



# The Catholic Parish of Bognor Regis and Slindon

21st September 2024 - Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

## The Parish Team

Fr David Osborne - [david.osborne@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:david.osborne@abdiocese.org.uk)  
Fr Tomasz Mezyk (Polish Mission) - 07771 413345

Parish Secretary: Caroline Battersby - [bognor@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bognor@abdiocese.org.uk)  
Parish Administrator: Abigail Leggatt (for building matters) - [admin.bognor@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:admin.bognor@abdiocese.org.uk)  
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**  
**Email: [bognor@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bognor@abdiocese.org.uk) Website: [www.bognorcatholicparish.co.uk](http://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](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)

## Status or Service?

Does it disturb, or surprise, or even shock you to realise in today's Gospel, that Jesus' disciples were arguing among themselves about "which of them was the greatest"? That even those who have been with him, following him around, witnessing his miracles, listening to his parables, experiencing his compassion, even they still don't understand that this mission of salvation is not anything to do with their own – or come to that, any individual's – importance or status. Jesus' answer is not a rebuke to their sense of entitlement or self-importance, it is to put his arm round a little child to demonstrate how we should behave, with peaceful intent, with a welcoming approach, with a lack of self.

This Sunday we are still in the season of prayer for the care of creation, which runs throughout September until October 4<sup>th</sup>. It seems to me that there is a clear link between the way humankind treats the whole of creation, including our fellow creatures, and the disciples squabbling about status, (and also with the words of St James in the second reading about wars and battles starting with "desires fighting inside your own selves".)

In his message at the beginning of the period of Prayer for the Care of Creation, Pope Francis asks, "Why is there so much evil in the world? Why so much injustice, so many fratricidal wars that kill children, destroy cities, pollute the environment and leave mother earth violated and devastated?" He offers no simple answer, except to link it all with man's desire for dominion and status but calls on us not to despair but always to hope, ("Hope is an alternative reading of history and human affairs") and to "dream with our eyes wide open impelled by a desire for love, fraternity, friendship and justice for all." Not for us the desire for dominion and status over others, or even nature itself. We are called to re-think what we mean by power, to reflect on what changes in our lifestyle can help both to resist the degradation of our environment and to promote a peaceful solidarity without the need for dominion over others. Perhaps we need to put a metaphorical arm around our precious world in all its aspects.

*Pauline Webber - Parish Leadership Team*

<b>Saturday 21st</b>		<b>St Matthew</b>
St Richard's	9.30am	Nigel Pearson RIP
OLOS	6pm	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 22nd</b>		<b>Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
OLOS	9am	Jean Reynolds RIP
OLOS	11am	Breda Healy RIP
<b>Monday 23rd</b>		<b>St Pius of Pietrelcina 'Padre Pio'</b>
OLOS	10am	Eddie Rafferty RIP
<b>Tuesday 24th</b>		<b>Our Lady of Walsingham</b>
St Richard's	11am	Requiem: Margaret Ann Grace RIP
<b>Wednesday 25th</b>		
OLOS	10am	Rachel Moore RIP
<b>Thursday 26th</b>		
OLOS	10am	No Mass
<b>Friday 27th</b>		<b>St Vincent de Paul</b>
OLOS	10am	Requiem: Ann Holste RIP
<b>Saturday 28th</b>		
St Richard's	9.30am	Kathleen O'Gorman RIP
OLOS	6pm	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 29th</b>		<b>Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
OLOS	9am	Frank Ginty RIP
OLOS	11am	Mr & Mrs Edobor Wedding Anniversary

### 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

Will resume Wednesday October 2nd, 2.30pm to 3.30pm

### 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:

**Norman Reynolds RIP**

We also remember all whose anniversaries occur about this time:

**Reynold Emberton, Peggy Baron, Bob Wanten, Monica Fortin, Brian O'Shea Len Allen, Joy Kilkenny, Trish Osborne, Cyril Gregory, Jim Hubbard, Kathleen O'Gorman, Sidney Lutz, Janice Cook, Eileen Harray, Malcolm Foley, Peter Anderson, Bryan Foster**

### Prayers For The Sick

Your prayers are asked for:

**Richard Green, Baby Elliott, Paula Rathke, Sue Nagle, Teresa Willcocks, Jo Wilkinson, Madeleine Wolfe, Alex Burns, Maureen Collins, Therese Brooks, Priscilla & Peter McKay, 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

Saturdays 5.15pm Our Lady of Sorrows or by appointment

### Sacrament of the Sick

Please contact Fr David  
Tel 01243 823619

### CAFOD HARVEST FAMILY FAST DAY: is on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October

This October we will be hearing about Daniel, a 21 year old, who lives in the Democratic Republic of Congo. His life has been transformed by CAJED, Cafod's partner in the DRC. We are invited to turn round the lives of others by participating in the Family Fast Day and donating to the work of CAFOD. An opportunity to reach out in love to our brothers and sisters in need.

Prayer cards and envelopes are available in the churches this weekend 21st September.

## From Fr David...

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I thought it could be helpful to introduce myself a little and the newsletter seemed the most appropriate way.

Firstly, I am delighted to be appointed as your new parish priest. I'm also very happy to be back "home" in the Cathedral Deanery where I have lived for the last three or so years.

This past year I have been having a wonderful time looking after the parish and people of Worthing and Lancing who have proved to be absolute gems: kind, welcoming, helpful, supportive, prayerful and all round lovers of the Gospel and the Holy Mass. This last year has helped me prepare to come back into full time ministry and to be as ready as I'll ever be to take on the responsibility of serving you. I am tremendously grateful to them.

To just fill you in on a few of the details of my life I offer this small potted biography.

I left home age 17 and joined the Royal Navy as an electrical mechanic serving in a number of ships but ending up as an Artificer in the submarine service. When I was 18 1/2 I met the most stunning young woman called Helen and was smitten very quickly. We married when I was just 20 and Helen 23. We had two children - Phillip now aged 39 and Samantha aged 37. They both have children and Helen and I were delighted to have 5 grandchildren the oldest of which is now aged 10. When I was 30 I left the RN and trained for the Anglican priesthood at a seminary in Yorkshire and then went on to serve in part of Leigh Park and then Malvern. While in Malvern I finally made the leap across to the Catholic Church after many years of thinking and praying about it. We then moved down to Surrey and I started formation at Wonersh being ordained in 2002. I served in Ash and Heath End for 8 years and then Cranleigh for 11 years. This happy time was brought to a sudden and drastic end by the discovery that my wife had a brain tumour which was very aggressive. Survivability varied from a few months to a small number of years given a favourable response to chemo treatment. In the end, it turned out to be just 2 years, which the Bishop kindly gave me permission to suspend full time ministry to be with, and care for, Helen. As I'm sure you can imagine this was a most precious time - often very difficult with many setbacks and false promises - but the opportunity to spend this quality time with Helen was a priceless gift. Her passing, in January 2023 was quite devastating and I struggled with grief and the most tremendous sadness which continues to this day - although so much more manageable now.

The last year looking after the good people of Worthing was a perfect tonic and pathway back to serving full time once again. And so I'm now ready, or as ready as I ever shall be, to come to be with you. I still have times when things are hard and I feel low but they are becoming fewer and I recognise the signs and try to do things that throw a positive light on life, my family and friends on whom I depend so much.

I hope that very quickly I shall be able to call you friends too as we serve the Gospel of life, love and hope together. Listening and teaching each other of the mysteries of God's tremendous love for each one of us and for His Church. I'm sure I shall get many things wrong and will probably annoy some of you - unintentionally - but nevertheless no less really. I hope we can discern what it means to be a listening, forgiving, outward focussed and mission orientated church community and work together using all of our gifts and talents in this fantastic adventure called 'faith'.

With my prayers and blessings

Fr David Benedict

Btw - I like being called Benedict as much as being called David so don't hesitate to use either. 'Dave' tends to make my toes curl a little bit!

## St Philip Howard Applications – Supplementary Information Forms

For those families making an application to St Philip Howard for Admission in September 2025, Fr David will be available to sign the Supplementary Information form in the Parish Centre between **6pm and 7pm on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October**. **Please bring a copy of your child's baptismal certificate.**

Young people are very welcome to come along, but it is not essential. Please do come along on the 4<sup>th</sup> October as Fr David will be on retreat from 10<sup>th</sup> October and unable to sign any supplementary forms after this date.

### Fr Chris writes...

Some of you will have heard me mention my favourite piece of graffiti in Rome, words from a Tracy Chapman song: *no words to say, no words to convey, this feeling inside I have for you...* My mind is awash with so many fond memories and my heart is full of gratitude for so many blessings received from parishioners and their families, that words fail me. How to say thank you for the generous collection, and for all the cards, gifts, good wishes and prayers that I have received as I move to the new parish in Ashted? Well, St Paul tells us the Spirit prays in us in ways beyond words, so that is also how I will say thank you. Please keep me in your prayers, and please keep in touch! My new contact details are: The Priest's House, The Marld, Ashted, KT21 1RS. Tel: 01372 272267 / 07356 085590 Email: [chris.bergin@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:chris.bergin@abdiocese.org.uk)

### Faith in the family – preparation for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

Each year we invite families who have expressed an interest in finding out how we support them in helping children grow in faith and prepare for the Sacraments to be part of a *Parenting for Faith* course beginning on 3rd October over 8 evenings ending on 12th December in the parish centre on Thursday evenings 7pm to 8.45pm. This course is for the parents and carers of children in year 3 and above, as the first step towards sacramental preparation. There will be an **information and registration evening on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 7pm to 8pm in the Parish Centre**, children are welcome but do not need to attend this meeting. We look forward to seeing you and supporting you and your children in your journey of faith.

As the course begins on 3rd October if you are unable to attend on the 26th September please contact the parish office.

### 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 group will meet on **Tuesday 24th September at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre**. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in joining the group, please do come along. All are welcome.



Do you want to find out more about Christian belief in the context of our challenging lives and troubled times? Are you curious about what and why Christians believe what they do? Then maybe the Alpha course is for you.

Come and join our next course at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Centre, Hislop Walk, Bognor Regis PO21 1LP (at the back of the church) on **Wednesday 2nd October at 7pm** for a simple meal, interesting film and a chance, in a convivial environment, to ask searching questions about faith. Everyone is welcome, whatever your experience of church. The evening is completely free of charge and there is no pressure to sign up for more. Simply come and see!

To book on the course, or for more details, e-mail Liz at [alphabognor@gmail.com](mailto:alphabognor@gmail.com), phone the office or simply turn up!

**Can you help?** Having a shared meal is an important part of our Alpha course and we are blessed to have some wonderful cooks to prepare these meals but more help is also needed. If you feel you can help either with a main course or dessert please contact Jackie Humphreys on 07468 444074.

### Catholic health & care workers' Mass at Arundel Cathedral

**Saturday 5th October 2024, 11am – 3pm with Bishop Richard**

Mass starts at 11am. There will also be a talk on "Palliative care, not assisted dying" by Dr Dominic Whitehouse and social afterwards, in Cathedral centre. Soup lunch provided – donations to Catholic Medical Missionary Society.

**St Vincent de Paul Society** The next meeting will be on Friday 27th September in the Parish Centre at 2.30pm. If you would like to find out more about the work of the SVP in our Parish please do come along, new members are always welcome.