



The Catholic Parish of Bognor Regis and Slindon

26th January 2025 - Third 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

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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

Our Mission

The mission of Jesus, as he proclaims it, in this Sunday's Gospel is our mission also. In the second reading, St Paul describes us, as being a part of the Body of Christ. If this is who we are, then our mission and the mission of Jesus must be the same.

Our mission, should we choose to accept it, is to make a difference in people's lives by sharing the love and mercy of God with them. We can take Jesus's list quite literally, and it gives us a few groups of people who we should care for. The poor, captives, the blind and the oppressed. This is not a bad way to read the text, but it is quite simplistic and following this path probably won't transform the whole world.

Rather than material poverty, or physical captivity, how does the mission read when we look at our hearts? How noble are we, how compassionate are we, how prepared are we to suffer for the sake of another. When we look at our hearts in comparison to Jesus, we recognise that we are the ones who are poor, we are the captives, we are blind and we are oppressed. We are the ones, first of all who need an encounter with Jesus who is the Good News.

But we are also a part of the Body of Christ, we are the Church, we are the ones trying to live out this mission. We need the Holy Spirit to help us to see ourselves as we truly are and also to see ourselves as God sees us – as God's dearly loved children.

When we recognise our own needs, we become more able to see the needs of others and our compassion grows and we dare to reach out to support and help others.

This year we celebrate a Jubilee Year of God's favour. We are called, as part of the Body of Christ, to bring the truth of God's mercy and love into a lived reality.

When I recognise my own failings and appreciate God's mercy and love for me, I become more understanding of others struggles and I become better equipped to walk alongside people who are struggling.

We are followers of Jesus, on fire with his love, sharing that love with each other and the world. We pray that we may continue to recognise the love that we receive through Jesus.

David Beresford - Parish Leadership Team

Saturday 25th January		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
Monday 27th		
OLOS	10am	John Segroe RIP
Tuesday 28th		
St Anthony's	9.30am	Theresa & Mick Watson RIP
Wednesday 29th		
OLOS	10am	Martin Noohan RIP
Thursday 30th		
OLOS	7pm	Sue Nagle RIP
Friday 31st		St John Bosco
OLOS	10am	Margaret & Bert Edginton RIP
Saturday 1st February		
St Richard's	9.30am	Kathleen Morgan RIP
OLOS	6pm	Henry McGarry RIP
Sunday 2nd		The Presentation of the Lord
OLOS	9am	Tom Walsh RIP
OLOS	11am	People of the Parish

Requiem in Aeternum



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

Victor Edward Leakey RIP

We also remember all whose anniversaries occur about this time:

Joyce Krause, Kevin Jamieson, Christine Nicholson, John Dyson, Rachel Moore, Hugh Ayres, Vera Hallett, Ann Gorton, Lucy Sallis, Christine Snow, Paul Slater, Peter Oates, Harold Green, Margaret Coney

Prayers For The Sick

Your prayers are asked for:

Richard Hazelgrove, Mark Byerley, Kath Stimpson, Lucia Elsom, 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

Victor Edward Leakey RIP

Friday 14th February, 10am

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

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

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...

This Sunday is Sunday of the Word of God - and the readings we have before us draw our attention to the power of, especially, the written word. Our Diocesan Pastoral Plan has, as its title, "The Word who is life" which is a quote from one of John's epistles, or letters. The Holy Scriptures are the Word of God and they are also human words as men strove to give an account of their personal experience of encounter with God, or of the community as a whole. As Ezra the scribe stands and reads all morning, the power of the words of the Law gives shape and purpose to the newly reconstituted and formed Jewish people returned from exile. The word binds them in an encounter with God through the Books of the Law and thus brings them face to face with the God they cannot see but whose law continued to shape their lives even in exile.

In the synagogue in Nazareth Jesus reads some words from scripture too, this time from the Prophet Isaiah, concerning the Messiah, or Servant of the Lord. In this case Jesus announces something quite extraordinary - that the long hoped for prophetic words are now realised even as those gathered there were listening. To put it another way - the Words of the prophecy on the page proclaimed aloud by Jesus take flesh and concrete form in His person. "The Word became flesh and lived among us full of grace and truth."

That Word still becomes "alive and active" each time the scriptures are proclaimed in our midst. The synagogue hearers, initially awestruck and full of a sense of expectation very quickly rejected Jesus. That same choice is placed before us each time we hear Jesus speak in the scriptures - do we hear him with our hearts and then follow and obey or do we reject him, or the bits we find uncomfortable?

Next week we celebrate Candlemas. An extraordinary and beautiful liturgy as we encounter Jesus' presentation in the Temple. We are invited to go on that same journey with Jesus, Mary and Joseph as they made a kind of pilgrimage of grace to the Temple. We will process into our Temple, the Church, with our lights in our hands and then go on a little walk around the Church as Mass begins. I do hope you will join us and join in.

With 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 and introducing **Fr Peter** in his first role with us: **Fortescue, Judge's clerk**. 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 all weekend Masses. Proceeds to Parish Funds.



St Vincent
de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

St Vincent de Paul Society The next meeting will be on Friday 31st January 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.

Ruth Group

The next meeting of the Ruth Group will be on Thursday 13th February, gathering for Mass at 7pm, followed by refreshments and discussion in the Parish Centre.

Our topic will be a 'Reflection on quiet Masses and our Spiritual Growth.' If you have any queries please contact Angela on 07760 224302.

Candlemas - Light of the World

Next weekend at all Sunday Masses, we celebrate Candlemas, symbolising the light of Christ and the hope of salvation. Candles will be available to parishioners for the procession. We are encouraged to take these home as a reminder that the light of Christ is among us no matter how dark, remote, or impoverished we are. Also, candles to be used in the church throughout the year will be blessed. You may also bring your own candles to be blessed and used in the home for prayer throughout the year.

Ash Wednesday

Traditionally blessed palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday are burned and prepared for Ash Wednesday. Parishioners are invited to bring in their palms before Sunday 23rd February for our Ash Wednesday services in Our Lady of Sorrows at 10am and 7.30pm on 5th March. Baskets will be available at the entrances to the churches.

A&B Diocese Lourdes Pilgrimage

Next weekend's second collection will be in aid of the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund, this donation can be Gift Aided using the envelopes provided or on the contactless machines in Our Lady of Sorrows.

Applications for this summer's Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

(25th-31st July by air or own transport, 24th July-1st August by coach/jumbulance) are now open on the diocesan website: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/lourdes/home>

Our pilgrimage to Lourdes is one of the most significant pastoral events in our annual Diocesan calendar. Pope Francis has declared 2025 is a Jubilee year, the Lourdes theme is 'With Mary, Pilgrims of Hope'. We are invited to set out on our pilgrimage journey with our Lady and St Bernadette, in the 'hope born of grace, which enables us to live in Christ.' (Pope Francis, Spes non Confundit 2025)

Lourdes is a place of renewal, unlike tourists, visiting a popular attraction, we are pilgrims, making the journey together, we laugh together, break bread together, and we enter a space in which we can be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in ways that, perhaps, we would never have thought possible

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.

Arundel Catenians

Invite you to St Patrick's Day Celebration, Arundel Cathedral Centre, Monday 17th March, 6pm (*wear something green!*). Enjoy welcome drinks, a 2 course dinner, Irish dancers and an Irish sing-a-long! Tickets £40, to book contact dr.sandredgwick@gmail.com



Calling all gardeners...

Once again it is time to start preparing for our CAFOD Annual Plant Sale by taking cuttings, sowing seeds and encouraging friends and neighbours to participate. This is a great parish event when we come together in hope to celebrate nature and witness to being a Live Simply Parish. For more information please contact the CAFOD team on 07736 814364.