



The Catholic Parish of Bognor Regis and Slindon

1st November 2020 - All Saints

The Parish Team

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Email: bognorcatholicparish@live.co.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

Mass is also celebrated in St Mary the Virgin (C of E), Church Lane, Barnham

My Journey in Faith

In this series, we invite parishioners to give a testimony about their journey of faith or an important moment on that journey. Here Nora Courtney reflects on how helping with Alpha in Ford Prison has helped her own faith journey.

About a year ago the Home Office gave me permission to attend the Friday masses at Ford Prison. With other fellow parishioners from Bognor I joined the new prison choir. All of this I looked forward to until Covid stopped all visits.

A few weeks ago, I was invited to join the Alpha Programme being run at the prison. At the prison Alpha has to be modified from the usual timetable. The meeting has to be shorter as there is only a two-hour slot between roll calls, and the meal has to be reduced to coffee or tea and cakes. The duration of the course too will be shorter in weeks than the full programme. But the films shown and the discussion questions suggested are the same as everywhere else.

The prisoners come from all walks of life and have many different life stories. As in many parishes many have not learnt anything much about their faith since they left school. However the forum of the Alpha group allows them to ask questions, and to display this lack of knowledge without any shame. They share their difficulties about faith, and about how some things are more difficult to understand than others.

However, the best thing for me is how they talk about prayer, and how it sustains them. One man told us he prays the rosary every day and does not worry about the life he left behind, nor about what is in front of him. In prayer he is comforted where he is now. This marvellous testimony to the power of prayer is humbling for me. I am listed as "a helper" but it is I who am being helped.

Keep up-to-date with what's going on in the Church throughout the week,
follow Bognor Slindon Catholic Parish on Facebook & Instagram.

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This Week's Masses

Saturday 31st		
OLOS	5.15pm	Nicholas Robson RIP
Sunday 1st November		All Saints
St Richard's	9am	People of the Parish
OLOS	10am	Wellbeing of Mary Elliott
St Anthony's	11am	John & Kathleen Eagle RIP
Monday 2nd		All Souls
St Mary's	9.30am	Wellbeing of John Joe Monaghan
OLOS	10am	Pearl Lilian Butler RIP
Tuesday 3rd		
St Anthony's	9.30am	Joe & Mary Ginty Wellbeing
OLOS	10am	Requiem Keith Simpson RIP
Wednesday 4th		St Charles Borromeo
OLOS		<i>No Mass</i>
St Anthony's	11am	Requiem Muriel Anderson RIP
Thursday 5th		
OLOS	10am	Jersey Ansford RIP
Friday 6th		
OLOS	10am	Hannah & Len Allen RIP
Saturday 7th		
OLOS	5.15pm	Myrtle & Joe Alvares RIP
Sunday 8th		Thirty Second Sunday
St Richard's	9am	Special Intention
OLOS	10am	Kathleen Eagle RIP
St Anthony's	11am	People of the Parish

Sacrament of Reconciliation

**Saturdays 4.30pm to 5.15pm - Our Lady of Sorrows.
Or by appointment, please contact Fr Chris or Fr Victor.**

Requiem in Aeternum



Your prayers are asked for all those who have died recently

We also remember all whose anniversaries occur about this time -

Denis Hutchinson, Sheila Geoghegan, Geoff Willcocks, George Murphy, Wendy Mary Joy Kelly, Baby Vanessa Olejnik, Nathan Barnes, Teresa Ferris, Sister Mary Peter, Ekaterina Avramenko

Prayers For The Sick

Your prayers are asked for
Arthur Wicks, Elise Johnson, Colin Lord, Paul McGuire, Colm Callanan, Moira Deefholts, Susanne Tidmas-Cole, Michael Willcocks, Teresa Sweeney, Paris Stevens, Margaret Grace, Didi Verdiana Diaris

Please contact the Parish Office by email for anyone you wish to be included in our Prayers

November Month of the Holy Souls

Fr Victor and Fr Chris will celebrate the annual blessing of graves on Sunday 8th November, 2.30pm. There will be a short service, followed by blessing of individual graves at both Town Cross and Chalcraft Lane Cemeteries.

Does God still cause plagues?

Come and join us online on Saturday, November 14th for a discussion about plagues and the Bible. David Beresford will explore how Scripture helps us to make sense of our current situation. The session will start at 11 am and the Zoom link will be on the Parish Website. We will finish at 12.30 and there will be lots of opportunities to ask questions and share your own thoughts, or to simply listen. No booking necessary.

On Sunday 1st November at Mass in St Anthony's, Rob Noye and Ben Stockdale will be received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church. A very warm welcome to Rob, Ben and their families. Whilst most of us cannot be there physically, please pray for them especially on Sunday as they receive the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of Confirmation, and the Body and Blood of Christ as part of the family of the Church.

Parish Finance

At a recent Parish Finance Committee meeting, we had the opportunity to review the parish finances in the light of Covid-19 and the lockdown. Whilst in the year to September (compared to 2019), the income from Collections was down £18,567 (remember, this also includes the Second Collections that haven't happened), expenditure in some areas was also down, for instance staff costs were down £8,242 whilst some of our employed staff were on furlough. The full picture won't be apparent for a while – indeed whilst the virus is still with us, and social distancing means restricted numbers at Mass – but the message from the Finance Committee was first: thank you to everyone who has found a way to continue contributing to the financial health of the parish, whether by moving to a Standing Order and/or Gift Aid (we're always happy to help you set these up, just ask!), or to those who have put envelopes through the letterbox, or found other ways of making a donation. Second, we'll be re-introducing a basket for collections at our Sunday Masses; although this won't be passed around, it will be there for anyone who wants to help in this way. The new Diocese website also enables all parishes to take online one off and regular donations, the link to this can be found on our website www.bognorcatholicparish.co.uk/donate We'll publish the accounts as we always do when the full year's figures are in, but if you have any questions about how you can help, or otherwise, please do contact us through the Parish Office.

Congratulations!

Our very heartiest congratulations go to **Therese Brook** and to **Jo Dickinson and family**, who have both been awarded the Special Recognition Volunteer Award by the High Sheriff of West Sussex for their outstanding outreach and support to others during the Covid-19 pandemic. Therese is commended as an inspirational leader for the Rotary Club of Chichester Harbour, well known for its community work with families in need, families fleeing domestic abuse, and the homeless. Jo, with her husband and daughters, were thanked not just for providing breakfast on a Sunday when this was the only hot food and drink available to the homeless and vulnerable through the week, but also for befriending and chatting with all who also needed sustenance through personable human contact. Well done to Therese and Jo – and thank you for your witness to Jesus in the love and service you gave those in need.

'Get into Teaching' virtual Recruitment Event - 4th November 2020, 6pm to 7pm

St Philip Howard Catholic School will be hosting this event via Zoom as part of the Bosco and Inspire School Alliances who are recruiting applicants to train in a range of primary and secondary subjects. They are looking for recent graduates, career changers or those wanting to re-start their working career to share their knowledge, skills and experiences with young people in our communities.

If you would like to attend please contact **Theresa Cashman** at tcashman@sphcs.co.uk

Alpha

Explore life, faith and meaning



Are you interested in exploring the Christian faith? Do you have questions about life? Are you up for meeting new people in the parish and beyond? Why not try Alpha?

What is Alpha? Alpha is a course with a series of sessions which explores the Christian faith. A chance to discuss questions, to build community and to pray.

The course will now be starting on **Tuesday 3rd November, 7pm to 8.30pm** on Zoom and will run each Tuesday evening into the new year. This will include a really interesting film and the chance to discuss the big questions in life in a relaxed way within a small group. There are no geographical limitations with Zoom and we hope to reach far and wide. Why not invite a friend or encourage family members to join. Do come along to the first one without obligation and see for yourself what a great opportunity Alpha offers?

For more information or to register interest please follow the link on the Parish website.

Parish Administrator

As Anthony is stepping down, we're looking to appoint a new Parish Administrator. This post offers the opportunity to support the work of our growing and outward-looking parish, responsible amongst other things for health and safety, and buildings maintenance. 25 hours per week, £20K-£25K FTE depending on experience. For a full job description and an application form, please contact Fr Chris on chris.bergin@abdiocese.org.uk or 01243 823619 or on the parish website bognorcatholicparish.co.uk/vacancies. Closing date for applications is Friday 13th November 2020.

Do Play Tennis?

Fr Victor very much enjoys tennis and would welcome the opportunity to have a game with any parishioner who needs a partner. If you are interested please contact Fr Victor by telephone or email to chibek2010@yahoo.com



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.

Due to Covid-19, Operation Elf is being organised differently this year. Instead of the toys we are usually asked for, this year we're asked to buy a book token to the value of £10 that can be sent in a Christmas card to a prisoner's child. You can buy book tokens online from www.nationalbooktokens.com or from all local bookshops. If you buy your book token online, you can even choose for it to be delivered straight to Santa's Grotto! (which is really Pact's London office; 29 Peckham Road, London SE5 8UA.)

For more information please visit: www.prisonadvice.org.uk/news/operation-elf

St Anthony's Recycling

As part of our Live Simply commitment recycling of the following items will resume from Sunday 25th October:-

- Plastic milk bottle tops to support Chestnut Tree Hospice
- All other non rigid plastic bottle tops are taken to Lush in Chichester to be turned into worksurface and children's toys
- Crisp packets (but not any other kind) to support Headway a charity for those suffering from brain injuries

All items should be clean and crisp packets flat not folded. Please place them in the containers provided

Calling all Young Adults of the Diocese (20-30 somethings)

Before the current restrictions, our Youth and Young Adults' Advisor had plenty of big plans for helping you get to know other Catholics of a similar age, to form communities where you are free to be yourself, to explore your faith, to grow in friendship, and to be a safe place for you to realise your Catholic identity.

However, this has all had to go on hold. We cannot have a Prosecco and Praise night and remain Covid secure! What we would like to do is invite anyone who is interested to join a focus group. This group will meet virtually to discuss the needs and desires of young adults in the Church, and, if you would like, be involved in coming up with some creative ways to meet those needs.

If this sounds like a project you would like to be a part of, please contact the Youth Service Secretary Rosie at rosie.read@abdiocese.org.uk or 01293 651161

40 Days for Life Brighton: To mark the end of the 40 days of prayer for an end to abortion and for people affected by abortion there will be a one hour candle lit vigil in **Brighton on Sunday 1 November from 7pm to 8pm**. To book to attend please email Sheridan Lynch at brighton40daysforlife@btinternet.com