



The Catholic Parish of Bognor Regis and Slindon

19th January 2025 - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

The Parish Team

Fr David Benedict Osborne - david.osborne@abdiocese.org.uk
Fr Tomasz Mezyk (Polish Mission) - 07771 413345

Parish Secretary: Caroline Battersby - bognor@abdiocese.org.uk
Parish Administrator: Abigail Leggatt (for building matters) - admin.bognor@abdiocese.org.uk
Parish Safeguarding Rep: Liz Bedford - 07456 420108 / 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
Email: bognor@abdiocese.org.uk Website: www.bognorcatholicparish.co.uk

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
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

You are God's gift to a world in pain

When we think about Jesus's life and ministry, the word "gift" seems significant. Jesus himself was God's greatest gift to us, God becoming human and living among us, a person as we are. The way Jesus led his life was itself a gift, his very first miracle in the Gospel of John the gift of wine to a party. This story called 'The Wedding at Cana' is amazing, so many different parts of it to consider. Today I want to consider this - that every single one of us, you and me - are a gift created by God to minister to a world that is broken and in pain. You are God's gift to this world, "a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord" (Isaiah 62) and you have been given gifts in turn, amazing incredible gifts to help you be that gift to the world.

It is hard to believe this; we tend to see our defects of character first and to become weighed down by the burden of past mistakes. It is important we do not ignore these or pretend that we are powerful in a way that we are not. All our giftedness comes from God, all power from Him. He shares his power with us through the Holy Spirit.

We can all call on this power to change the world. Use your gifts, even if you struggle to believe in them, your kindness, your patience, your sense of fun. Your cooking, your warmth, your prayer, your time! Use the money you have earned to improve something for someone else. This world needs you, God made you for this time and this place. Your gifts really do change the world, so with the Holy Spirit in your heart, your hands and your feet, use them to help, to heal and to bring hope.

Martha Myers

Saturday 18th January		
St Richard's	9.30am	Anita Monk RIP
OLOS	6pm	Ann Holste RIP
Sunday 19th		
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time		
OLOS	9am	People of the Parish
OLOS	11am	In Thanksgiving Tjeerd & Wiga Vonk
Monday 20th		
OLOS	10am	Tara Kearns RIP
Tuesday 21st		
St Agnes		
St Anthony's	9.30am	Joan & Geoff Norris RIP
Wednesday 22nd		
OLOS	10am	Edward Rafferty RIP
Thursday 23rd		
OLOS	7pm	Deceased of the Burns Family
Friday 24th		
St Francis de Sales		
OLOS	10am	Requiem: Deidre Sobey RIP
Saturday 25th		
The Conversion of St Paul		
St Richard's	9.30am	Anita Monk RIP
OLOS	6pm	Phyllis Pearlman RIP
Sunday 26th		
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time		
OLOS	9am	Betty Burnett RIP Anniversary
OLOS	11am	People of the Parish

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:

Leonore Cosgrave RIP

We also remember all whose anniversaries occur about this time:
May King, Marvin Sturridge, Michael Lavelle, Pauline Finneran, Cecil Hedigan, Marie Mitchell, Patrick O'Rourke, Reg Taylor, Neville Bengtson, Mark Bryan, Denis Ford, Charlotte Eade, Clemente Alvarez, Betty Burnett

Prayers For The Sick

Your prayers are asked for:

Richard Hazelgrove, Mark Byerley, Kath Stimpson, Lucia Elsom, Stella Risi, Mo Moore, Janet Smith, Richard Green, Baby Elliott, Paula Rathke, Teresa Willcocks, 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

Leonore Cosgrave RIP

Wednesday 5th February, 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

The important relationship of marriage and the joy of a wedding and the ever deepening intimacy that should follow from such hopeful and celebratory beginnings are very much to the forefront in this week's Liturgy of the Word. But, as we all know - those of us who are married and those of us who have begun life in a family i.e. most of us! - marriage doesn't always proceed smoothly. Stuff gets in the way all too often - the past and its baggage; the future and its fears and challenges. But, most of all, it is how the personalities and characters of the couple develop and grow in time that are key. If there is no maturation, or deepening, we might say then everything stays too much on the surface or shallow.

Marriage is a covenant relationship which is forged on the anvil of love and respect, of duties and responsibilities, and of privileges and freedom. The People of God abused their privileged position, feeling the they could come and go as they pleased in their relationship with God. God's reaction, eventually, was to send them away until such a time as they had come to their senses. This took around 70 years! Then he began to call them back to himself. They would no longer be called "Forsaken" but. "Married". They would be the Bride and God the Groom.

In the early church, such as the community at Corinth, there were also competing desires and attitudes. There was the indifference of the wealthy, middle classes, to the feelings and needs of their poorer brothers and sisters. They came early to Church, for example, and devoured all the food so that when the working classes arrived it had all gone. They welcomed their friends but ignored their poorer brethren and so on. But perhaps worst of all they became divisive in terms of the various gifts that the community possessed. Some thought their gifts and charisms were superior to those of others and thus, they were too.

St Paul has to remind them in very strong terms indeed, that **all** gifts are given by the Spirit and are for **service**, not for looking important, or superior. Furthermore, the gifts, in their diversity, **come together** to benefit the whole community. Paul uses the term the "common good". This is a term that some politicians find hard to say, or even think of. Certain things are always for the common good and not for private reward. Similarly, in a marriage, or in a church community, it is the **whole body** that is equipped, through the Spirit, with the gifts and charisms that are needed in order to build up the Body of Christ. Each of us is an invaluable, unique, gifted and much loved member of Jesus' Body, the Church. Let us use those gifts for service of each other and of the poor and to demonstrate that the Church is a different, positive, kind of community.

With my love and prayers

Fr David Benedict

Babes in the Wood

The Parish Pantomime Group are excited to announce details of their next show, Babes in the wood', starring many familiar faces from the Parish including some making their debuts with us. The aim when we began 27 years ago was to draw people together of all ages from across the Parish for a joyful occasion in the winter months. Our purpose today has not changed; we warmly invite everyone to join us on:

- Thursday 20th February at 7.30pm
- Friday 21st February at 7.30pm
- Saturday 22nd February 2.00pm and 7.30pm

Tickets are £5.00 each on sale after Masses from next weekend. Proceeds to Parish Funds.

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.

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).

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 29th 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.

Thank you! The Lullaby Trust received £1575 from collected stamps which you kindly saved throughout the year. Stamps can be dropped off at the parish centre or shop, please remember to leave space for them to be trimmed and the barcode to be complete. Thank you for your continued support.

Diocesan Directories are now available from the Parish Shop, cost £5. The shop is open during Parish office hours and after the Sunday Masses.

Exploring the Vocation to Teaching in our Diocesan Schools

If you are interested in hearing more about the vocation to teaching and what teaching in a Catholic school involves, Dave Legrand, Diocesan Secondary RE Advisor, will be running an online information event on Wednesday 12th February from 5.30-6pm.

This event would be suitable for anyone considering a career change or simply interested in finding out more about the role of teachers in our Catholic schools for any age group or for any subject specialism. To book a place, please use the link: [Exploring the vocation to teaching in our diocesan schools \(12-Feb-2025\) · ChurchSuite Events](#)

Diocesan Youth Project Worker - Part time

The St Philip Howard Centre, 4 Southgate Drive, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 6RP

Join the diocesan Central Office Team as our new P/T Youth Project Worker. The successful applicant will be responsible for two major projects - coordination of the CYMFed Faith in Action Awards across the Diocese, and the newly developing Young Adults programme. They will also be required to assist with engaging young people from across the Diocese in the ASCENT process (a three-year discipleship process for young people) and offer support to the Youth Adviser in enabling diocesan attendance at national and international events such as Flame and World Youth Day. E: lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk

Closing date: Wednesday 5 February 2025; Shortlisting: Thursday 6 February 2025; Interviews: Thursday 13 February 2025, Crawley. Here is the job url: www.abdiocese.org.uk/careers/ypw

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>
	£11,122.14

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.