



# The Catholic Parish of Bognor Regis and Slindon

26th April 2026 - Fourth 'Good Shepherd' Sunday of Easter- Year A

## The Parish Team

Fr David Benedict 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)

## Christ, the Good Shepherd

A little while ago somebody gave me a bookmark and I found it, the other day, lurking on my desk. It's decorated with one of those images, you'll know the kind, little water colour pictures intertwined with hand-written quotes from scripture. I rather like them because they cause you to have to do a little work following the words and I find it especially helpful if it is a very familiar passage as it allows more time to reflect as you read.

This particular bookmark has the words of this week's psalm, 'The Lord is my shepherd', so familiar and loved by many. I am gazing at it at the moment and it reminds me that it was once suggested to me that, when faced with a very familiar passage, it can be helpful to work from the bottom to the top, a phrase at a time, allowing you to reflect on each without the distraction of the narrative.

We may choose, this week, to pray in union with everyone who is facing difficulty, be it personally or because of conflict or unrest.

For you are with me... I will fear no evil... guide me along right paths... lead me beside quiet waters... I lack nothing...

The Lord is my shepherd.

*Tony Lucas*

<b>Saturday 25th April</b>		<b>St Mark</b>
St Richard's	9.30am	Deacon Kevin O'Connor Intentions
OLOS	6pm	Peter Brown RIP
<b>Sunday 26th</b>		<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b>
OLOS	9am*	Mike Thompson RIP
OLOS	11am*	People of the Parish
<b>Monday 27th</b>		
OLOS	10am	Intentions of Josephine & Adrian Treloar
<b>Tuesday 28th</b>		
St Anthony's	9.30am	In Thanksgiving
<b>Wednesday 29th</b>		<b>St Catherine of Siena</b>
OLOS	10am	<i>Morning Prayer followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
<b>Thursday 30th</b>		
St Richard's	1pm	<b>Requiem: Peter Fraher RIP</b>
OLOS	7pm	Engagement of Catherine & Jamie
<b>Friday 1st May</b>		
OLOS	10am*	George Watts RIP
<b>Saturday 2nd</b>		<b>St Athanasius</b>
St Richard's	9.30am	Intentions of Fr Austin Hughes
OLOS	6pm	In Thanksgiving
<b>Sunday 3rd</b>		<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>
OLOS	9am*	Peter Fraher RIP
OLOS	11am*	People of the Parish

\*These Masses will be livestreamed on the parish website [www.bognorcatholicparish.co.uk](http://www.bognorcatholicparish.co.uk)

### Masses in Polish

**Saturday 6pm St Anthony's**  
**Sunday 9am St Anthony's 4pm Our Lady of Sorrows**

### Mondays after 10am Mass

Prayers in honour of St Peregrine - Patron Saint of Cancer

### Adoration Our Lady of Sorrows

Wednesdays after 10am Mass until 11.30am

### Adoration and Rosary - St Richard's

Wednesdays 9.30am to 10.30am

### Adoration - St Anthony's

Thursdays 11.30am to 12.30pm

### Rosary - Lady Chapel Our Lady of Sorrows

Fridays after 10am Mass

### Requiem in Aeternum



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

**Maggie Stevens RIP**  
**Dexter Greenwood RIP**

We also remember all whose anniversaries occur about this time:  
**Bridget Melia, Vincent Kent, Michael Wildsmith, Jackie Williamson, Benedict Willcocks, Andy Bolger, John Thomas, Pat Cooke, Ron Brooks, Alan Greenwood, Christopher Jothi**

### Prayers For The Sick

Your prayers are asked for:

**Vivi Brooks, Peter McKay, Pete Snook, Bridget Orfelia, Peter Brook, Fr Sebastian Paul, Joan Sheilds, Arthur Wicks, Edward Earl, Hilary Ceppa, Teresa Willcocks, Lucia Elsom, Mo Moore, Janet Smith, Baby Elliott, Paula Rathke**

*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.

### Sacrament of the Sick

Please contact Fr David  
Tel 01243 823619

### Adoration

During time spent in the presence of the Lord your prayers are particularly asked for an end to the continuing conflict in the Middle East, Ukraine and in so many other places around the world.

Please also pray for those discerning the vocation of priesthood.

### Second Collection this weekend World Day of Prayer for Vocations

For the Education of Future Priests. This donation can be Gift Aided using the contactless machines in the church or your Gift Aid envelopes.

Dear Sisters and Brothers

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday and a day in which the church focuses on the pastoral character of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who is, all at once, our King, our Master, our friend and our guide, and our Judge.

The Gospels are full of little insights into Jesus' character and stories which he tells to illuminate how he sees this task of shepherding his people. He is the Good Shepherd who knows his sheep by name - which is to say as unique persons not as a sort of 'blob'. He cares deeply about each one, especially the weak and those who stray. He is concerned even for other flocks that are "not of his fold" and has a mind for them too.

Today he introduces a new sort of 'level' of analogy - he is also the gate of the sheepfold where the sheep may safely enter and leave the protection of the fold. Once they leave though they still don't need to fend for themselves but he leads them out to pasture them.

It is a new insight this 'door' or gate symbolism. It implies that there is a good way to enter the fold even while there are those trying to get advantage by climbing over the wall. The sheep are in peril, daily, due to those who want to take them away and destroy them. Jesus, as the gatekeeper and the gate, is their true security.

But today is also a day when we pray for vocations to the priesthood. The priesthood continues and makes present the pastoral nature of Jesus and sacramentally re-presents him during our liturgies and rites. A man, called and chosen, and serving in this way truly becomes an *alter christus* (another Christ) making present here and now for God's people the saving actions of Jesus Christ. To do this a priest must learn to conform himself (by grace) to the character and mission of Jesus - and thus become another shepherd, another gate by which Jesus' people may come and go.

But when I say "pray for vocations" there must be people responding to the answer that God gives. Our prayers do not go to a sort of heavenly Amazon of priests whereby God packages up another one and sends him. He gently taps on a person's shoulder and invites him to respond. We then as a flock have to offer encouragement and support to these men as they begin to respond to this wonderful call. God may even use us to awaken this vocation in our children, or friends, or neighbours.

With my love and prayers for you all.

Fr Benedict

### **A Month of Prayer for Priestly Vocations - Good Shepherd Sunday to Pentecost**

Let's ask the Spirit for the gift of priests. This year the whole diocese is invited to come together for four weeks of prayer to the Holy Spirit to grant us a missionary spirit, through the raising up of new vocations to all walks of life in the Church. Foremost among these vocations, we need priests. The priesthood is a special gift to the Church, through which Christ is always present to pour out His Spirit on His people through the holy sacraments.

- On Good Shepherd Sunday read about Jesus, our Shepherd (John 10:1-11) and pray for the priest of the Diocese.
- During the 4th Week of Easter read about the living stones of the Church (1 Peter 2:4-9) and pray for our Catholic families

Leaflets with the suggested prayer itinerary for the month are also available in the churches.

### **Pilgrimage**

On **Friday 1st May at 2.15pm** there will be a Pilgrimage for Parishioners in Chichester Cathedral from the West Door to the Shrine of St Richard following the route taken by medieval pilgrims with Mass in the Lady Chapel celebrated by Fr David. The Cathedral will not be charging but would appreciate donations. Optional tea and cake afterwards in the Cathedral Café at £3.75 per person.

Contact Colin Thorpe on 07736 814364 or Email [gabriellethorpe88@gmail.com](mailto:gabriellethorpe88@gmail.com) to reserve a place, the number of pilgrims is limited to twenty.

## 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.



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 29th April 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!

## KSC Redshirts/Purpleshirts Quiz Night

Thank you to all of the parishioners who have supported our fundraising efforts towards the Redshirts/Purpleshirts Lourdes 2026 pilgrimage so far!

Our next social event to further our fundraising is the Redshirts Quiz Night on Saturday **9th May**, starting at 7pm in the Parish Centre. Come on your own or with a team for an evening of fun, competition and food. A light supper will be provided but please bring your own drinks. Tickets cost £5 and will be on sale after Sunday Masses. There will also be a raffle at £1 a ticket.

## St Anthony's May Fayre - Saturday 16th May, 10.30am to 12.30pm

There will be various stalls including - Cakes, Raffle, Jewellery, Books, quality items for our Pretty Things stall, Toys & Games, Bric a Brac Plants and Garden Tools. There will also be Tea, Coffee and Cakes served.

Donations will be gratefully received, these can be left at the Parish Office or at St Anthony's. Graham has again kindly offered to collect items if you cannot make either of the drop off points, he can be contacted on 01243 262467. Many thanks for your support.

## Diocesan Recruitment

Due to expansion of the Schools Singing Programme (SSP), the Diocese are seeking to recruit a Choral Director who will work within the Diocese Education Service and alongside two existing Choral Directors. The person appointed will be responsible for the SSP in our Diocesan schools in Surrey. Further information can be found at [www.abdiocese.org.uk/careers/choral](http://www.abdiocese.org.uk/careers/choral)

**Gift Aid Envelopes** - For the Tax Year 2026-2027 are now available for collection from the Parish shop or office, the first eligible collection for the new tax year is the weekend of 12th April. Thank you to all who donate this way. If you are a tax payer and wish to donate by weekly envelope, please contact the parish office.

### Offertory Collections March

Offertory Plate Collections	£3,139.15
Gift Aid Envelopes	£1,086.50
Bankers Orders	£6,196.50
Contactless Machines	£ 627.00
CAF donations	<u>£ 25.00</u>
	<b>£11,074.15</b>

### Second Collection

CAFOD Family Fast Day	£850.40
HCPT	£509.00
EVC Uganda	£617.73

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. Since January we have received £18,385 in Gift Aid 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. If you have any queries please do contact the Parish office.