



The Catholic Parish of Bognor Regis and Slindon

2nd March 2025 - Eighth 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

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

Lenten Preparation

Last Sunday I had a strong realisation that almost every good, exciting, profound experience that I have had in my life so far, has been as a direct result of God's grace, God's love, God's artistry in his creation of this beautiful world. I had a strong sense that God wants me to fan the flame of my faith, (which can dwindle to a very tiny, pathetic little spark if I am not careful) into a fire, that reveals the extent of his love and mercy. Giving me eyes to see, ears to hear and a heart to contemplate the amazing gifts he has in store for me.

How can I develop these senses so that I am also able to see the splinters in my eye, my prejudices and blind spots? How do I continue working at the Lord's work always and not give in to despair, fear or anxiety?

Our readings today are full of wisdom in this quest. We are known by the fruit we produce! Not by our numbers of followers or our glowing skin or our amazing success in our careers or hobbies. These things may produce good fruit but equally may well not. Our fruit comes from our hearts and these belong securely to the God of love and mercy, truth and compassion. The God who welcomes the most marginalised to the top table at the wedding, those with disabilities and addictions, difficult relationships and tough lives. The God who wants to carry us, to share our burdens, to walk alongside us in our desert. God who is there consoling us with a still, small voice. All we have to do is stop for a while and look and listen.

As we start our Lenten season on Wednesday, with our good intentions, fasting and almsgiving, let us not forget that the most important thing of all is being with him. Letting him look at us and love us. Making time to stop and listen to the one who will give everything to be close to us and who is waiting for us. Thank you Jesus for this amazing gift of yourself. Help us to come really close to you this Lent.

Martha Myers

Saturday 1st March		St David
St Richard's	9.30am	Leonore Cosgrove RIP
OLOS	6pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 2nd		Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
OLOS	9am	Nan & Clifford Baker RIP
OLOS	11am	Deirdre Sobey RIP
Monday 3rd		
OLOS	10am	P.J. Donohoe RIP
Tuesday 4th		
St Anthony's	9.30am	Sheila Evans RIP
OLOS	10am	Requiem: Bartlomiej Gibowicz RIP
Wednesday 5th		Ash Wednesday
OLOS	10am	Staff & Pupils of St Mary's
OLOS	7.30pm	People of the Parish
Thursday 6th		
OLOS	7pm	Nora Day RIP
Friday 7th		
OLOS	11am	Sue Nagle RIP
Saturday 8th		
St Richard's	9.30am	Wellbeing of Matthew McKay
OLOS	6pm	Daithi Harvery RIP
Sunday 9th		First Sunday of Lent
OLOS	9am	People of the Parish
OLOS	11am	Leonore Cosgrove RIP

Requiem in Aeternum



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

Christopher Hull RIP

We also remember all whose anniversaries occur about this time:
Eileen Morgan, Helen Litten, Gweniffer Thorp, Paula Faulkner, Robert Taylor, Austin Godenzi, Sabina Gasta, Elsie Chapman, Donald McClaren, Mary Ford, Gabrielle Jenkins, Bill Dearie, Sheila Dray, Douglas Moorey, Giovana Southam, Joan Vickers, Tom Frears, Elizabeth Laneham, Stuart Francis, Joe Duffy

Prayers For The Sick

Your prayers are asked for:

Hilary Ceppa, Frances Hind, Teresa Willcocks, Matthew McKay, Kath Stimpson, Lucia Elsom, Mo Moore, Janet Smith, 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

Alex Burns RIP

Wednesday 12th March, 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

Stations of the Cross

Our Lady of Sorrows: Fridays after 11am Mass

St Anthony's: Tuesdays beginning 11th March at 6.30pm

St Richard's: Wednesdays beginning 12th March at 11.30am

Morning & Evening Prayer

Where possible Morning & Evening Prayer will be offered in the half hour before Weekday Masses in Our Lady of Sorrows.

Rosary - Lady Chapel Our Lady of Sorrows

Wednesdays after 10am Mass

Adoration and Rosary - St Richard's

Wednesdays during Lent 10.30am to 11.30am

Adoration - St Anthony's

Thursdays 11.30am to 12.30am

Adoration - Lady Chapel Our Lady of Sorrows

Resumes after Lent

Fr David Benedict writes...

Dear Sisters and Brothers

In a famous passage in the gospel of John Jesus says: "I am the way, the truth, and the life." in response to St Thomas' question, or rather desperate statement: "Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Today is the 8th Sunday in ordinary time and, if we are just going week by week and not paying much attention to things, we might expect next week to be the 9th Sunday in ordinary time. But, no. Actually there is an interruption in the order of things and ordinary time isn't going to be back with us until July.

What lies in between is a time, or opportunity, for growth and change and development of our spiritual character. The first part is called Lent, which is in fact an old word for "springtime" and springtime is the time when what lies hidden underground begins to poke its head above the soil. The second part is called Eastertide and is an opportunity for us to celebrate that place where Jesus is taking us. He is taking us to the place where His Father is - to eternal life.

But first, there is work to be done. As this week's gospel reveals we all too often are walking around with "planks" in our eyes. We are blinded, in other words, not by little specks but by things so pervasive and all encompassing that we have grown used to them. Too used to them. Lent is an opportunity for repentance; for deepening and maturing, for study and reflection, for service and for forgetting the demanding "self", and for seeing the needs and qualities of others. We often speak of "giving up" for Lent but in fact we are being asked to "let go" in order to discover where we are going, how we are going to get there and who is on the journey with us.

Have heart and hope and joy in this spring clean that is almost upon us.

With my love and prayers

Fr David Benedict

Parish Pantomime

We are delighted to announce that, after all expenses have been accounted for, the sum of £2,106 was raised for Parish funds. Raising money is not the principle reason for putting on our annual show, that remains, as it always has been, to draw people of all ages together from across the Parish for months of fun and laughter in rehearsal and, hopefully, to share that joy with our wonderful audiences.

Thanks to everyone involved in the production but most of all thank you to everyone who filled the auditorium for each performance, you made all the difference: oh, yes, you did!

Next year's Pantomime will be on Thursday 19th, Friday 20th and Saturday 21st February 2026.



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 23rd 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, phone the office or simply turn up!

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.

Lenten Soup Lunches

- **Our Lady of Sorrows Fridays at 12 noon beginning 7th March** following Stations of the Cross at 11.30am. Monies raised will be in aid of CAFOD
- **St Richard's, Slindon Wednesdays at 12 noon beginning 12th March** following Stations of the Cross at 11.30am. Monies raised will help 'Breakfasts for the Homeless' provided every Sunday at Our Lady of Sorrows.



Join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk in the Jubilee Year

And journey together with Catholics in England, Wales and Scotland as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year - walking 200km over 40 days during Lent.

A couple in our parish aged 80 and 79 have signed up for this (sponsorship details to follow). Could you join them either alone or with friends and get sponsorship to help fight global poverty? Perhaps include in your journey a visit to one of the churches or shrines designated as places of pilgrimage in our Diocese (Arundel Cathedral, Worth and St Joseph's Guildford) as part of your Big Lent Walk. For more information visit cafod.org.uk or contact the Parish CAFOD team on 07736 814364

CAFOD Event Sunday 16th March after 11am Mass

The Parish CAFOD team invite you to a gardening event with the opportunity to pick up some interesting seeds offered by parishioners, a children's activity and cake sale in the Parish Centre. Our Parish celebrating Living Simply and with one another in nature.

Introduction to Christian Meditation

Meditation, also known as contemplative prayer, seeks God in silence and stillness beyond words and thoughts.

The Bognor Meditation Group (part of WCCM, World Community for Christian Meditation (<https://wccm.org/>)) meets most Wednesdays at 7.30pm at 6 Victoria Drive (Friends Meeting House).

We are a friendly welcoming group and during Lent are holding a 6 week introduction to Christian Meditation, starting on Wednesday 12th March. Each session will last about 45 minutes, which includes a period of silent meditation. You are very welcome to join us for any or all of these sessions.

For more details call Frances and Bennie Pieters Tel 01243 262319.

Lenten Retreat Day - Wednesday 26th March

Bread of Heaven: a day of spiritual nourishment led by Roger Hagon at Sussex Heritage Centre, Arundel BN18 9QY. From 10am to 4pm. Cost: £15 to include refreshments and lunch of soup and bread. For more information visit www.sussexheritage.co.uk.

To book contact Maria by Email: info@sussexheritage.co.uk or Tel: 07413 267267

World Day of Prayer Friday 7th March

This year's annual Ecumenical service has been written by the people of the Cook Islands on the theme of "I made you wonderful." Opportunities to worship with fellow Christians will take place at:

- St Mary's, Church Lane, Walberton BN18 0UD at 2.30pm.
- Felpham Methodist Church, 118 Felpham Way, Bognor Regis PO22 8QL at 2pm followed by refreshments.

Young Adult Jubilee Pilgrimage to Rome

Join our pilgrimage for young adults aged 18-30 to celebrate the special Jubilee year. Celebrate with other like-minded people, as we travel to the beautiful city of Rome for opportunities to hear from, and pray with, Pope Francis on the theme of Hope. Cost: £995 including flights, half board, access to Jubilee events and pilgrim pack. E: lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk for information. **CLOSING DATE 31 MARCH**