

**RELIGIOUS SERVICES  
PARISH FUNCTIONS  
CHRISTMAS MASSES**

**Sunday December 2nd**   
**1st Sunday of Advent**

 **6pm** St Mary's, Slindon  
Ecumenical Advent Service.

**Wednesday December 5th** 

**6.45pm** Arundel Cathedral,  
Deanery Schools Advent Service.

**Sunday December 9th**  
**2nd Sunday of Advent**

 **Monday December 10th**   
**1.30pm** St Mary's Primary School,  
Nativity Play for Parishioners  
followed by tea.



**Friday December 14th**

 **Walk of Witness** 

**3pm** Short service in OLOS, followed by  
Walk through the town concluding with  
service in the Methodist Church followed  
by mince pies and tea.

**6pm** Reconciliation Service, OLOS

**Sunday December 16th**  
**3rd Sunday of Advent** 

**Wednesday December 19th**

 **9.30am** St Mary's School End of Term  
Mass in Our Lady of Sorrows.

**Friday December 21st**

**6.30pm** Cookies, Candles & Calm  
in the Parish Centre. 



**Sunday December 23rd**  
**4th Sunday of Advent**

**10am** OLOS, Extended Children's  
Liturgy of the Word

**6.30pm** Candlelit Carol Service  
at St Mary's, Slindon,  
joint service with St Richard's.



**Christmas Mass Times**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**6pm** Vigil Mass for Christmas Day,  
Our Lady of Sorrows

**Midnight Mass with Carols:**

**11.30pm** Our Lady of Sorrows

**11.30pm** St Richard's, Slindon

**12midnight** St Anthony's, Rose Green  
(Polish)

**CHRISTMAS DAY** 

**8am** Our Lady of Sorrows

**9am** St Richard's, Slindon

**10am** Our Lady of Sorrows

**11am** St Anthony's, Rose Green

**4pm** Our Lady of Sorrows (Polish)



## 'Prepare the Way of The Lord'

The season of Advent is multi-layered and full of vibrant expectation and hope.

The purple vestments worn by the priest and the purple hangings adorning the church speak of the need to 'get ready'. The absence of flowers around the altar reminds us that we are fasting before we feast. We abstain from singing 'Glory to God in the highest' as a way of recognising our need to pull back and prepare for a time of joy and wonder. But Advent is so much more than this...

## It is a season of PREPARATION

Traditionally we think of Advent as a time to prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. This fits nicely with our pre-Christmas preparations at home. But Advent is, too, a time when we are reminded not just of Christ's coming at Christmas (the First Coming), but also that he will return again in glory (the Second Coming) bringing his kingdom with him. Thus, the season calls us again and again to reflect on a kingdom not of this world. It is a Kingdom we are called to make real here and now - a Kingdom where love prevails and the things of God reign. First and foremost then - even above and beyond the need to do the Christmas shopping - our preparation needs to be spiritual. *Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done...*

## It is also a season of PROCLAMATION

Jesus is the Word of God. To wait for him to come is to wait upon the word. Advent challenges us to listen attentively to the scriptures proclaimed at Mass. To know the Bible is to know Jesus. To listen to the words of the Bible is to hear Jesus himself speaking. But the message that we hear is not just for us—it's for the whole world! Advent challenges us out of our Catholic comfort - zone and requires us to hear and proclaim the word. This Good News must be shared - and it's we who must do the sharing. The Kingdom which Jesus comes to bring is for all - even those we would prefer to exclude...*On earth, as it is in heaven...*

## It is also a season of PRAYER

To pray is to reveal my ultimate trust in God. If I don't pray, I probably don't believe. Prayer enables us to see God in all things and all things in God. As we await the fullness of the Kingdom and look beyond ourselves to the needs of the world, the call to prayer becomes ever more urgent. Advent provokes us to spend more time waiting on God in prayer, seeking to discern his will and his ways. Advent prayer is expectant prayer - prayer that trusts, surrenders, believes, receives. It is the beautiful prayer of the Children of God which finds its fulfilment both in the birth of Jesus and in his coming at the end of time. *For thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever, Amen.*

# THE SEASON OF ADVENT 2018



Our Lady of Sorrows,  
Clarence Road,  
Bognor Regis.

St Anthony of Viareggio  
Gossamer Lane,  
Rose Green.

St Richard of Chichester,  
Top Road, Slindon.