



The Catholic Parish of Bognor Regis and Slindon

6th April 2025 - Fifth Sunday of Lent - 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
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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

Life and freedom

This weekend our scripture readings (we are using the readings of Year A) speak of life and freedom. As we draw ever closer to Holy Week in this Jubilee year, we journey as pilgrims of Hope. As we hear Jesus calling Lazarus to come out of the tomb to be unbound, we are invited to let go of those things that hold us back in our lives that we may fully live the life that our loving, merciful God calls us to live.

The words of the Preface this weekend are very beautiful:

'For as true man (Jesus) wept for Lazarus his friend, and as eternal God raised him from the tomb, just as, taking pity on the human race, he leads us by sacred mysteries to new life.'

The days are lengthening, the trees are in new leaf so let us pray this week that we may share the joy of the new life all around us and pray, too, that we may be agents of forgiveness and mercy in all the situations of our lives.

Tony Lucas

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.

Saturday 5th April		
St Richard's	9.30am	Ellie Maxwell RIP Anniversary
OLOS	6pm	In Thanksgiving
Sunday 6th		Fifth Sunday of Lent
OLOS	9am	Ian Wood RIP
OLOS	11am	People of the Parish
Monday 7th		
OLOS	10am	Lucy Stock RIP Anniversary
Tuesday 8th		
St Anthony's	9.30am	Richard Hazelgrove RIP
St Richard's	2pm	Requiem: Basil Robin Mills RIP
St Anthony's	6.30pm	Stations of the Cross
Wednesday 9th		
OLOS	10am	Valerie Burholt RIP
St Richard's	1.30am	Stations of the Cross
Thursday 10th		
OLOS	7pm	Ann Holste RIP
Friday 11th		
OLOS	10am	<i>No Mass</i>
St Richard's	10am	Requiem: Christopher Hull RIP
OLOS	11.30am	Stations of the Cross
Saturday 12th		
St Richard's	9.30am	Derek Smith RIP
OLOS	6pm	Francis Dunne RIP
Sunday 13th		Palm Sunday the Passion of the Lord
OLOS	9am	Wellbeing of Jeanette Walton
OLOS	11am	People of the Parish

Requiem in Aeternum



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

We also remember all whose anniversaries occur about this time:
**Joyce Burns, Ellie Maxwell,
David Timlin, Elizabeth Lavelle,
David Andrews, Ray Pinkney,
Ellen Carroll, Sr Christine Reilly osm,
Patrick Reid, Bruno Taylor**

Prayers For The Sick

Your prayers are asked for:
**Jill Taylor, Hilary Ceppa, 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

Masses in Polish

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

CAFOD

Myanmar Earthquake Appeal

Following the devastating earthquake in Myanmar, CAFOD is responding through the Catholic Church there to support families affected by the disaster. Your donations will provide essentials like water, food, solar lights, and mosquito nets. Please give to CAFOD's Myanmar Earthquake Appeal in church or you can donate online at cafod.org.uk/myanmar or by calling 0303 303 3030. You can also text EARTHQUAKE to 70450 to donate £10.

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Once again, we are hearing the readings for Year A as we conclude the Scrutinies for our catechumens who are now the Elect of God. This 5th Sunday we hear of the most compelling, and awe inspiring "sign" that Jesus accomplished - the raising of Lazarus.

Apart from Jesus and Lazarus, who are clearly the centre of the story there are two others - Martha and Mary - Lazarus' sisters. They are followers of Jesus just like His disciples and they welcomed Jesus into their home on many occasions. When Lazarus fell desperately ill it is not at all surprising that the two sisters should turn to Jesus for help.

Except that Jesus wasn't around at that time. So they had to send word asking him to hurry to Lazarus' aid. But Jesus doesn't hurry at all. In fact he tarries and by the time he arrives poor Lazarus has been dead and entombed for four days already. In our imagination we can feel for Martha and Mary in, first, their hope and then, their desperation and, finally, we hear their disillusionment in Jesus. If you had been here my brother would not have died" Martha tells Jesus. I can imagine her beating him on the chest in fury and grief as she sobbed these words.

She couldn't, of course have expected what followed. Who could have done? The precise purpose of all this tarrying and delay is for a sign. A revelation of something God has in store for those who trust in Jesus. The resurrection of the dead and new life.

Yet Lazarus' resurrection is relatively different to Jesus' own one just a few days later. Lazarus came back into *this* life whereas Jesus rose to *new* life - a life no longer subject to mortality, disease, injury and age - but a life lived with the Eternal God for ever. This is our Easter hope and joy and we see in the next two weeks the expensive, costly, and painful suffering of our God and Lord, Jesus, as he brings all this into a new reality through his passion, death and finally, resurrection.

This is why we acclaim the Mystery of faith in our Eucharistic prayer - one old version went: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With my love and prayers

Fr David Benedict

Holy Week Services

- Chrism Mass, Arundel Cathedral, Wednesday 16th April, 6pm
- Maundy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper - 17th April, Our Lady of Sorrows, 8pm
- Good Friday Liturgy of the Lord's Passion - 18th April, Our Lady of Sorrows, 3pm
- Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil - 19th April, Our Lady of Sorrows, 8pm
- Easter Sunday - 20th April, Our Lady of Sorrows 9am and 11am

Walk of Witness - Courageous Love

Once again, we're delighted to offer witness to the goodness of God on Good Friday (18th April) with Christian brothers and sisters from across the town. Our Walk of Witness begins at Bognor Regis Methodist Church at 10am, will proceed along the High Street, pausing for prayer and reflection led by the Salvation Army at the junction with London Road, and then continue to Our Lady of Sorrows for a service, which will be followed by refreshments in the Parish Centre.

Emmaus Group - Accompanying people enquiring about Catholic faith

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 8th April at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre.**

Lenten Soup Lunches

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

Upcoming Third Reading on the Assisted Suicide Bill

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, has written a pastoral letter urging Catholics to contact their MPs – even if they have done so already – to oppose the Bill that seeks to legalise assisted suicide. As well as restating the Bishops' objections to the Bill in principle, Cardinal Nichols expresses his dissatisfaction regarding the “deeply flawed” parliamentary process.

Please visit www.cbcew.org.uk to read Cardinal Nichols' letter, copies are also available in the church.

Not Dead Yet UK, a network of disabled people who oppose legalising assisted suicide have also provided postcards to send to your MP which will be available at all Masses this weekend.

KSC Redshirts/Purpleshirts Fundraising Quiz Night

Thank you to all of the parishioners who have supported our fundraising efforts towards the Redshirts/Purpleshirts Lourdes 2025 pilgrimage so far! We can now announce our 1st social event to further our fundraising with a Quiz Night on Saturday 10th May, starting at 7pm

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 drinks. Tickets cost £5 and will be on sale after Sunday Masses. A raffle will be organised at £1 a ticket.



A couple in our parish aged 80 and 79, Colin and Gabrielle Thorpe have signed up for this and are now on the final 100k having raised £700 so far with online donations and sponsorship. You too can donate by visiting <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/gabrielles-and-colins-big-walk>



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!

St Anthony's Spring Clean Saturday 12th April, 1pm to 4pm. Please come along if you can help for some or all of this time, all help is most welcome.

Gift Aid Envelopes 2025 - 2026 for the new tax year are now available for collection from the Parish Centre or Parish shop after Sunday Masses. If you would like to donate this way please contact Caroline in the parish office.

Offertory Collections February

Offertory Plate Collections	£2097.50
Gift Aid Envelopes	£ 651.00
Bankers Orders	£5307.00
Contactless Machines	£ 440.00
CAF donations	<u>£ 110.00</u>
	£8600.50

Second Collections

Lourdes Appeal	£651.56
Racial Justice	£146.00

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. In January we received £5450.46 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. *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.