

Catholic Parish of Brighton and Hove: West Hub

Sacred Heart; St George's & St Theresa's; St Mary Magdalen's; St Peter's
Canon Colin Wolczak; Fr Paul Wilkinson; Fr Tony Milner; Fr Alphonse Kabore; Canon David Parmiter
Sunday 7th December 2025, Second Sunday of Advent, Year A. Weekdays: Week 2, Psalter Week 2

Canon Colin Writes...

Today, the Second Sunday of Advent we light the second candle, which is the symbol of FAITH. The candle's name has its origins in the prophet Micah who prophesied Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. It is referred to as the Bethlehem Candle. As the journey of Advent continues, as we prepare to celebrate the nativity of Christ, John the Baptist's call to conversion sounds out in our communities. It is a pressing invitation to open our hearts and to welcome the Son of God who comes among us to make divine judgement manifest. The Father, writes St. John the Evangelist, does not judge anyone, but has entrusted the power of judgement to the Son, because He is the Son of Man.

And it is today, in the present, that we decide our future destiny. It is with our concrete everyday behaviour in this life that we determine our eternal fate. At the end of our days on earth, at the moment of death, we will be evaluated on the basis of our likeness or otherwise to the Baby who is about to be born in the poor stable of Bethlehem, because He is the measure God has given humanity.

Through the Gospel John the Baptist continues to speak down the centuries to each generation. His hard clear words bring health to us, the men and women of this day in which even the experience and perception of Christmas often, unfortunately, reflects materialist attitudes. The 'voice' of the great prophet asks us to prepare the way for the coming Lord in the deserts of today, internal and external deserts, thirsting for the water of life which is Christ.

Community building at St Peter's During Advent at St Peter's at the beginning of Mass, I will be asking parishioners to turn to the person next to them and offer to pray for them during that Mass. If you don't know them it's also an opportunity to exchange first names and if you do know them, I am sure they will appreciate the support for our pilgrim journey. I hope you feel you will be able to take part in this preparation for the birth of Christ who came to walk alongside us each day and especially when we are at Mass. Canon David.

Fire Marshal & Parking Marshal Volunteers Needed On Wednesday 10th December at **St Theresa's**, our parish school, St Mary's, will be holding their annual Advent Service from 6–7pm, with children arriving from 5:40pm. This is always a very well-attended event, and we rely on a few kind volunteers to help everything run safely. We are looking for helpers for two simple, one-off roles:

- **Fire Marshals** – keeping an eye on exits and assisting in the unlikely event of an evacuation.
- **Parking Marshals** – guiding cars safely into spaces between 5:30–6pm, and ensuring all emergency exits and access routes remain clear for emergency vehicles should they need to attend. If you can give a little of your time, in either role, please let the parish office know. Your help really does make a big difference, and we are very grateful.

Rorate Masses at St Peter's and St Mary Magdalen's Rorate Masses are traditional votive Masses in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary, celebrated during Advent in the early morning before dawn. The church is lit only by candlelight, symbolising Mary's role in bringing Christ, the Light of the World, into the darkness. As the sun rises, the church gradually brightens, reflecting our spiritual expectation of Christ's coming at Christmas. **St Peter's** Rorate Masses will be held at 7:00am on Wednesdays throughout Advent and will replace the usual 10:00am Mass that day. **St Mary Magdalen's** Candlelit Rorate Masses will take place at 7:00am on Saturdays 13th and 20th December. All are warmly welcome at both churches.

On Christmas Night Concert at St Theresa's Sussex Voiceworks, in partnership with the Hangleton Brass Band, warmly invite you to a festive evening of music with their Christmas concert, On Christmas Night. Described as "a beautiful celebration of carols old and new" and "the perfect start to the festive season", this concert brings together glorious choral singing and vibrant festive brass. The programme will include traditional carols, And the Glory of the Lord, Chilcott's On Christmas Night, and many other seasonal favourites. The concert takes place on Sunday 7th December at St Theresa of Lisieux Church, Old Shoreham Road, Southwick (BN42 4RY). Doors open at 5:30pm for a 6:00pm start. Mince pies and mulled wine will also be available. Tickets: Adults £15; Under 16s free.

Sacred Heart, 39 Norton Road, BN3 3BF, 01273 732843, www.sacredheartrove.org.uk;
hovesacredheart@abdiocese.org.uk. All Masses at SH are Live Streamed: www.sacredheartrove.org.uk/videos.html

St George's, Court Farm Road, BN3 7QR and **St Theresa's**, Old Shoreham Road, BN42 4RY, 01273 708227;
www.brightondeanerywest.org.uk; westhove@abdiocese.org.uk

St Mary Magdalen's, 55 Upper North St, BN1 3FH; brightonstmarymag@abdiocese.org.uk

St Peter's, Portland Road, BN3 5GD, 01273 733840, <https://www.stpeters-hove.org.uk/>; hovestpeters@abdiocese.org.uk

For any other contact information, including Safeguarding, please see the relevant parish website or church noticeboards

Mass Schedule		
Sat 6	Dec	Saint Nicholas
7:00am	SMM	Rorate Caeli Mass (candlelit)
12noon	SH	Margaret Smith Int
12noon†	SMM	People of the Parish
6.00pm †	SH	Frank McHugh RIP
6.00	SP	John Lloyd RIP
6.30	SG	<i>Polish Mass</i>
Sun 7	Dec	Second Sunday of Advent
8.30 am	SP	Jude Fletcher RIP
9.00	ST	Cosme & Conception Rodrigues RIP
9.30	SH	Zsusana Agoston RIP
9:30	SMM	<i>Mass in Polish</i>
10.00	SP	People of the Parish
11.00	SG	Mrs Kathleen 'Kitty' McKenzie RIP
11.00	SMM	People of the Parish
11.30	SH	People of the Parish
11.30	SP	Eileen Russell
5.00 pm	SP	<i>Brazilian Mass</i>
6.00pm	SP	<i>Syrian Mass</i>
5.00	SMM	People of the Parish
Mon 8	Dec	Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary
10.00 am †	SH	Constance Elsie Cross RIP
Tue 9	Dec	St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatatzin
10.00 am	SG	People of the Parish
10.00 †	SH	Dorothy Head RIP
10.00	SP	People of the Parish
6.00pm †	SMM	People of the Parish
7.00pm	ST	Mary Walsh RIP
Wed 10	Dec	People of the Parish
7.00am	SP	People of the Parish
8.00am	SH	Bob White RIP
6.00pm †	SMM	People of the Parish
7.00pm	ST	<i>NO MASS</i>
Thurs 11	Dec	St Damascus I
10.00am	SP	People of the Parish
10.00 ‡	SG	People of the Parish
12 noon †	SH	Tony Mascolo RIP
6.00pm †	SMM	People of the Parish
7.00pm	ST	Joseph Mitchell RIP
Fri 12	Dec	Our Lady of Guadalupe
8.00 am	SH	Flora Lucy Freeman RIP
10:00 AM	SP	People of the Parish
6.00pm †	SMM	People of the Parish
7.00	ST	Denis & Catherine Broderick RIP
Sat 13	Dec	St Lucy
7:00am	SMM	People of the Parish
12noon†	SMM	People of the Parish
6.00pm †	SH	People of the Parish
6.00	SP	People of the Parish
6.30	SG	<i>Polish Mass</i>
Sun 14	Dec	Third Sunday of Advent
8.30 am	SP	Jude fletcher RIP
9.00	ST	Sabino Rato RIP
9.30	SH	Gillian Botting RIP
9:30	SMM	People of the Parish
10.00	SP	Jean & Larry Donnelly RIP
11.00	SG	People of the Parish
11.00	SMM	Gerry McGrellis
11.30	SH	Bob White RIP
11.30	SP	Margaret MC Goldbrick RIP
5.00 pm	SP	People of the Parish
5.00	SMM	People of the Parish
6.00pm	SP	People of the Parish

SH: Sacred Heart; **SG:** St George's;
SMM: St Mary Magdalene's; **SP:** St Peter's; **ST:** St Theresa's;
† Adoration before; ‡ Adoration after

Christmas Services – West Hub

St Peter's (SP)

21 December – 18:30: Carols, followed by mince pies
24 December – 18:00 Vigil Mass; 00:00 Midnight Mass
25 December – 10:00 & 11:30 Masses

Sacred Heart (SH)

24 December – 20:00: Nativity of the Lord (Carols from 19:30)
25 December – 09:30 & 11:30 Christmas Day Masses

St Theresa's (ST)

24 December – 18:00 Vigil Family Mass
25 December – 09:00 Christmas Day Mass

St George's (SG)

25 December – 11:00 Christmas Day Mass

St Mary Magdalen's (SMM)

24 December – 10:00 Holy Hour; 11:00 Mass
24 December – 20:00 Vigil (candlelit); 21:45 Polish Mass
25 December – 11:00 English Mass; 13:00 Polish Mass
26 December – 12:30 Polish Mass; 17:00 HH; 18:00 Mass

Regular Events

Weekly Reconciliation Times

Sacred Heart & St Peter's Saturdays, before Mass at 5:15pm.
St Mary Magdalen Fridays during Holy Hour at 5:00pm,
Saturdays at 11:00am, and after the Rorate Caeli Mass.
St Theresa's Fridays after the 7:00pm Mass, starting Friday
12th December. Take this opportunity to prepare your heart
for Advent and Christmas.

Prayer Groups

Tuesday Prayer Group – Sacred Heart Every Tuesday at
10:30am, SH Parish Room. The Prayer group will run in
December, 9th and 16th and then will take a break and
resume on 6th January 2026. All Welcome. You may leave
prayer requests in the box at the back of the church.

Online Prayer Group – Thursdays at 8pm Join our small,
friendly group to pray and read the Scriptures together via
video-link. All are welcome! westhove@abdiocese.org.uk for
the link. Requests can be left in the box at the back of ST.

Friday Online Contemplative Prayer Group Fridays from 7:30
–8:30pm. All welcome. For more information, please email
quietenginesprayer@gmail.com.

Social Groups

St George's Tea and Chat After the 10am Mass on the 2nd
and 4th Tuesdays of each month, come and join us in the hall
for Tea and Chat! A lovely chance to enjoy a cuppa, friendly
conversation, and gentle activities, especially for our older
parish members. No need to book—just turn up and join the
fun! Next gathering Tuesday 9th December.

Sacred Heart SVP Social Group Open to all parishioners.
Enjoy soup, sandwiches, tea, and cakes. Entertainment,
quizzes, etc. after 12noon Mass. The SVP will take a break for
the rest of December and resume in the new year on 8th
January 2026. All Welcome.

St Peter's Social Group Fridays at 1:30pm in the parish hall.

Sacred Heart Online Rosary Friday's 11am Rosary, available online only. The Rosary will livestream in December on 12th and 19th and then will take a break and resume on 2nd January 2026. Please join via our livestream.

Other Events / Notices

St Mary Magdalen's Eucharistic Healing Service Sunday, 7th December, 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm. All are welcome to join us for a time of prayer, reflection, and healing.

2025-2026 Confirmation Programme Application Forms for the 2025-2026 programme are due this week! Please complete and return to your parish office. Forms are available from your churches and parish offices. Deadline is this Tuesday, 9th December.

Decorating the Christmas Trees On the 4th Sunday of Advent (21 Dec), during Mass we will place the figures in the crib. After Mass, we warmly invite families at both **St Theresa's & St George's** to stay and help decorate the Christmas tree. Let's make our churches bright and festive together!

St Mary Magdalen School Mass The school will join us for Mass on Friday 5 December at 9:15am in the church.

RCIA 2025/2026 Sacred Heart Church parishioners will formally welcome this year's participants in our RCIA programme (for people wishing to join the Catholic Church) during the 9:30am Mass on Sunday 7th December. Please come along and show your support, and after Mass join us in the Parish Room.

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary at St Mary Magdalen's Monday, 8th December, 5pm Rosary and Holy Hour, 6pm Mass.

Advent Reconciliation Service Sacred Heart Church will host a Reconciliation Service on the Fourth Sunday of Advent (21 Dec) at 3:00pm. Canon David will preside. The service will take place within simple Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and will conclude with Benediction. Four priests will be available to hear confessions.

Advent Sycamore at St Peter's Would you like Wednesday evenings during Advent to add something special to the

season? You are most welcome to join us on Wednesdays from 7:30pm for drinks, snacks, short Advent focused films, and lively discussion. We will consider *Welcoming the Stranger* as a key theme. Venture forth!

St Mary Magdalen's Faith Formation Group Thursdays, 6:45pm. An informal group for anyone wishing to join the Church or learn more about our faith. All are welcome! December 11th; Restarts 8th Jan 2026.

Fundraising / Giving

Christmas Appeal St Theresa's are collecting unwanted toys in good condition, non-perishable foods, chocolate and sweets, as well as shoe boxes for families in need in Southwick by 3rd Sunday of Advent - Gaudate. See James Johnson for more information.

St Peter's Offertory Collection 1st Collection 30th November = £1,256.

Karla's Curry Evening Karla is running a curry evening for ESSA, a Sri Lankan Charity, on the 13th December at 7:00pm in Sacred Heart Parish Rooms. Please come and enjoy yourself. Tickets are priced at £15 and are available after weekend Masses at the Sacred Heart or call 07523 954494 to buy a ticket.

Christmas Appeal for Hangleton & West Blatchington Foodbank Items especially needed are; **Crackers for cheese; Biscuits & chocolate; Crisps and nuts; Long-life fruit juice & fizzy drinks; Selection boxes; Christmas tablecloths & napkins; Pickles and chutneys; Mince pies (non-alcoholic); Christmas puddings (non-alcoholic); Sanitary towels; Shampoo & matching conditioner; Sugar (500g bags); Instant coffee (granules/powder).** Please bring Christmas items by 10th Dec.

Thank you from Cardinal Newman students Niamh, Nina & Arriette who were fundraising for their pilgrimage to Lourdes next year. The pilgrimage takes children to Lourdes and those joining the pilgrimage often have special needs or disabilities. The students from Cardinal Newman will act as helpers to enable those children to enjoy the pilgrimage experience and to care for them whilst they are away from their

families in Lourdes. Your donations for their appeal have now raised £224, thank you very much.

Please pray for...

Canon Colin Wolczak; Cathy Howes; Cheryl Evans; Chris, Lucy, Matt, & Vince Neal; Clive Connor; Clive Holding; Eileen Kipling; Elena White; Hanorah & Mat Smith; Michael Edwards; Rex Curd; Tom Piggins & Winifred Wilde.

Please pray for all the sick and/or housebound members of our parishes. Please pray for all those who have died recently, especially:

From St Peter's, Caroline Lamb, Ann Western, Angela Bennett and Bernadette McCauley may they rest in peace. Please remember them and their families in your prayers.

The funeral of **Bernadette McCauley** who died on 17 November age 66 years will take place on Friday 12 December at 11:30am at St Peter's followed by burial at Hove Cemetery.

The funeral of **Angela Bennett** who died suddenly at home on the 20 November age 70 years will take place at St Peters on 16 December at 11:30am followed by burial at Hove Cemetery.

The Committal of **Ann Western** will take place at St Peter's on 17 December at 11am followed by a Memorial Service at St Peters at 12:30pm.

Caroline Lamb's funeral is 22 December with the time to be confirmed.

Cardinal Newman Catholic School and Newman College
The Upper Drive, Hove, BN3 6ND

Advent Carol Service

Thursday 18th December 2025
6.00pm in the Chapel



Please book your free tickets by scanning the QR code below.
We're fundraising for Project Antifreeze, a program run by the local charity 'Off the Fence' that supports people experiencing homelessness in the Brighton area. Any donation you can make would be greatly appreciated.



CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL Refreshments available to purchase. NEWMAN COLLEGE

**Sunday 7th December 2025,
Second Sunday of Advent**

First Reading: 2 Isaiah Isaiah 11:1-10

On that day:

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples — of him shall the nations enquire, and his resting-place shall be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm Response

In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever.

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9

Brothers and sisters: Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.' For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight." '

Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father", for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

'I baptise you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Profession of Faith

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty, maker of heaven
and earth, of all things visible and
invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus
Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten,
not made,
consubstantial with the Father; through
him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation he came
down from heaven,
(all bow during the next three lines)
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of
the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day in
accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at
the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the
living and the dead and his kingdom will
have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the
giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the
Son, who with the Father and the Son is
adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets. I
believe in one, holy,
catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins and I look forward to the
resurrection of the dead and the life of
the world to come.
Amen.**

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