

Cathedral Deanery Newsletter

Autumn 2021



Dear brothers and sisters across the Cathedral Deanery,

September is always a month of new beginnings. The new school year begins this month, of course, and so for many of our young people, as well as school staff, it is a time to make new friends and learn new routines. The chaplaincy team at St Philip Howard, our deanery Catholic Secondary School, welcomes three new members: Annie Harris, Ben Van Driel and Jerome Beards. We hope they will be very happy in their new roles. There are also some changes among the clergy of our deanery. Fr Maksym Krat is the new Parish Priest at Selsey, and will be working with Canon Tom and Fr Sebastian in Chichester to bring the parishes and churches of Chichester, Bosham, Wittering and Selsey together to form a new single pastoral unit. Fr Max, you are so welcome! In addition Fr Victor's time at Bognor has come to an end, and as we wish him well for the future it is a great pleasure to welcome to the deanery Fr Graham Platt, who will be the second priest in the Parish of Bognor Regis and Slindon for this year, as the parish reflects and plans for a future when it will be served by just one active priest. Again, you are so welcome!

As well as all these changes, of course, we look at the normal routine of parish life and feel a little uncertain about what the future will bring. The routines and programmes that were so familiar to us have been disturbed by the ongoing pandemic, and we need to give careful prayer and thought to the best way to be the Body of Christ in this area in this 'new world'. So much has changed, and we know we will not be going back to things exactly as they used to be. So, how do we best live out our call to be disciples of Christ? How do we make sure that the Gospel is preached, the sacraments are celebrated, our lives of prayer are nourished and our faith grows deeper? These are difficult questions, and all our parishes will be reflecting on them in the coming months.

Back in 2013 Pope Francis wrote:

'Proclaiming Christ means showing that to believe in and follow him is not only something right and true, but also something beautiful, capable of filling life with new splendour and profound joy, even in the midst of difficulties' (Evangelii Gaudium #167). He can have had no idea what difficulties lay just a few years ahead! But these words are as true as ever. It is a beautiful thing to be a disciple of Christ, and we all need to remind ourselves just how wonderful it is to have experienced the loving gaze of the Saviour. Whatever the coming months may hold, and no doubt there will be challenges for many of us, perhaps we might begin with this happy truth: The Lord Jesus has looked at us with love, and the sight of us, unworthy as we are, brings joy to his heart; he holds out his arms to draw us closer to him, closer to that merciful, loving heart, and all is well.'

Fr Peter Newsam

Dean of the Cathedral Deanery

peter.newsam@abdiocese.org.uk

Cathedral Deanery Parish Websites

Arundel: arundelcathedral.uk

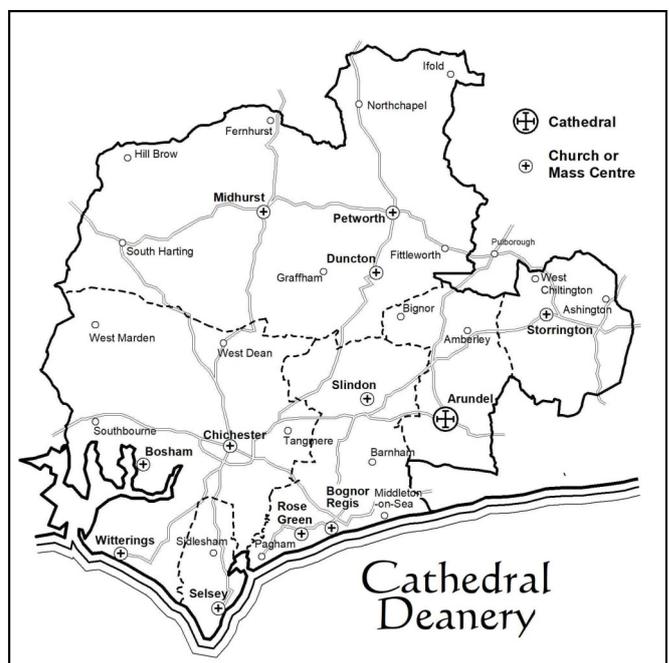
Bognor: bognorcatholicparish.co.uk

Chichester & Witterings: strichardschichester.co.uk

Petworth & Midhurst: petworthcatholic.org

Selsey: stwilfridselsey.co.uk

Storrington: ourladyofengland.parishportal.net



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Deanery Confirmation

Please pray for the young people from the parishes of our deanery who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in Arundel Cathedral at 3pm on Sunday October 31st (The Solemnity of All Saints).

*'Planted in faith and grounded in love,
may they bear witness to Christ the Lord by their way of life.'*

For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission

A two-year 'synodal' process is taking place in the Catholic Church beginning October 2021. It will culminate in the final Synod Gathering of Bishops in Rome in October 2023.

The overall theme is 'For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission'.

For the first time, the Synod Office in Rome has produced a comprehensive process which encompasses the stated aim of the Holy Father that the Church in today's world should have a vision of missionary communion orientated to evangelisation. It's an invitation for us, as Catholics, to 'walk together'. Every member of the Church has the right to speak, and the obligation to allow those charged with the work of discernment the freedom to do so.



The Bishops' Conference has produced a number of resources, including FAQs on the synodal process; you can find them at: cbcew.org.uk/synodal-church

The Synod's timeline

The Synod will be opened by Pope Francis on 9-10 October this year and will be opened in individual dioceses by their respective bishops, on 17 October.

The Diocesan Phase will take place October 2021 – April 2022. It will offer opportunities for groups in parishes to consider the themes of the Synod and will culminate in a pre-synodal assembly and a Diocese-wide submission to the Synod.

The National Phase (before April 2022): A period of discernment will begin for bishops gathered in an assembly called an Episcopal Conference. They will listen to what the Spirit has inspired in the churches entrusted to them. A 'synthesis' will be drafted and sent to the General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops along with the contributions of each of the local churches.

The Continental Phase (September 2022 – March 2023) will have the task of discussing the text of the first Instrumentum Laboris.

The Synod of Bishops in Rome (October 2023): The synodal journey will culminate with the celebration of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the theme 'For a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission'. [#Synod2023](https://twitter.com/Synod2023)

Invited: Lent 2021 and Beyond

Coming soon..!



Our Invited Mission earlier this year brought people across the Diocese (and far beyond) together in faith, online. A second series of Invited, with online groups, will happen during Eastertide next year. In the meantime our Formation Team are working on a film series, with six episodes due to launch on 19 October, the Feast of St Philip Howard.

Films One, Two and Three will see guest speakers offer a 'deep dive' into the themes we explored during Invited Season One. Films Four, Five and Six will offer a practical 'How to' exploring prayer, scripture, and faith in the family.

If you have already signed up to Invited - watch this space! If you haven't signed up and would like to receive a free monthly email reflection and updates about our Invited programme (including news about the upcoming series) contact our team at invited@abdiocese.org.uk.

Bognor Regis & Slindon - *Let's make a journey together!*

The motif of the journey is a thread that runs throughout the Bible. Think of Abraham who was called by God to journey to an unknown land, but the call had a great promise attached; or think of Moses who led the people of Israel on a journey from slavery in Egypt towards the freedom of the promised land; or of Joseph and Mary making their way to Bethlehem – not a journey of their choosing, and with Our Lady pregnant. Think of Jesus, who on his journeys taught and healed, and who, after the Resurrection accompanied the disciples on the road to Emmaus. We remember, too, that Jesus promises the Holy Spirit to accompany and guide the community of the Church as it sets out on mission.



The key features of these journeys can be found, to some degree or other, reflected in our own personal journeys of faith, or we see them in our experience of the last year or so, and they can be seen also in the journey we will continue to make as we come out of lockdown and the restrictions on our personal lives, and our parish life are lifted.

So, Fr Chris is inviting Bognor Regis & Slindon parishioners to go on a journey and, together, to reflect on what it means to be followers of Jesus in this part of the world, and at this, post-pandemic, time. He says, 'Let's make this journey into the immediate future with hope, knowing that in all the Bible journeys, God was present, guiding and providing, and as he will for us.'

This invitation to journey is also opportune for another reason. Speaking to the Parish Leadership Team, Bishop Richard would like to invite all parishioners to reflect on what the mission of the parish looks like, and the participation of each person in it, when, as from the autumn of 2022, the parish will be served by one priest.

So each and every member of the parish is invited to come together to make a journey of hope into the future. The plan is – initially – to meet on three Saturdays: 18th September, 23rd October, 13th November, at St Philip Howard School, from 11am to 1pm. There will be a chance to meet each other, chat over a cup of coffee and cake, listen, share, and of course, pray.

Please contact the [parish office](#) if you require transport to and from the school. For those parishioners who can't make these meetings, there will be an opportunity to share in the journey with resources for use at home.

Change on the horizon for the Selsey, Witterings and Chichester parishes

In early June, Bishop Richard visited our churches in Selsey, the Witterings, Bosham and Chichester, to talk about the future of the Church in that part of the deanery, in particular how its structure will change and adapt for the mission to proclaim Christ to the world around and in accordance with the diocesan Pastoral Plan.

Bishop Richard outlined his plan to combine the parishes of Chichester, the Witterings and Selsey into one new parish, later this Autumn. The new parish will be under the pastoral care of two priests in Chichester, once the time in Selsey of Fr Maksym Krat, Selsey's new Parish Priest, comes to an end next year. Work to bring all the aspects of parish life together will go on for some considerable time after the formal merger, as clergy and parishioners at all four churches discuss how to benefit from the combined skills and talents of the new larger community in future, in pursuit of the mission of the Church.

Station Mass

Our Deanery Station Mass for those who have died in the past year will be celebrated by Bishop Richard in Arundel Cathedral at 6.30pm on Tuesday 23rd November.



Many of us have been unable to attend funerals over the last year, and this Mass gives us a beautiful opportunity to gather together and pray for those who have died, including all those who have no-one else to pray for them. This will be a good opportunity to invite the bereaved to pray with us for those whom they have lost.



Animal Blessing Service

2.30pm, Saturday 2nd October
Arundel Cathedral

followed by tea
in the Cathedral Centre

*All animals (and their owners)
are welcome*



PONTIFICAL MASS

OF ST PHILIP HOWARD

3pm, Sunday 17th October 2021
Arundel Cathedral

followed by tea
in the Cathedral Centre

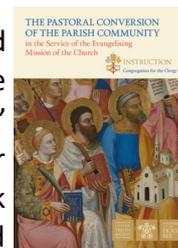


Book Recommendation

The Diocesan Formation Team recommends: *'The Pastoral Conversion of the Parish Community'*.

The Second Vatican Council, the social and cultural changes of recent decades and those of the past 18 months, have resulted in Churches and communities having to reorganise the way they go about their work. It has been possible to initiate new experiences, enhancing the dimension of communion and implementing new ways for God's people to use their gifts and talents in the service of the Gospel, ways which better correspond to the demands of evangelisation today.

At the beginning of his papacy, Pope Francis recalled the importance of 'creativity' and 'seeking how best to proclaim the Gospel'. The Holy Father said 'the Church, and also the Code of Canon Law, gives us innumerable possibilities, much freedom to seek these things.' The situations outlined in this book, published in 2020, represent a valuable opportunity for pastoral conversion that is essentially missionary. Parish communities will find in this book a call to go out of themselves, offering instruments for reform in a spirit of communion and collaboration, of encounter and closeness, of mercy and solicitude for the proclamation of the Gospel.



Available to buy in print at: ctsbooks.org/product/the-pastoral-conversion-of-the-parish-community
or free online at: press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2020/07/20.html