



The Catholic Parish of Bognor Regis and Slindon

1st December 2024 - First Sunday of Advent - Year C

The Parish Team

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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

Welcome to Advent!

As we begin the season of Advent how can we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth?

In the first reading Jeremiah proclaims: "Behold, the days are coming declares the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise, I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah." This also has resonance for all of us today. When have you made a promise to someone? What did it feel like and what was the response of the person you made the promise to?

In the second reading in the Psalm the response is "To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul." How might we lift up our soul to the Lord? How and when do you pray to God?

In the first verse of the Psalm we ask: "O Lord, make me know your ways. Teach me your paths." Are there paths in your life that you should reflect on and consider if we should change them? We are told that "All of the Lord's paths are mercy and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and commands." There is nothing we cannot bring to the Lord!

St Paul encourages us to "increase and abound in love for one another and for all." This made me think about who I reach out to! It is easy to be complacent with our who we spend our time with! Who might we reach out to who live on the margins of our family and communities?

In the Gospel Jesus tells his disciples to Stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape from all these things that that are going to take place! How can we do this?

May your Advent be fruitful and filled with peace!

Margaret Fraher - Parish Leadership Team

Saturday 30th	
St Richard's 9.30am	Wellbeing of Fr Fred Sheldon
OLOS 6pm	Norman Reynolds RIP
Sunday 1st December	
First Sunday of Advent	
OLOS 9am	Myrtle & Joe Alvarez RIP
OLOS 11am	People of the Parish
Monday 2nd	
OLOS 10am	Ian Findley RIP
Tuesday 3rd	
St Frances Xavier	
St Anthony's 9.30am	Brian Melton RIP
Wednesday 4th	
OLOS 10am	Ann & Wilfred Graham RIP
Thursday 5th	
OLOS 7pm	Noreen Fulman RIP
Friday 6th	
OLOS 10am	Keith Simpson RIP
Saturday 7th	
St Ambrose	
St Richard's 9.30am	Intentions of Fr Eamonn Corduff
OLOS 6pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 8th	
Second Sunday of Advent	
OLOS 9am	Gordon Reynolds
OLOS 11am	Intentions of the Claveria Family

Please note:

- From Thursday 5th December Mass will be celebrated at 7pm in Our Lady of Sorrows.
- There will be no Adoration on Friday 6th December.

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:
Michael McQuillan RIP

We also remember all whose anniversaries occur about this time:

David Green, Sr Marie Mooney, Douglas Pink, Mary Josephine Linnane, Doreen Haggar, Annabelle Jordan, Lucy Stubbings, Eileen Hawkins, Wilfred Graham, Thomas Cosgrove, Ivy Short, Marita Lamey, Mary Powell, Gill Buddin, Jo Oates

Prayers For The Sick

Your prayers are asked for:

Sr Ruth, Lucia Elsom, Stella Risi, Tim Moss, Mo Moore, Janet Smith, Richard Green, Baby Elliott, Paula Rathke, Sue Nagle, Teresa Willcocks, Jo Wilkinson, Madeleine Wolfe, Alex Burns, Maureen Collins, Therese Brooks, Claire Amaladoss, Deidre Sobey, Val Warner, 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

James Anthony Martin RIP

Friday 6th December, 12 noon

Mary Lily 'Molly' Myers RIP

Friday 13th December, 10am

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

Fr David Benedict writes...

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Greetings, and welcome to Advent, and with it Year C of the Sunday Lectionary cycle, meaning that the Gospel of Luke will be the predominant gospel for us throughout the year apart from some of Christmas and Easter. It's also from today that we go all ESV! That is - English Standard Version as against Jerusalem Bible Version for the translation of the readings. We have beautiful new lectionaries which I hope you will agree really announce that Holy Scripture is important to us as Catholics. The beautiful Word proclaimed from beautiful books, beautifully! (Hopefully anyway!)

Today, the liturgy of the Word is all verbs - or "doing" words as we used to be taught in school. They remind us, if we needed reminding, that is, that faith may be something that is held very deeply within our hearts and our souls, but faith is something that very much leads to action - the "doing of the Word"; not just listening, and then forgetting, but putting the message into action.

Here is a brief scan:

We lift up our souls in the entrance antiphon.

We run forth with righteous deeds in the Opening prayer

A righteous Branch will spring up in the Prophecy of Jeremiah

We are taught the way in the Psalm

We are to increase and abound in love for one another and all in the Epistle

And urged to walk in a pleasing way before the Lord our God.

We are warned to watch ourselves lest our hearts are weighed down by the problems of life and urged to stay awake praying so that we might have the strength to escape the things that are going to take place.

Pope Francis memorably told the clergy and people of God that the Church is not an exclusive club for the (self) righteous, but more like a field hospital for the broken and lost. It is also like a kind of rehab centre in which to find our proper strengths by exercising our faith in pursuit of the Gospel. When I practice my flute I make lots of mistakes until that practice leads to an ease of playing whereby I'm not plodding from note to note and phrase to phrase but it all begins to **flow**. When we are practising our faith, we too will make errors and have some failures but persistence and alertness and participation in things with others leads to our faith being in a kind of flow too. That's also sometimes called grace.

May the grace of the Advent season richly bless you and your families.

With my love and prayers

Fr David Benedict

The Ruth Group

Invite women of the Parish, their friends, family and visitors to join them for an Evening of Advent Taize Music and Prayer on **Thursday 5th December** at **7.30pm** in the Parish Centre. Refreshments will be available.

RETURNING BY POPULAR REQUEST!

The L'Arche Ukulele Band will once again be entertaining us in St Richard's, Slindon on **Friday 6th December**, preceded by a shared supper at 6p.m. Do come and join us for an entertaining evening!

St Anthony's Christmas Fayre - Saturday 7th December 10.30am to 12.30pm

Raffle, Cakes, Books, Jewellery, Gifts, Christmas decorations and more for sale. Tea, coffee and cake will also be served. Please do come and support this popular event. All funds raised will be distributed to local charities.



St Mary's Catholic Primary School Would like to invite parishioners to our Key Stage 1 Nativity, '**Jesus' Christmas Party**' on **Monday 9th December** at **1.30pm**. If you would like to come along please phone the school office on 01243 822287 to book your seat!

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.

Celebrating Advent

- **Sunday 1st, December, 6.30pm Churches Together in the Six Villages - Advent Service**, in St Mary's, Slindon, organised jointly with St Richard's; Fr David will be the invited preacher. Everyone is most welcome.
- **Wednesday 11th December - Deanery Penitential Service** . St Richard's Chichester from 7pm.
- **Sunday 15th December, 3pm, St Richard's, Slindon - Carol Service**. There will be a retiring collection to help send our talented young musicians to Lourdes.
- **Saturday 21st December, Bognor Regis Churches Together Live Nativity**. All are invited to support this event to share the Gospel Story of Christ's Birth, do come along with or without a costume! Participants to meet at 11.30am at Bognor Regis Methodist Church, 76 High Street, the procession starts at 11.45am along the High Street and gathers at the junction with London Road at 12.30pm with the Salvation Army Band for Carols and a Christmas message. Afterwards, Our Lady of Sorrows will be hosting refreshments, mince pies and activities for children in the Parish Centre.

CAFOD World Gift Catalogue is now available in the churches

CAFOD World Gifts offer thoughtful ways to make a lasting difference for special occasions. Whether you're celebrating the festive season or paying tribute to a loved one, the collections will help you find the right way to express it with compassion and generosity.

Gifts can be ordered online at cafod.org.uk, by telephone 0808 1411114 or using the freepost order form attached to the catalogue.



Operation elf: Give the gift of Christmas to a child with a parent in prison

This Christmas 200,000 children are missing a loved one due to imprisonment. Together we can ensure we can spread a little Christmas cheer to families and children who are separated at Christmas.

How does it work? At the doors of all three churches, you'll find Christmas tags noting a child's name, age, gender who has a parent/sibling in prison. Please take one and buy a gift card **or this year a physical gift to the value of £15**. If a gift card, you decide where the gift card should be from depending on the info you know about them. A nice additional touch is to buy a small chocolate Santa / Christmas sweets and place in a Christmas gift bag with the gift card. If a physical gift please put in a gift bag (**no wrapping paper please, the prison needs to be able to inspect each gift**).

Then deliver your gift bag incl gift card and chocolate/sweets by Sunday 15th December to the collection points in OLOS, St Anthony's, St Richards's churches, or the Parish Centre, and please note the age and gender of the child your gift is for.

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 3rd December at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre**.

Saturday 7th December - Monthly National Day of Prayer and Fasting for Life

The Good Counsel Network ask for your prayer in saying a Rosary or fasting for the end of abortion and euthanasia. For more information please see www.GoodCounselNetwork.com

Human Rights Day - Tuesday 10th December

After the 9.30am Mass there will be an opportunity for individual greeting cards/group letter signing for nine prisoners or individuals selected by Amnesty currently suffering human rights abuses and in need of support. Information on the cases and writing materials will be available, any small donation for expenses would be welcomed.