



The Catholic Parish of Bognor Regis and Slindon

2nd February 2025 - The Presentation of the Lord - Year C

The Parish Team

Fr David Benedict Osborne - david.osborne@abdiocese.org.uk

Fr Tomasz Mezyk (Polish Mission) - 07771 413345

Parish Secretary: Caroline Battersby - bognor@abdiocese.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Abigail Leggatt (for building matters) - admin.bognor@abdiocese.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Rep: Liz Bedford - 07456 420108 / 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 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

We are all part of God's plan

In the first reading we hear Malachi telling us "Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare a way for me." Do you believe that God has a plan for you too? We are all given different gifts which we can use to reach out to people. When we use these spiritual gifts, we often feel energised! Are you aware when you are using your God-given gifts? Do you find yourself reaching out to people to encourage them, walk with them and to be a listening ear for those who need to talk to someone?

At the end of the second reading from Hebrews we hear the words: "For because He (Jesus) himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. When do you feel tempted and what do you do to resist doing things you know you should not do?"

In Luke's Gospel we hear how Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to the temple to present Him to the Lord and how a man called Simeon, who is described as righteous and devout, had been told by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. He proclaims "Lord, you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for the revelation to the Gentiles, and for the glory of your people Israel." Further on we hear about how His mother and father marvelled about what was said about Him.

There was also a prophetess called Anna who was advanced in years. She did not leave the Temple, worshipping with fasting and prayer night and day. This is very intentional and it has made me reflect on how I prioritise my Prayer life! How will you respond to God's word this week? What will you do differently this week? How will you prioritise what you will do this week?

We also need to remember that actions in our lives can also be a prayer reaching out to those who are lonely, offering to accompany people when they need a listening ear, setting a good example and encouraging people in their faith. Pray for discernment and then act on it as this is all part of God's plan!

Margaret Fraher Parish Leadership Team

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
Monday 3rd		
OLOS	10am	Barry Sheehan RIP
Tuesday 4th		
St Anthonys	9.30am	Eleanor Fisher RIP
Wednesday 5th		
St Agatha		
OLOS	10am	Requiem: Leonore Cosgrave RIP
Thursday 6th		
St Paul Miki & Companions		
OLOS	7pm	James, Margaret & Patrick Roohan RIP
Friday 7th		
OLOS	10am	Deirdre Sobey RIP
Saturday 8th		
St Richard's	9.30am	Ian Fleming RIP
OLOS	6pm	John Dooley RIP
Sunday 9th		
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time		
OLOS	9am	Robert Cocklin RIP
OLOS	11am	People of the Parish

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 - Lady Chapel Our Lady of Sorrows

Fridays after 10am Mass until 2pm

Requiem in Aeternum



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

Maureen Collins RIP

We also remember all whose anniversaries occur about this time:
Hannah Allen, James Roohan, Noola Thorp, Brendan Tully, Winifride Bonnar, Brenda Thorpe, Dennis Northern, Dawn Holmes, Philip Haggar, Sr Matthew Kinsella, John French, Samuel Essen

Prayers For The Sick

Your prayers are asked for:

Matthew McKay, Richard Hazelgrove, Mark Byerley, Kath Stimpson, Lucia Elsom, Mo Moore, Janet Smith, Richard Green, Baby Elliott, Paula Rathke 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

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.

Second Collection next weekend

The Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund, this donation can be Gift Aided using the envelopes provided or on the contactless machines.

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...

Well, it's all a bit different today - and all the better for that!

Today we celebrate the presentation of Jesus in the Temple and that is what Mary, and Joseph were expecting and, no doubt, had prepared Jesus for this important milestone in his spiritual journey. Yet, as is so often the case, when we set out on a journey with a simple idea or a known destination, something else happens. This can disturb us, intrigue us, confuse us, or we can just let it wash over us as we continue to target the destination we always had in mind.

It's no different for Jesus Mary and Joseph. Once in the Temple "to do for Jesus what the Law demanded" other things started to come at them. Older people who just love a baby. People "just" praying in the Temple. They all have something to say - both wonderfully encouraging and also troubling. No doubt everyone smiled at the wonderful things but, we are told, Mary stored it all away and pondered these things in her heart.

I hope that as we imitate, liturgically, a sort of journey into our temple - the church - that you too will continue to ponder what you see and hear and to think on what it all means for you and for us. And take your light home with you. It's a symbol of the precious gift that Jesus has given to you - to the world. His light which enlightens the Gentiles and is the glory of His people Israel. May your light so shine in the presence of men and women that seeing your good works they will give praise to God the Father.

With every blessing

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.

Sunday Breakfasts 2024

During 2024 the Sunday Breakfast teams served **1,316 breakfasts** to the less fortunate in our Parish. That's just over 25 "full English", cooked from scratch, served, cleared away, and washed up within the space of just over two hours. So pretty flat out at times but the return is out of all proportion to the effort put in, especially when the words of one breakfast guest are remembered - *"It really is a place where I feel safe, a place where I feel wanted. I know those who I chat with or those guys in the kitchen aren't paid. You do this because you care. To know that some people don't want anything from me, (I've nothing to give anyway), means a lot, I can't find words to describe it really."*

We are a small team, and new volunteers are both welcome and very much needed, so if you think this is something you might be interested in helping with or would just like a bit more information please contact Elizabeth Folman by email, (eafolman@aol.com) or telephone 01243 551399.

Do you have any ring binder folders gathering dust?

They make a massive difference to GCSSE students preparing for exams. St Philip Howard School is collecting unwanted ring binders to support their students' revision. Please drop off any you may have at the Parish Centre. Every folder donated will be greatly appreciated.

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

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)

Our Lady of Sorrows Heating

High energy costs are a major expense across our parish and the heating in Our Lady of Sorrows particularly onerous. Thanks to a generous legacy, the Finance Committee made the decision to install insulation in the church roof at a cost of £26,400 which has now been completed. To further reduce costs, from next week, we will be setting the timer to only come for Mass times rather than on throughout the day whilst the church is open. At this point we do not know how long it will take to heat up the church to a comfortable temperature before Masses and will be experimenting with different settings. We hope this process does not take too long establish and your patience would be appreciated.

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.

Can you Help?

L'Arche are seeking a volunteer to support 2-3 of their residents to participate in the local Special Olympics group. This is an established routine taking over from an existing volunteer who is moving away. The commitment is from 5:45pm – 7:45pm on Monday evenings and comes with support from a L'Arche staff member. Volunteers would need to either drive their own car (4 adult passengers, expenses paid) or the L'Arche Galaxy. The role could be shared by two people taking turns. Ability to join in with the activities would be great but is not essential. For more information or to join us on Monday contact Martha on 07442 875678.

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.sandrasedgwick@gmail.com

Southwark Arundel & Brighton Brethren CIO

Help to make sure our sick and retired priests are well cared for after many years of service to the Lord and His people. If you can support their work donations can be made by cheque to 'Southwark Arundel & Brighton Brethren CIO' or by Standing Order: A/C 00036729, Sort Code: 40 52 40. For more information please contact: Tel: 07939 654522, Address 3 Birch Way, Warlingham CR6 9DA, Email: southwark.a.bbthren3@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.