
10.00am ‡	SG	People of the Parish
10.00am †	SP	People of the Parish
12noon †	SH	Anthony John Reynolds RIP
6.00pm †	SMM	
7.00pm	ST	People of the Parish
Fri 18th	September	Friday
8.00am	SH	Keith Simpson RIP
10.00am	SP	Eric Hardiman RIP
7.00pm ‡	ST	Cheryl Evans RIP
6.00pm †	SMM	Blanche Aida Houghton RIP
Sat 19th	September	Saint Januarius
12noon †	SMM	
6pm	SH	Conor Porter RIP (Anniversary)
6.00pm	SP	People of the Parish
6.30pm	SG	<i>Polish Mass</i>
Sun 20th	September	25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8.30am	SP	People of the Parish
9.00am	ST	Sr Catherine Ronan, Catherine Coppard & Erika Dixon RIP
9.30am	SH	Indu Gwyer RIP
9.30am	SMM	
10.00am	SP	People of the Parish
11.00am	SG	Lorenzina Strolla Thanksgiving & RIP
11.00am	SMM	
11.30am	SH	Ann Collard RIP
11.30am	SP	Danielle Blythe-Ray RIP
5.00pm	SMM	

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



Sacraments

2026–2027 Sacramental Programmes Applications for First Holy Communion, Confirmation and RCIA are now available for all churches in the West Group. Please contact your local parish office or visit their website for an application form. For First Holy Communion and Confirmation applications, ***please remember to include a copy of your child's Baptism Certificate*** with the completed application form. Completed forms, including all required documentation, should be returned to the relevant parish office by the deadline stated on the form to avoid disappointment.

St Peter's First Holy Communion and Confirmation Certificates candidates from St Peter's can collect their certificates from the sacristy, in the collection tray after Mass.

RCIA Exploring Baptism or Confirmation The programme for adults wishing to explore Baptism or Confirmation begins on Monday 14 September at 7pm in the Upper Room of the St Peter's parish hall. Anyone interested is warmly invited to come along.

St Peter's Archive Team For copies of Baptism or Confirmation certificates, please contact the St Peter's Archive Team at saintpeterarchives@gmail.com. Please allow two weeks for documents to be processed.

Children, Young People & Schools

Children's Liturgy – Can You Help? Children's Liturgy is offered at Sacred Heart, St Peter's and St Theresa's, helping children to hear and respond to the Gospel in an age-appropriate way. A few more volunteers are needed, either to support an experienced leader or to lead a session after shadowing. Full support is provided.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Portslade Prospective parents are invited to visit the school and see how they encourage children to "Achieve their Ambitions". To book a tour, please call 01273 418416.

St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School and Nursery offers children a smooth transition into Reception Class, helping them feel confident and prepared for their next steps in learning. Parents are invited to book a tour and discover the nursery. Call 01273 327533.

Cottesmore St Mary Catholic Primary School Open Days are being offered for prospective parents of children starting Reception in September 2027. Visits are available at 9am throughout November 2026. Call 01273 555811.

Giving & Supporting Others

St Peter's Money Counters Volunteers are needed to join the three existing teams. With at least four more volunteers, each team would only need to count every six weeks. Training will be provided and counters work in pairs. Please contact SP parish office to help.

Missio Boxes Several empty Missio Boxes are still available in the outer Sacristy at SH and need collecting. If you have a box that is filled, Marilyn will collect it throughout September from the outer Sacristy. Loose coins can be added to support Missio.

Cash4Coins – Supporting the SVP

The SVP is collecting leftover coins, old currency and holiday money through the Cash4Coins scheme. Collection jars are available at St George's, St Peter's and St Theresa's. Donations are converted into UK legal tender to support SVP projects locally and beyond.

Soup Run Volunteers are needed Monday to Friday at 7pm at the Angel of Peace statue to serve hot soup, bread and kindness to those in need. Please contact SMM parish office for more info.

CAFOD Family Fast Day – Harvest 2026 is Friday 2 October. Parishioners are invited to pray, eat simply and give generously to support communities overseas facing shortages of food and safe water. CAFOD envelopes are available in our churches, with Gift Aid encouraged.

Hangleton and West Blatchington Food Bank This week the food bank particularly needs plain noodles, tinned kidney beans, small bottles of washing-up liquid, instant coffee and tinned tomatoes. Donations can be left at our churches, Waitrose Hove, taken to St George's Hall on Wednesday mornings after 10:30am, or collected by arrangement.

Missionary Society of St Columban Appeal The annual appeal supports the Columban Missionaries and their work around the world. The appeal takes place at St Theresa's and St George's on 13 September, and at St Peter's on 19 and 20 September. Prayers and generous support are appreciated.

Special Collections 2026

13 Sept – Columban Mission (SG & ST)
13 Sept – Education Sun (SH, SMM, SP)
20 September – Columban Mission (SP)
20 September – Evangelii Gaudium Sunday (SH, SG, SMM & ST)

Offertory Collection Reporting (Aug 26)

These figures include standing orders, DONA payments, Gift Aid envelopes, and cash given at Mass. Totals are reported monthly, in arrears.
SH offertory = £4,092.72
SG & ST offertory = £3,346.86
SMM offertory = £4,316.98
SP offertory = £6,364.39

Prayer & Remembrance

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

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

Bridget Lavy RIP We remember Bridget, a much-loved parishioner at St Theresa's for around 65 years, who passed away peacefully on 31 August. Please keep Bridget and her family in your prayers. Her Requiem Mass will take place at St Theresa's, with details to be shared once arrangements are confirmed.

Florence Davis RIP We are saddened to announce the peaceful death of Florence Davis, a much-loved and active member of the St George's community. Florence passed away peacefully in her sleep in the early hours of 1 September 2026, aged 104. She remained an active member of our community until increasing frailty made it difficult for her to attend. We keep Florence, her daughter Susan, and all her family and friends in our prayers at this sad time. Her funeral is expected to take place at St George's, with the date to be arranged. May she rest in peace.

Gerard Eaton RIP We remember Gerard, a regular parishioner and Altar Server at Sacred Heart, who has died. His funeral will be held on Thursday 24 September at 12 noon at Sacred Heart.

Walking Through Loss: Bereaved Catholic Women Tuesday 29th September, 7pm–8pm, in conversation with Chris Smith, who leads the Emmaus Support Service. Chris will explore finding comfort in Catholic teaching on suffering and eternal life, grieving with faith through prayer, community and spiritual support, and honouring loved ones through remembrance and legacy. With many years' experience in Pastoral Formation, Chris now supports those experiencing loss and bereavement through trained volunteers and days of recollection across the diocese. Register at NBCW.co.uk.

Events & Opportunities

Ecumenical Men's Breakfast Club Men from all Christian churches and denominations are warmly invited to the monthly breakfast club at 10am at the Royal George Pub, Stoney Lane, Shoreham. The next meeting is Monday 21st September. Come along for friendship, conversation and fellowship in an informal setting. For further info, contact Andrew Macpherson on 07500 587107.

Sister Riccarda Hambrough Tues 22nd September at 7pm, St Mary Magdalen's Church, Brighton. Come and hear the remarkable story of Sister Riccarda.

ST MARY MAGDALEN'S CHURCH, BRIGHTON

COURAGE AND CONVICTION

The life of
SISTER RICCARDA HAMBROUGH

A TALK BY
JOANNA BOGLE
acclaimed speaker and author

Sister Riccarda Hambrough is a local heroine whose story is worth hearing. Baptised at St Mary Magdalen church, she grew up to become a nun in the Bridgettine Order in Rome – where she helped to rescue Jewish families by hiding them in the convent.

She may now be formally canonised as a saint.

Come and hear author and broadcaster Joanna Bogle tell the story!

TUESDAY
22ND SEPTEMBER
7.00PM
IN THE COMMUNITY HALL
ALL WELCOME

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 — Sirach 27:30-28:7

Anger and wrath, these are abominations, and the sinful man will hold them fast.
The one who seeks vengeance will be paid vengeance from the Lord, and he who keeps a record will have his own sins recorded.
Forgive your neighbour the wrong he has done, and then your sins will be pardoned when you pray.
Does one person harbour anger against another and yet seek for healing from the Lord?
Does he have no mercy towards someone like himself and yet pray concerning his own sins?
If he himself, being flesh, maintains wrath, who will make atonement for his sins?
Remember the end of your life and cease from enmity, remember destruction and death and be true to the commandments.
Remember the commandments and do not be angry with your neighbour; remember the covenant of the Most High and overlook error.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

Second Reading — Romans 14:7-9

Brothers and Sisters: None of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.
A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Alleluia.

Gospel — Matthew 18:21-35

At that time: Peter came up and said to Jesus, 'Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.
'Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, "Pay what you owe." So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, "You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until

he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.'

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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