

Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea

Serving Southwick, Portslade, Hangleton and West Blatchington



A parish in the Catholic Diocese of Arundel & Brighton

Parish website www.brightondeanerywest.org.uk

Diocesan website: www.abdiocese.org.uk

The Arundel & Brighton Diocesan Trust is a Registered Charity, No. 252878

Contents

Parish Priest	3
Our Churches	4
Weekly Timetable	5
Parish Secretary	6
Brighton Deanery	6
The Parish Hall	7
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	8
Visiting the School	9
Becoming a Foundation Governor	9
Safeguarding	10
Safe Spaces	10
The Parish Pastoral Team	11
Parish Finance Committee	13
St Vincent de Paul Society	14
Preparing and Celebrating the Sacraments	15
Baptism	15
First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation	15
Confirmation	16
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)	16
Marriage	16
The Sacrament of the Sick	17
Taking Communion to People at Home	17
The Sacrament of Reconciliation	17
Holy Orders	18
Children's Liturgy	18
Funerals	19
Other Regular Activities in the Parish	20
Tea and Chat	20
Wednesday Evening Faith Formation	20
Thursday Evening Zoom Prayer Meeting	20
Bollywood Dance and Exercise Class	20
Churches Together in Southwick	20
Adur Valley Catenians	20
Getting Involved	21
Catechetical Ministries	21
Liturgical Ministries	22
Care for Those in Need	23
Other Jobs and Roles	24



Parish Priest

Fr Tony Milner BSc STD

Home: 3 Chalky Road, Mile Oak,
Portslade, BN41 2WF

Telephone: 01273 313111

Email: tony.milner@abdiocese.org.uk

I have been the Parish Priest here since July 2021. Since then we have been 'rebuilding' somewhat following the pandemic. Now things are beginning to approach normality, it seemed good to 'set out our stall' a little more.

All that we do in the parish should be orientated towards the mission of the Church – that is bringing the Good News of Jesus to all and helping all its members to grow in their knowledge, love and following of Christ and service of their neighbours.

In this booklet you will find details of the parish, including information about various things that happen in the parish, a bit about our churches, and information about the Parish Pastoral Team and the Finance Committee.

Finally, many thanks to all those of you who do so much to help our parish become a vibrant community seeking to live and spread the Gospel.

God Bless,


Advent 2023. Inevitably, printed directories go out of date! We will issue a printed version annually, but we will also maintain an up-to-date electronic version on the parish website. See:

www.brightondeanerywest.org.uk/directory

Our Churches



**St George's, Court Farm Road,
West Blatchington, BN3 7QR**



**St Theresa of Lisieux, Old Shoreham Road,
Southwick, BN42 4RY**

Weekly Timetable

Below is our usual weekly timetable at the time of printing. Note that things can change some weeks, so for the latest information consult the parish newsletter, which you can find on the website:

www.brightondeanerywest.org.uk/newsletters

Saturday	4:45 – 5:15 pm: Confessions, St Theresa’s. 5:30 pm: Vigil Mass of Sunday, St Theresa’s.
Sunday	9 am: Mass, St Theresa’s. <i>With Children’s Liturgy in term time.</i> 11 am: Mass, St George’s. Confession on request after Mass. <i>There are refreshments after both Masses.</i>
Monday	Fr Tony’s day off!
Tuesday	10 am: Mass, St George’s. <i>Followed by ‘Tea and Chat’ on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays.</i>
Wednesday	9:30 am: Churches Together in Southwick prayer meeting. St Michael’s, Church Lane, Southwick, BN42 4GB. <i>About 30 mins, followed by refreshments. All welcome.</i> 7 pm: Mass, St Theresa’s. <i>Often followed by refreshments and ‘Faith Formation’.</i> <i>See the newsletter for details.</i>
Thursday	10 am: Mass, St George’s. <i>Followed by adoration, finishing with a simple Benediction at 10:45 am.</i> 8 pm: Online prayer meeting. <i>Recommencing 11th January 2024. Contact the office to be sent a Zoom invitation.</i>
Friday	10 am: Mass, St Theresa’s. <i>Followed by adoration, finishing with a simple Benediction at 10:45 am.</i>

Parish Secretary Juliette Sutherland



Juliette has been our Parish Secretary since October 2021. She is a skilled secretary with over 10 years' administrative experience. Juliette is also the Parish Safeguarding Representative, Gift Aid Coordinator and Health & Safety Representative, as well as one of the Children's Liturgy Group Leaders. She usually goes to the 9 am Mass at St Theresa's. Please contact her via the parish office regarding any of the above.

Parish Office: 92 Downland Avenue, Southwick, BN42 4RY

Office Hours: 9:15 am to 1:15 pm, Tuesday–Friday

Telephone: 01273 708227

Email: westhove@abdiocese.org.uk

Website: www.brightondeanerywest.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Rep

Email: sg1.westhove@abdiocese.org.uk

Diocesan Safeguarding Team: 01293 651148

Find out more: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/safeguarding/home>

Parish Gift Aid Coordinator

Email: ga.westhove@abdiocese.org.uk

Parish Health & Safety Rep

Email: hs1.westhove@abdiocese.org.uk

Brighton Deanery

Our parish is part of Brighton Deanery. In the coming years, responding to the bishop's Pastoral Plan, we will be working much more closely with other parishes, in particular our nearest neighbours, St Peter's and Sacred Heart in Hove. To find out more about those parishes, visit their websites:

www.stpeters-hove.org.uk

www.sacredheartrove.org.uk

The Parish Hall

Hall Manager Sandra Durrant



Sandra has been a member of this Parish for over 20 years. For a few years, she coordinated the parish summer fetes and Christmas bazaars and spent some time running a baby and toddler group at the hall. Sandra manages the parish hall and assists with facilities and health and safety matters. Sandra usually goes to the 11 am Mass at St George's.

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

Telephone: 07841 616706

Email: hall.westhove@abdiocese.org.uk

Usual Mass: St George's, 11 am Sunday



The parish hall at St George's is available for hire. It offers a large space suitable for many purposes, with folding tables and chairs available for use. There is a basic kitchen suitable for serving teas, coffees, and light refreshments.

You can find out more on the website, including an online enquiry form and a calendar of current bookings: brightondeanerywest.org.uk/parish-hall.

For further information, contact Sandra (contact details above). She will normally get back to you within 48 hours.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School



St Mary's

Catholic Primary School

WE LOVE | WE LEARN | WE LAUGH | WE LIVE

ACHIEVING AMBITIONS

We do it differently



Address: Church Road, Portslade, BN41 1LB

Phone: 01273 418416

Email: office@stmarys.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Website: <https://www.stmarys.brighton-hove.sch.uk/>

St Mary's Catholic Primary School was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families. The school is conducted by its governing body as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with the trust deed of the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton, its instrument of government, and seeks at all times to be a witness to Jesus Christ.

As a Catholic school, the governors aim to provide a Catholic education for all pupils. At a Catholic school, Catholic doctrine and practice permeate every aspect of the school's activity. The governors ask all parents applying for a place to respect this ethos and its importance to the school community.

Although Catholic children have priority for admission, this does not affect the right of applicants who are not Catholic to apply for a place for their children at the school. The school welcomes applications from those of other denominations and faiths, or of none. The school was set up primarily to serve the Catholic community in the parish of Southwick with Portslade.

The governing body is the admissions authority and has responsibility for admissions to this school, including setting the priority of admissions when the school is oversubscribed. The Local Authority undertakes the co-ordination of admission arrangements during the normal admission round. The governing body has set its admission number at 30 pupils to be admitted to the Reception Year in the school year which begins in September 2024.

Visiting the School

Parents/carers are encouraged to visit our school in order to find out more about how we work and the education we offer.

Parents/carers are welcome to arrange a visit by contacting the school office on 01273 418416.

Becoming a Foundation Governor

Foundation Governors are appointed in the name of the Bishop and form the majority of the governing body of a Catholic school. Governing boards have three core functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction.
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

If you are interested in being a Foundation Governor, do speak to Fr Tony.

Safeguarding

Everyone has a responsibility for Safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of vulnerable people. In England and Wales overall responsibility sits with the Bishops' Conference and the Conference of Religious (COR).

The Parish Safeguarding Representative is responsible for: making sure the Parish is aware of the importance of Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults; promoting good and safe practice, including what is appropriate and inappropriate behaviour; with their Parish Priest and the Safeguarding Co-ordinator, deciding how to administer the National Safeguarding Policies and Procedures within the Parish.

**Your Parish Safeguarding Representative is Juliette Sutherland.
01273 708227, sg1.westhove@abdiocese.org.uk.**

If you are concerned about the welfare of a child or adult at risk, do not delay in contacting the police. Always telephone 999 if a child or an adult is believed to be in immediate danger.

Safe Spaces

If you do not want to speak to the Safeguarding Office at this time, Safe Spaces is a free and independent support service, providing a confidential, personal, and safe space for anyone who has been abused by someone in the Church or as a result of their relationship with the Church of England, the Catholic Church of England and Wales or the Church in Wales. You can contact them on 0300 303 1056. You can find out more about the services and support Safe Spaces offers on their website:

www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted by phone on 01293 651148 or by email on safeguarding@abdiocese.org.uk.

Find out more:

www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk

www.abdiocese.org.uk/safeguarding/home

The Parish Pastoral Team

The Parish pastoral team is a group of parishioners, invited by Fr Tony, who help to plan what goes on in the parish. In order to do this, they also from time to time reflect on the broader mission of the Church, and how we might better respond to our calling to proclaim the Gospel.

Fr Tony, Juliette, and Sandra are members *ex officio*. Other members represent all of our worshipping communities and are active in different ministries and services in the parish. A member of the SVP and a member of staff from St Mary's School are also invited to attend meetings.

You can contact team members via the parish office, or, of course, speak to them personally when you meet them at parish activities.



Ralph Fernando

Usual Mass: St George's, 11 am Sunday

Ralph has been a member of the parish community for 35 years. He is an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EM), doing home visits with the Blessed Sacrament for the elderly and housebound.

Ralph is also on the finance committee as our Parish Treasurer, a Sacristan, and one of the Sunday Mass Coordinators at St George's. Ralph is also one of our Welcomers at Mass.

Jacinta Gillies



Usual Mass: St George's, 11 am Sunday

Jacinta has been a parishioner for over 30 years. She is a Sacristan and Reader at St George's (and encourages lots more to join in!) and is one of the group of Parish Catechists helping our children prepare for their First Holy Communion. Jacinta has recently become a member of the Pastoral Team.

Outside of parish activities Jacinta volunteered for the St John's Ambulance Covid-19 vaccination programme based in Brighton, which included training in Safeguarding and Fire Marshal roles.

Helen Granger-Bevan



Usual Mass: St George's, 11 am Sunday

Helen has been a member of the parish for more than 35 years. During that time, she has been involved with many aspects of parish life.

Helen is a Reader at Mass and the Sacristan for some weekday Masses. She is also an EM, doing home Communion visits.

Andrew, Helen's husband, is a practising Anglican, and together Andrew and Helen are active members of the Association of Interchurch Families (AIF). AIF provides support and information to couples where the partners are of different Christian denominations.

Pauline Kendall



Usual Mass: St Theresa's, 9 am Sunday

Pauline has been worshipping in the parish for many years now and in the past used to organise fundraising events including the Summer and Christmas Fairs and themed Quiz Nights.

Pauline is one of the leaders for the Thursday Evening Prayer Group (held on Zoom) where we take a deeper look into the forthcoming Sunday's Gospel. Occasionally we deviate from this, for instance we may pray the Stations of the Cross during Lent.

Pauline is a Welcomer for the 9 am Mass, is on the refreshments rota, is a member of the Parish Finance Team and also an EM.

Gill Sajnog



Usual Mass: St Theresa's, 9 am Sunday

Gill has worshipped in the parish since her three children were very small. Gill, her husband, and eldest daughter live in Southwick. Gill works for the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton Education Service as Lead Officer for Governance.

In support of parish life, Gill has previously been the Confirmation Catechist and is now the Catechist for Baptism. Gill is a Welcomer, on the refreshments rota, a EM and has stepped in as Sacristan to cover holidays etc. She also reads at Mass occasionally when there is a need. Working for the Diocesan Education Service and previously having been Chair of Governors at St Mary's Catholic Primary school, Gill has a passion for Catholic Education and feels we are blessed to have a parish school.

Sue Thorpe



Usual Mass: St Theresa's, 5:30 pm Saturday

Sue has been in this parish for 37 years and has worn many hats in that time, including Church Cleaning, School Governor at St Mary's School, EM, and First Holy Communion Catechist. You'll find her as a Welcomer at the 5:30 pm Mass at St Theresa's on Saturday evenings.

Fr Paul Wilkinson



Fr Paul grew up in Brighton and is currently on study leave and living in the parish. He was for many years Chaplain at Sussex University. He is also an archaeologist and a member of the Southern Dioceses Historic Churches Committee. He often fills in when Fr Tony is away. He is also spiritual adviser to the local St Vincent de Paul Society.

Parish Finance Committee

Every parish is, by Church law, obliged to have a finance committee, and the Parish Priest is obliged to consult them on matters of major expenditure. The finance team helps to make sure we are 'living within our means', and also has oversight of the upkeep of the parish buildings. You can contact them via the parish office.

Members: Peter Lang (Chair), Ralph Fernando (Treasurer), Juliette Sutherland (Secretary), Fr Tony, Pauline Kendall, Jackie Lavy, Hillu Martin.

St Vincent de Paul Society



St Vincent de Paul Society

England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action

If you are interested in getting involved with our local SVP, please email for more information: presidenta0105@svp.org.uk.

The St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) is part of an international Christian voluntary network dedicated to tackling poverty in all its forms by providing practical assistance to people in need. Founded in Britain in 1844, we foster diverse and inclusive connections, as a Society that is welcoming of people of all faiths and none. We joyfully extend our hand in the care and personal service of individuals and families who need support.

Our 10,000 members, motivated by faith, visit vulnerable or isolated people across England and Wales and offer them friendship and practical support. The essence of our work is person-to-person contact and spending time with people is our greatest gift.

Local members: Andrew McPherson, Suzanne Muggeridge, Glendora Netley, Jadzia Paine, Jacqueline Stoner, Anne-Marie Wiggs, Fr Paul Wilkinson.

SVP President for Brighton and Hove region: Peter Cropp.

SVP England and Wales National Office

Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JB.

Tel: 0207 703 3030 (*calls to this number will go to voicemail, which is regularly monitored during office hours*).

Email: info@svp.org.uk Website svp.org.uk.

Preparing and Celebrating the Sacraments

One of the key functions of a parish is to offer the Sacraments to people. There are seven Sacraments of the Church: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Marriage, Holy Orders, Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation. Although sacraments always 'work', so to speak, for us to get the full benefit of the graces and gifts we are given through them requires our own understanding and commitment. So, for most of the sacraments, a period of preparation is needed beforehand. For some of these sacraments we offer that preparation in the parish. For others the preparation will be done in conjunction with other parishes.

Baptism

For children under seven years old, we offer a short course for the parents (and Godparents if they are able to be there), normally over two evenings. Baptisms can either take place as part of a Sunday Mass or at some other time, usually on a Saturday or Sunday. To discuss all of this, please contact Fr Tony or the parish office.



For children over the age of seven we need to prepare the child for the sacrament as well as the parents. This normally takes place by enrolling the child in the First Holy Communion programme, or even the Confirmation programme if the child is in Year 8 or above. Baptism would then be celebrated shortly before Holy Communion/Confirmation.

Adults seeking Baptism are invited to join the RCIA (see next page).

First Holy Communion & First Reconciliation

Families of children in Year 3 or above who have been baptised in the Catholic Church (or who are preparing to be baptised) are eligible to join the First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion preparation programme. We use a programme in which the parents teach their children, with the support of the catechists. In each session we do some things together as a whole group, and other things in family groups. And there is always a break with drinks and biscuits!



The programme normally starts in November, First Reconciliation is generally in late January, and First Holy Communion are usually in May. For more information contact the parish office.

Confirmation

Young people are normally eligible for Confirmation from Year 9. However, if a young person seeks Confirmation earlier than that, and is already actively involved in the Church, then please speak to Fr Tony, as we may accept them at a younger age.



The preparation starts informally, with the candidates being asked to come to Sunday Mass regularly, and to participate in some way beyond just being there – perhaps helping with welcoming, or being a server, or helping with the music or the refreshments after Mass.

Once they have shown a commitment to that, they will be invited to join the more formal preparation, which normally begins in the spring term. This takes place in conjunction with other parishes in Hove. Confirmation normally takes place later in the summer term, at Arundel Cathedral with all the parishes of the deanery. For more details contact Fr Tony.

Adults who have been baptised but not received Confirmation are invited to join the RCIA.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Adults seeking to join the Catholic Church and receive the 'Sacraments of Initiation' (Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion) normally do so through the RCIA. This involves a period of preparation (which depends on the individual) along with others seeking the same thing and some catechists, leading to Baptism, Confirmation and Communion at Easter.

Fr Paul leads the RCIA in the parish. For more information contact the parish office.

Marriage

Couples seeking to get married in the parish, and also couples who live in the parish but are marrying elsewhere, need to contact Fr Tony at the earliest opportunity. The diocese normally requires one year's notice for marriage in order to allow enough time for preparation of the couple.



Preparation involves a certain amount of paperwork, both civil and ecclesiastical, and also preparation, not just for the wedding, but for married life. This is done in part by Fr Tony and in part through a marriage preparation course with other engaged couples and led by married people.

The Sacrament of the Sick

People sometimes confuse the 'Sacrament of the Sick' (or Anointing of the Sick, sometime abbreviated to Anointing) with the 'Last Rites'. The Last Rites are, in fact, Viaticum (Holy Communion given to the dying – literally 'food for the journey') and the Prayer of Commendation. Anointing is often given at the same time if there is a priest present (the Communion and Commendation do not require a priest). However it is not limited to that.



The Sacrament of the Sick can be given to anyone with a serious illness, including those with ongoing chronic illness, those who are frail due to age, and anyone going for a surgical operation, especially one that involves a general anaesthetic. The Sacrament can be celebrated as part of Mass, in church outside of Mass, or of course in hospital or at home.

We organise an annual Mass for the Sick, usually around the time of the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, in which the Sacrament of the Sick is conferred on anyone who desires it.

If you or someone you know is going into hospital for any reason, do let us know. Do not assume the hospital will let us know (they will not, unless you ask them – and even then, the message might get lost!). We can then pass that on to the chaplains.

Taking Communion to People at Home

Sometimes people find they are unable to come to church, through frailty, illness, or disability. We have a team of Ministers of Communion who take communion to such people. If you, or anyone you know, would like to receive communion at home, please contact the parish office.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confessions are scheduled on a Saturday evening before the 5:30 pm Mass (4:45-5:15 pm). In addition Fr Tony is normally willing to hear Confessions after any Mass, in particular after the 11:00 am Mass at St George's. Just ask!



We also have a Penitential Service each Advent and Lent, normally on the afternoon of the 3rd or 4th Sunday of Advent, and on the afternoon of Palm Sunday. This is a short service followed by the opportunity for individual Confession. There are normally two or three priests available for Confession.

Holy Orders

While clearly we do not do formal preparation for the Diaconate or Priesthood in the parish, priests and deacons do not come out of nowhere! We know there are fewer priests than there used to be, though in many ways we are still quite well off for clergy compared to other parts of the world. Think how many Sunday Masses there are in our deanery (26 including vigil Masses, in 11 churches). We currently have seven parish priests, four retired priests, three Benedictine priests, and two priests with other responsibilities in the deanery. There are also three deacons (one retired). But these numbers will fall in the years to come.



Importantly, our parishes need to be places which encourage and foster vocations. We need to pray for vocations. But we also need to be the kind of community which will inspire vocations. Priests generally come from vibrant, active parishes and communities! If those who might be called to ordained ministry see the clergy constantly battling just to keep things going, they are unlikely to be attracted to offer themselves for ministry as priests or deacons!

If you are thinking about the possibility of ordination as a priest or deacon, do speak to Fr Tony. As he has been involved in the formation of priests himself for most of his own priesthood, he is in a good position to listen to you and support your discernment.

Although entry into religious life (monks and nuns, brothers, and sisters) is not the same as Holy Orders, much of what has been said above also applies to vocations to the religious life. Again feel free to speak to Fr Tony who can give guidance and suggest how you may explore this kind of vocation more deeply.

Children's Liturgy

What is Children's Liturgy?



It is the Liturgy of the Word suitably adapted to make it relevant to the lives and experiences of young children. It gives them the opportunity to understand the Gospel message and participate in the Eucharistic celebration at their own level.

We invite children in school years Reception to Year 3 to join the group.

Where does it take place?

The children celebrate the Liturgy of the Word in a room set apart from the main congregation, at St Theresa's this is in the side chapel. A simple altar with candles and a special place set aside for proclaiming the Word of God help the children appreciate that this is a special time.

When does it take place?

At St Theresa's we have Children's Liturgy sessions during the 9 am Sunday Mass (during term time). The children are present at the beginning of Mass until the end of the Introductory Rites, when Fr Tony invites them to leave for their own celebration. They are brought back into the main church after the Prayers of the Faithful by a member of the liturgy team.

Who leads the Liturgy of the Word for Children?

We have a number of group leaders for this ministry, including teachers and parents from St Mary's School, as well as other members of our Parish. All group leaders have an enhanced DBS check and there will always be two group leaders at each session.

Funerals

Funerals are normally arranged through a funeral director. They will then liaise with the parish, the family, and the cemetery or crematorium in order to arrange the funeral. Some people like to 'plan ahead' as it were. This can include a pre-paid funeral plan. It is also a good idea to let your family know what type of service you would like. Normally, for a Catholic, this would be a Funeral Mass followed by burial or cremation. You might like to select the readings or music in advance. If you would like to do this, you are welcome to speak to Fr Tony for a chat and some guidance. This will also make sure the parish has a record of your desires.

Other Regular Activities in the Parish

While the liturgy is at the heart of what we do, other things do happen in the parish! Here are some of the current parish activities.

Tea and Chat

On the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, the 10 am Mass at St George's is followed by a time of socialisation and activity aimed at the older people in the parish. No need to book. Just turn up!

Wednesday Evening Faith Formation

In term times, after the 7 pm Mass, there will usually be a time of faith formation, often involving a video, such as the SYCAMORE sessions or the diocesan 'Invited' programme. See the Newsletter for details of what is happening.

Thursday Evening Zoom Prayer Meeting

During the pandemic a group started up a regular meeting of prayer and fellowship online on Thursday evenings. It will resume on Thursday 11th January 2024. If you would like to join in, contact the parish office to be sent a Zoom invitation.

Bollywood Dance and Exercise Class

Not strictly a parish event, but organised by parishioners, in the parish hall, Monday evenings 6:30–7:30 pm. All abilities welcome, including children (Under 18's must be accompanied by a responsible adult). Have Fun — Get Fit — Make Friends!

Churches Together in Southwick

There is a regular prayer meeting on Wednesday mornings, 9:30 am, at St Michael's, Church Road, Southwick, BN42 4DG. People from the local churches take turns to lead. The meeting is half an hour, followed by refreshments and chat.

Adur Valley Catenians



We are a group of Catholic men and women actively participating in the life of the Catholic Church and coming together with an active Social and Spiritual Programme in the Shoreham and Adur Valley area. We are part of a worldwide organisation. Do visit our website at adurvalleycatenians.co.uk for more information, or sussexcatenians.org.

Getting Involved

Being a member of the Church isn't just about being baptised, what we believe, or going to church, though all these are important. We are all called to live out our discipleship in the Church and in the world. While the primary way we do that is by simply living our faith in our families and in the world, we also need people who will give their time and gifts to enable the running and the mission of the Church in our local area.

Here is a list of some of the ministries, tasks and roles in the parish.

Catechetical Ministries

Catechesis is the ministry of passing on the faith. It involves a certain amount of teaching, and so requires a good basic understanding of your faith. For the most part catechists use professionally prepared material, but they also need to be willing to share their own faith and experience. If you would like to help with one of these, but feel you need to deepen your understanding, we can offer you opportunities for your own formation.

Baptism Preparation

We run a short course to help new parents prepare for their children's Baptism. Currently Fr Tony and Gill Sajnog run this, but a couple more catechists would be useful. Ideally the catechists would be parents themselves.

First Holy Communion

We have a small team of Holy Communion catechists, but we always welcome newcomers!! We use material from a wider programme called *Growing Up Catholic* which primarily involves helping the parents to teach their own children about the faith.

Confirmation

In this diocese, young people are normally invited to prepare for Confirmation while in school Years 9 and upwards. We currently team up with the other Hove parishes for this. If you would like to help with that do let us know. You would need to be comfortable working with young people, and willing to respond honestly and sympathetically to their questions.

Marriage Preparation

We will be setting up a deanery marriage preparation team. There is some excellent diocesan material to help couples prepare for marriage, but we need a team of married couples from across the deanery to deliver it. Could you do this? The diocese will provide appropriate training.

RCIA

RCIA stands for the *Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults*, and the process by which adults approach Baptism and Confirmation and for preparing baptised Christians to be received into the Catholic Church. Fr Paul leads the group, but we also need people who are simply willing to be part of the group and share something of their own faith.

Liturgical Ministries

Liturgical ministries are those which enable us to worthily celebrate the Mass and other sacraments and services in the church. Some are 'up front', some are more 'behind the scenes'.

Readers

The reader proclaims the Word of God from the Scriptures during the Mass and other services. We have a number of people who exercise this ministry, but new voices are always welcome. We put on formation for current and prospective readers from time to time.

Sacristans

The sacristans are the 'backstage crew' of the liturgy. They set up for Mass, deal with lighting and sound, and tidy up afterwards. They also keep an eye on things needed in the church. We have sacristans for most of the Masses (the exception being weekdays at St Theresa's, when Fr Tony often has to do it himself!), but, as ever, more helpers are very welcome.

Musicians & Choir

Music is a very important part of the Liturgy. James has been doing a sterling job of leading the music, but he is moving on! Do you play an instrument? Might you be willing to join a music group? Do you play the piano? Would you be willing to learn the organ? The parish will subsidise organ lessons, no strings attached! (No pun intended.)

Children's Liturgy

We have a Children's Liturgy group at St Theresa's, but more helpers are always welcome. Is anyone willing to help with this at St George's?

Altar Servers

We now have altar servers at St George's, and are hoping to find some at St Theresa's. Perhaps your children might be interested?

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMs)

Now we are returning to offering Communion under both kinds on Sundays, we need ministers to help distribute Communion. We also need people to take Communion to those who are unable to get to Mass.

Welcomers

This is a very important role. It is about making sure everyone feels welcome in the church, especially visitors and newcomers. It involves being sensitive to people's needs, including those who just want to sit quietly at the back. We do have teams of these at all Masses, but it would be good to have more.

Flower Arrangers

The decoration of our churches falls to a few stalwart ladies who do a great job, but more support would be welcome. (Men also welcome!)

Church Cleaners

We put this in liturgical ministry because it makes sure that we have a worthy space in which to worship. We have teams at both churches, but more are always welcome! It is only a couple of hours once a month or so.

Care for Those in Need

Many of the ministries already listed involve an element of care for others, especially EMs. However there are specific groups that focus on that dimension of parish life. The SVP has already been mentioned, but other possibilities include:

CAFOD/Justice and Peace

Many parishes have a group which both reflects on issues of justice and peace, and which promotes awareness, fundraising, and action. This often includes ecological issues such as climate change. CAFOD are often at the forefront of such activity. It would be good to have such a group in the parish. For more on CAFOD see www.cafod.org.uk.

The Food Bank

Hangleton & West Blatchington Food Bank is based at St George's church hall. They can always use volunteers who can give their time every week, fortnightly, once a month, or in the holidays. See hangletonfoodbank.org for more information.

The Welcome Directory

The Welcome Directory is a list of places of worship where former prisoners know they will be welcomed. We would like to set this up at one or both of our churches, but we need a few people at each church to undergo the online training and be willing to be a point of contact. For more on The Welcome Directory, see welcomedirectory.org.uk.

Other Jobs and Roles

Social Committee

We do not have a Social Committee yet, but we think one would be useful. If you would like to be part of such a group, please let the office know.

Counters

There are money counting teams at St George's and St Theresa's, but more counters are always useful! It takes about 20 minutes after the Sunday Mass.

Refreshments after Mass and other events

We have good teams at both churches, but more help is always welcome.

Catering

From time to time we aspire to more than drinks, cakes, and biscuits. Unfortunately, we lack a proper kitchen at either church. Can you offer catering skills occasionally? All expenses would be met.

Craft Skills

Sometimes we need things mended or even made. Do you have any artistic, needlework, woodwork, metalwork, or other skills that we might call on occasionally?

There are many other skills we could use also, for example youth work, gardening, social media, tech support, notice boards, photography, etc. etc. Feel free to let us know if you have any talents you would be willing to share.