



# The Catholic Parish of Bognor Regis and Slindon

*12th January 2025 - The Baptism of the Lord - Year C*

## The Parish Team

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Fr Tomasz Mezyk (Polish Mission) - 07771 413345

Parish Secretary: Caroline Battersby - [bognor@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bognor@abdiocese.org.uk)  
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Parish Safeguarding Rep: Liz Bedford - 07456 420108 / [sg1.bognor@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:sg1.bognor@abdiocese.org.uk)  
**Please Note new email for Liz Bedford Parish Safeguarding Rep**

**The Parish Centre, Hislop Walk, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, PO21 1LP Tel: (01243) 823619**  
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## Our Churches

Our Lady of Sorrows, Clarence Road, Bognor Regis, PO21 1JX  
St Anthony of Viareggio, Gossamer Lane, Bognor Regis, PO21 3DD  
St Richard of Chichester, Top Road, Slindon, BN18 0RG

## Catholic Schools

St Mary's Catholic Primary School *Head of School Mrs Kathryn Cole B'Ed Hon NPQH*  
*Executive Headteacher: Mr Peter Edgington BA (Hons) NPQH*  
Glamis Street, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO21 1DJ Tel: (01243) 822287 Email: [office@stmarysbognor.co.uk](mailto:office@stmarysbognor.co.uk)  
St Philip Howard Catholic School *Headteacher: Mr Tim Hulse*  
Elm Grove South, Barnham, West Sussex PO22 0EN Tel: (01243) 552055 Email: [office@sphcs.co.uk](mailto:office@sphcs.co.uk)

## Joyful Revelations

Working close to nature, I find every day of the year brings a new revelation through the ever-changing seasons but I find January particularly thrilling as every day becomes a little lighter and the earliest seed sowings speak of joyful sights to come.

Today, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord marks the end of the Christmas Season in the Church. The feast is another 'epiphany', a further revelation of God as Father, Son and Spirit.

In the Gospel today we hear God's voice proclaiming Jesus as his beloved Son, and the Spirit descends on him as he is baptised by John. As Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee year we might choose to consider the glories of our world created through and for Christ who brings everything to perfection.

At Youth Café, that's the 30 plus young people in school years 7 to 13 who meet on alternate Fridays in the Parish Centre, we will reflect and act upon the theme of "Pilgrims of hope" within the mix of joyful activities in which we engage.

So, as the days lengthen and light returns and the decorations come down in the church, the crib will remain until 2<sup>nd</sup> February, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, a further revelation where again we reflect in wonder at God present to us in the guise of a poor, vulnerable child.

*Tony Lucas*

<b>Saturday 11th January</b>		
St Richard's	9.30am	Betty Burnett RIP
OLOS	6pm	Arlene & Sean O'Neill RIP
<b>Sunday 12th</b>		
<b>The Baptism of the Lord</b>		
OLOS	9am	People of the Parish
OLOS	11am	Helen Lesley Osborne RIP
<b>Monday 13th</b>		
OLOS	10am	Intentions of Mary Devine
<b>Tuesday 14th</b>		
St Anthonys	9.30am	Betty Burnett RIP
<b>Wednesday 15th</b>		
OLOS	10am	Pat Hurcombe RIP
<b>Thursday 16th</b>		
OLOS	7pm	James & Margaret Roohan RIP
<b>Friday 17th</b>		
<b>St Antony</b>		
OLOS	10am	Deceased of the O'Brien & Carty Families
<b>Saturday 18th</b>		
St Richard's	9.30am	Anita Monk RIP
OLOS	6pm	Ann Holste RIP
<b>Sunday 19th</b>		
<b>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>		
OLOS	9am	People of the Parish
OLOS	11am	In Thanksgiving Tjeerd & Wiga Vonk

### Masses in Polish

**Saturday 6pm St Anthony's**

**Sunday 9am St Anthony's 4pm Our Lady of Sorrows**

### Rosary - Lady Chapel Our Lady of Sorrows

Wednesdays after 10am Mass

### Adoration and Rosary - St Richard's

Wednesday 9.30am to 10.30am

### Adoration - St Anthony's

Thursdays 11.30am to 12.30am

### Adoration - Our Lady of Sorrows

Fridays after 10am Mass until 2pm

### *Requiem in Aeternum*



Your prayers are asked for all those who have died recently.

We also remember all whose anniversaries occur about this time:  
**Margaret Roohan, George Goodheart, Baby Patrick Mersey, David Rae, Dorothy Pike, Eileen Pichford, Joan Gammage, Najh Mourad, Samuel Alcroft, Rosemary Stride, Diane Butler, Tom Melia, Gladys Reeves-Jones**

### *Prayers For The Sick*

Your prayers are asked for:  
**Leonore Cosgrove, Mark Byerley, Kath Stimpson, Lucia Elsom, Stella Risi, Mo Moore, Janet Smith, Richard Green, Baby Elliott, Paula Rathke, Teresa Willcocks, Jo Wilkinson, Madeleine Wolfe, Alex Burns, Maureen Collins, Therese Brooks, Claire Amaladoss, John Cooper**

*At the end of each month, this list of friends and parishioners who are sick will be brought to the altar with the prayer intentions on the Prayer Board at OLS. The new month will begin a new list.*

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Is available after weekday Masses at Our Lady of Sorrows and in the half hour before the Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses. Or, by appointment.  
 Tel: 01243 823619

### Sacrament of the Sick

Please contact Fr David  
 Tel 01243 823619

### Forthcoming Funerals Our Lady of Sorrows

**Deidre Sobey RIP**

Friday 24th January, 10am

*Please pass these details to anyone who might like to hear so that all who wish may gather to pray.*

### Welcome to the Parish

If you are new to the parish or visiting on holiday please introduce yourself to one of the Welcomers in the church at the Saturday evening and Sunday Masses. They will be happy to help with introductions and any queries you may have. Parish registration forms are also available in the church or on the website.

## Fr David Benedict writes...

Dear Brothers and Sisters

This week we step further along the path of enlightenment. We continue to celebrate the further 'Epiphanies' of the Lord - encounters with Jesus which shed further light on who he is and what he is about. I say "about" in the dual sense of what he "means" and what he "does" as a person. What he "means" is a sign of God's plan of salvation by which we mean the things God is doing to steer his creation to its ultimate destiny and purpose. All creation exists to give glory to God and that it doesn't yet fully, or completely, is part of what St Paul means when he writes about creation "groaning" in one great act of giving birth. The labour pains of creation are all too evident and, whether we like it or not, we are part of this. There is my own personal contribution of sin and there is a more corporate, or institutional sinfulness, that I am a part of due to my living in a society which doesn't reflect the glory of God perfectly. We live alongside and within systems of injustice - attitudes towards creation, humanity in all its myriad colours and cultures, towards money, power, and so on, which diminish God's creation and postpone it's fulfilment and ultimate destiny.

Jesus came to deal with sin and show us a way through it - a path of personal suffering, but a suffering that is redemptive. He invites us to choose him and follow him. In today's Gospel reading we meet Jesus undergoing his own baptism and being endowed with the Holy Spirit. In our own baptism we join Jesus in his suffering and death and, most importantly, in his resurrection and we too are endowed with a gift of the Holy Spirit. In doing so we become a 'new creation' - new Adams in Christ who is THE new Adam. Now, renewed and enlightened, we take our place in the continuing work of the redemption of God's creation. Baptism is, then, not just a certificate of membership of the Church. Neither is it a ticket at the turnstiles of heaven. But it is a radical identification with the person of Jesus and a commitment to living 'my' life as closely following Jesus as I can. There will be slips and falls along the way but all the time I'm focussed on Jesus and on the Kingdom then I'm on The Way to giving God glory. St Leo the Great said that "a man fully alive is the glory of God." We are truly and fully alive when we live and move in the Spirit of Christ.

With love and best wishes

Fr David Benedict

### An Invitation

You are cordially invited to join the local Catenian Circle for a Wine Tasting Evening in the Parish Centre, hosted by an expert from Majestic Wine, immediately following the Vigil Mass on **Saturday 18th January**. There is no charge for the evening or any obligation to buy, but to assist with logistics it would be helpful if you could indicate your attendance by e-mailing [michaelobrien27@sky.com](mailto:michaelobrien27@sky.com) or [snardecchia@btinternet.com](mailto:snardecchia@btinternet.com) or alternatively filling in a flyer after all Masses this weekend.

### More Desert Island Discs

At St Richard's, Slindon, on **Friday 24th January**, when our mystery castaway will choose some of her favourite music; preceded by a shared supper at 6pm, to which all are most warmly invited.

**Thank you!** to the parishioners at St Richard's, Slindon, who donated approximately 150 Christmas presents for the homeless, as well as £100 in cash for Stonepillow.

### Can you help?

Michael Higgins, who lives very near to Our Lady of Sorrows, would very much appreciate assistance in bringing him to 11am Mass on Sundays in his wheelchair. It is a very short walk from his home to the church, if you feel you could help please contact Sheila on 07887 878088.



### Crib Collection

Our Christmas Crib Offering will be donated to the Catholic Children’s Society Arundel and Brighton Crisis Fund. This provides direct support to local children and families in our diocese who are facing a crisis in their lives. Donations can be made on the contactless machines in the church.

Donations can be made at the crib or on the contactless machines.

### World Day of Prayer - Coffee Morning 29th January after 10am Mass

An opportunity to support the ecumenical World Day of Prayer movement and the people of the Cook Islands who have written the service for the 7th March - details of the service to follow.

Entrance fee £1.50 to include a hot drink and cake (Donations welcome - please contact Gabrielle on 01243 278750 if you can help).

### Emmaus Group - Accompanying people enquiring about Catholic faith

Our Emmaus Group is a gathering that helps people to explore the Catholic faith and what it means to live as a follower of Jesus as part of the Catholic community and to prepare for full communion with the Church through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist.

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 14th January at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre.**



**Celebrating baptism** is a joy for families, and for the parish family, and we’re delighted to welcome families looking to celebrate this wonderful gift of God. To register for the next preparation course please contact Angela on 07760 224302.

### Q & A on Dilexit Nos

**Dilexit Nos** is the name of the latest encyclical letter from the Pope. This is the pope’s exposition of the theological meaning of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Fr Peter Coxe is going to explain the language of this letter for us on the evening of Wednesday January 29<sup>th</sup>. at 7.30pm, at St Anthony’s, Gossamer Lane, Rose Green. It will be a Question and Answer session so there will be lots of time for discussion. Do come if you can, refreshments and cake will be available.

### A Year of Hope: An Introduction to the Jubilee Year with the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

2025 is a Jubilee year, but what does that mean? Catholic talk show host and author Nana Churcher, and CAFOD’s Simon Giarchi will be hosting Fr Jan Nowotnik (Director of Mission for the Bishop’s Conference), Christine Allen (CAFOD’s Director) and Kayode Akintola (CAFOD’s Head of Africa) and more for lively start to the Jubilee. With a special appearance by Catholic band Ooberfuse. Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January, 10:30am-midday, online. All welcome.

To register please visit CAFOD’s website: [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk)

### Offertory Collections December

Offertory Plate Collections	£2630.08
Gift Aid Envelopes	£1035.50
Bankers Orders	£5709.50
Contactless Machines	£ 386.00
CAF donations	£ 55.00
Stripe online donations	<u>£1306.06</u>
	<b>£11,122.14</b>

### Second Collections

Christmas Flowers	£251.55
Christmas Offertory	£3560.50

Many thanks to all you give to the parish. If you are eligible to Gift Aid your donation, we are able to claim an additional 25% from the Government. This year £18,119.31 has been recovered from the Government. This is a valuable source of income to the Parish, if you are a UK taxpayer and wish to Gift Aid your donation forms are available in the churches, on our website or via the Parish Office, donations can be made by Standing Order or in weekly envelopes. *You can also register for Gift Aid even if you already donate by Standing Order*, if you have any queries please do contact the Parish office.