



The Catholic Parish of Bognor Regis and Slindon

5th January 2025 - The Epiphany of the Lord - Year C

The Parish Team

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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

Fr David writes...

I think I noticed the workmen preparing to take down the Christmas lights in the High Street today. But in the Church, Christmas continues, or perhaps we should say the revelation of the Incarnation continues apace. We have moved forward this weekend from Jesus' birth in the squalor of a stable to a visitation by wise men from the East bearing gifts of symbolic meaning - and probably the passage of some time between the two events has also occurred in real time.

Epiphany (the showing forth) is really the conflation of a number of historical events which are recorded to enable us to understand who Jesus was. And who he still is, I suppose.

Epiphany is not just the wise men, but also the Baptism in the Jordan, the Wedding Feast at Cana in Galilee, and the Presentation in the Temple. Each of these events draws our attention more deeply into the mystery of who Jesus is and what he means. The witness of certain key figures provide testimony that he is who the Church says he is - the Anointed of God. The Chosen One, the Christ, the Messiah. The Son of God. These key revelations enable us to believe and have faith in Jesus and thus, ultimately, in the Gospel message that he brings with him. God is coming to us in order to draw us back to him in friendship and love.

As I come into Jesus' presence at Mass today maybe I can ask myself what do I bring to offer to him for his service? Have I recognised the gifts he has already given me which he is inviting me to put to use in service of the Gospel; of the poor; of those who are lost and so on? We are here to help each other recognise these gifts and equip each other for mission. The revelation of who Jesus is has not ceased once the Wise men have left for home. It continues in new ways today right here in Bognor and Slindon. And the need to make Jesus known is as pressing as ever. It's up to us and the Holy Spirit now.

May I close by thanking you all for the many cards and gifts that you have given to me. For your good wishes and thanks. Your words of encouragement and so on. But also for your Christmas Offering which I will use to support myself in the coming weeks and months. Thank you.

And may God bless you.

Fr David Benedict

Saturday 4th January		
St Richard's	9.30am	Mary Elizabeth Cole RIP
OLOS	6pm	Trixie Davison RIP
Sunday 5th		
The Epiphany of the Lord		
OLOS	9am	People of the Parish
OLOS	11am	Steve Goss RIP
Monday 6th		
OLOS	10am	Jim Hubbard RIP
Tuesday 7th		
St Anthony's	9.30am	Trish & Don Osborne RIP
Wednesday 8th		
OLOS	10am	Ann Holste RIP
Thursday 9th		
OLOS	7pm	Christina Flood RIP
Friday 10th		
OLOS	9am	Staff & Pupils of St Mary's
Saturday 11th		
St Richard's	9.30am	Betty Burnett RIP
OLOS	6pm	Arlene & Sean O'Neill RIP
Sunday 12th		
The Baptism of the Lord		
OLOS	9am	People of the Parish
OLOS	11am	Helen Lesley Osborne RIP

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

Requiem in Aeternum



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

Deidre Sobey RIP

We also remember all whose anniversaries occur about this time:
Megan Spence, Olivia Harrison, Wendy Willcocks, Noreen O'Connor, Catherine Thomas, Chris Baker, Linda Givern, Veronica Mathe, Thomas Byrne, Catherine Higgins, Sheila Burke, Patsy Cox, Jerzy Mazurek, Anthony Wood, Chris Lynch, Miranda Johnson

Prayers For The Sick

Your prayers are asked for:

Mark Byerley, Kath Stimpson, Lucia Elsom, Stella Risi, Tim Moss, Mo Moore, Janet Smith, Richard Green, Baby Elliott, Paula Rathke, Teresa Willcocks, Jo Wilkinson, Madeleine Wolfe, Alex Burns, Maureen Collins, Therese Brooks, Claire Amaladoss, 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

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

Celebrating baptism is a joy for families, and for the parish family, and we're delighted to welcome families looking to celebrate this wonderful gift of God. To register for the next preparation course please contact Angela on 07760 224302.

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.



Crib Collection

Our Christmas Crib Offering will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society Arundel and Brighton Crisis Fund. This provides direct support to local children and families in our diocese who are facing a crisis in their lives. Donations can be made on the contactless machines in the church.



Thank you from Operation Elf

Over 100 Christmas gifts were delivered to Ford Prison from the parishioners of Bognor Regis & Slindon Catholic parish.

These will be given to Dad's with school age children who will in turn give these gifts to their children when they come on their Christmas visit.

Operation Elf is a project run by Pact – Prison Advice & Care Trust, England & Wales' national Catholic prison charity. To find out more on how to volunteer and pray for Pact's work visit www.prisonadvice.org.uk

Thank you from Fr Peter - For the gifts and cards received and with deepest thanks for the warm welcome, encouragement and support that I've received in the past year.

Thank you from St Anthony's

We are pleased to announce that St Anthony's Christmas Carol Service, followed by mulled wine, mince pies and cake raised £160, a box and several carrier bags full of foodstuff for Bognor Regis Foodbank. Thank you to all who donated.

Intercession with the Christ Child - Parish Home Visitation Outreach 2024/2025

Since April 2024 families and individuals have been hosting an image of the Christ Child, originally sculpted in Bethlehem, and blessed at Christmas Mass in Bethlehem in 2009. The Christ Child has provided opportunities for individual, family and community prayer for special intentions and for the peace of the world.

For Advent the Christ Child is in our St. Mary's School visiting each of the classes, and is the focus of their Advent prayer times.

Weekly spaces are available to families and individuals from December 29th. Email Antonia to request the Christ Child to visit your home - antonia4161@gmail.com

A parishioner said ...The mere presence of the Christ Child was so comforting, and reminder of the Lords assistance in our lives. The prayer meeting with my neighbours was so inspiring. We loved it!

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 next meeting will be on **Tuesday 14th January at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre.**

The Lullaby Trust

Support for families & awareness of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome

Thank you for all who have donated used stamps for this appeal, it is a very much appreciated source of income for the Trust. Please continue to collect and donate used stamps for this charity which can be left in the Parish Centre or Repository.

Can you help?

Michael Higgins, who lives very near to Our Lady of Sorrows, would very much appreciate assistance in bringing him to 11am Mass on Sundays in his wheelchair. It is a very short walk from his home to the church, if you feel you could help please contact Sheila on 07887 878088.

Thank you from Missio

A total of £408.00 has been donated by the parish in 2024 through the Red Box collection. If you would like to donate in this way please collect a box from the parish centre. Donations for the valuable work of Missio can also be made online at missio.org.uk



Parish Repository Shop

The new Sunday Missals are now back in stock along with a selection of cards, gifts, rosaries and books. The shop is open during Parish office hours and after the Sunday Masses.

Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Word

Saturday 25th January 11am-4pm at St Wilfrid's Parish Centre, Burgess Hill (no cost)

Led by Bishop Richard. The day will include talks on the Scriptures, the Lectionary and its use in the Liturgy, the Liturgy of the Word, and preparing to minister as a reader. There will be a time of Lectio Divina, and the day will conclude with the celebration of Mass. Register your place here <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events>

CCRS – South – beginning Tuesday 14th January 2025

The CCRS (Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies) will be run at Cardinal Newman School in Hove on Tuesdays from 3.45-5.45pm. Each module (5 sessions) will be delivered over a term and the course will complete in 2 academic years. There is a £20 registration fee which enables us to register you with the national administrator of this course. Additionally, £30 is charged for each of the 8 modules. This may be paid by the student, or they may be sponsored by their school/parish. Teachers, TAs, Catechists and anyone wishing to develop their understanding of the Faith are welcome. Register your place here <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events>

SAVE THE DATE – Saturday 20th September 2025 Festival of Hope

Celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Diocese and the Universal Jubilee Year with your family and friends this September. We pray that this inspirational and uplifting event will ignite a spiritual renewal in our own lives and across our communities. Put the date in your diary now, because tickets will be allocated to Parishes in the new year! The event is taking place at Ardingly South of England Event Centre, tickets will be free of charge, with talks and activities suitable for all ages.

Jubilee for Youth – Pilgrims of Hope. Rome 28th July – 4th August 2025

A pilgrimage for young adults aged 18-30 to celebrate this special year of forgiveness and reconciliation. Join 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. Including flights, half-board hotel and entry to events, the Diocese is offering this trip for only £995. Contact formation@abdiocese.org.uk to find out more.

Offertory Collections November

Offertory Plate Collections	£2465.56
Gift Aid Envelopes	£ 556.50
Bankers Orders	£5467.00
Contactless Machines	£ 399.00
CAF donations	<u>£ 55.00</u>
	£8943.06

Second Collections

Retired Priests	£257.44
Arundel Cathedral Main.	£273.99

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. This year £18,119.31 has been 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. *You can also register for Gift Aid even if you already donate by Standing Order*, if you have any queries please do contact the Parish office.