

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 25th January 2026, Third Sunday in Ordinary time, Year A. Weekdays: Week 3, Psalter Week 3

Canon David writes

As the 2026 gets going, and there's been plenty of activity in foreign affairs, the Gospel records the beginning of the ministry of Jesus. He calls the first disciples, proclaims the kingdom, heals diseases and afflictions. The Gospel records the words of Isaiah "...the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned." Having celebrated Christmas, I hope we feel that a light has shone for us and we are looking forward to sharing this good news with others. There will be those who find January and February hard going and financial struggles and uncertainty in the world may well add to the winter gloom. But the Word gives us hope. Today the Church marks the 'Sunday of the Word of God' and the theme is 'The word of Christ dwells among you.' There is a handbook produced for this Sunday and below is part of the introduction from Archbishop Rino Fisichella of the Department for Evangelisation.

"The biblical expression chosen for the celebration of the seventh edition of the Sunday of the Word of God is taken from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians: "The word of Christ dwells among you" (3:16). What we have received from the Apostle is not a simple moral exhortation, but the indication of a new way of living. Paul does not ask that the Word be merely listened to or studied; he wants it to dwell, that is, to take up stable residence, to shape our thoughts, guide our desires, and make credible the witness of the disciples. The Word of Christ remains a sure criterion that unifies and renders fruitful the life of the Christian community. After the Holy Year, this motto remains for us a precious inheritance: an invitation addressed to the whole Church to place the Gospel once more at the centre, since every true renewal is born from docile listening to the Word. To welcome it means allowing ourselves to be accompanied by the One who does not deceive, because He gives life and hope. To be inhabited by the Word ultimately means permitting Christ to speak even today through our lives, so that every person may recognize His presence, which continues to illuminate the journey of history." (Handbook for the Sunday of the Word of God 2026).

'Pray with the Pope': a real network of communion in a divided world -

From the Chapel of Saint Peregrine in the Vatican to the wider world, 'Pray with the Pope' invites the faithful to share in a common moment of prayer with the Pope. The initiative was presented on Wednesday, 7 January, shortly before the release of the first video message in which Pope Leo XIV shares his prayer intention for January 2026. The video, recorded in English, Italian, and Spanish, marks the official launch of the project.

In his January prayer intention – *For prayer with the Word of God* – Pope Leo XIV calls on the faithful to rediscover prayer as a source of hope. The Pope inaugurates the initiative not with a speech, but with a moment of prayer, emphasising a quieter, more contemplative way of communicating in an age marked by noise and distraction.

The slow time of prayer

According to Paolo Ruffini, Prefect of the Dicastery for Communication, the initiative challenges the pace of modern life by creating "a protected space, a slow time, for prayer". It is a reminder that genuine encounter remains possible even in a world marked by division, war, and violence. Prayer, he stressed, has the power to restore unity where it has been fractured. Each month throughout 2026, Pope Leo XIV will invite the Church to pray for a specific intention, touching on both global challenges—such as peace and disarmament—and issues within the life of the Church, including evangelisation. The initiative continues the legacy of *The Pope's Video*, launched ten years ago by Pope Francis and viewed over 260 million times worldwide.

Building a different kind of network

Ruffini recalled the Pope's invitation to "mend the nets" in the digital age—not through ambition or conquest, but by rediscovering what truly matters. In a culture accustomed to networks driven by monetisation, a network of prayer may seem countercultural. Yet, he noted, to pray together is itself a way of building communion, responding to a deep spiritual longing

Sacred Heart, 39 Norton Road, BN3 3BF, 01273 732843, www.sacredhearthove.org.uk;

hovesacredheart@abdiocese.org.uk. All Masses at SH are Live Streamed: www.sacredhearthove.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

Hospital Chaplain, Royal Sussex County Hospital, T. 01273 696955 Ext. 64122, email celestine.nnolim@nhs.net

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

Mass Schedule		
Sat 24	Jan	Saint Francis de Sales
12noon†	SMM	
6.00pm †	SH	People of the Parish
6.00	SP	Anthoy Lin RIP
6.30	SG	Polish Mass
Sun 25	Jan	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
8.30 am	SP	People of the Parish
9.00	ST	Christine Roe RIP
9.30	SH	Charles Emmanuel Osezua Int
09:30	SMM	
10.00	SP	David Anthony Toscano & family through intercession of St Carlo Acutis
11.00	SG	Maria Patente & Family
11.00	SMM	
11.30	SH	Maureen Ashing Int
11.30	SP	Betty Hearne RIP
5.00	SMM	Louis and Margaret Branney
Mon 26	Jan	Ss Timothy and Titus, Bishops
10.00 am †	SH	Ehianeta Osezua Ints
Tue 27	Jan	St Angela Merici, Virgin
10.00 am	SG	People of the Parish
10.00 †	SH	Chris Chetwyn RIP
10.30	SP	Jean Bingham RIP
6.00pm †	SMM	
7.00pm	ST	No Mass
Wed 28	Jan	St Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Doctor
8.00am	SH	Alphonsos Int
8.00am	CNCS	
10.00	SP	Keith Longley & Jenny Longley RIP
6.00pm †	SMM	
7.00pm	ST	Eric Cripps RIP
Thurs 29	Jan	
10.00am	SP	Catriona Stewart RIP 1st anniv.
10.00 am ‡	SG	Abina O'Brien RIP
12noon †	SH	Blanche Katherine Skinner RIP
6.00pm †	SMM	
7.00pm	ST	No Mass
Fri 30	Jan	
8.00 am	SH	Bishop Gerard Bradley's Int.
10.00	SP	People of the Parish
6.00pm †	SMM	
7.00	ST	No Mass
Sat 31	Jan	St John Bosco, Priest
12noon†	SMM	
6.00pm †	SH	Mr & Mrs GW Gillow and children
6.00	SP	Holy Souls
6.30	SG	Polish Mass
Sun 1	Feb	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8.30 am	SP	Jude Fletcher RIP
9.00	ST	Jim Torrence RIP
9.30	SH	Charles Emmanuel Osezua Int
09:30	SMM	
10.00	SP	Patrick Woods RIP
11.00	SG	People of the Parish
11.00	SMM	
11.30	SH	Anne Sumner RIP
11.30	SP	Miriam Berrueta - Wellbeing
5.00	SMM	

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

present even in secular societies. Father Cristóbal Fones, Director of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, described *Pray with the Pope* as an open invitation for anyone, anywhere, to join the Pope's monthly prayer intentions from a synodal perspective. This global dimension is reflected in video testimonies from Indonesia and Côte d'Ivoire, highlighting prayer as a bridge between cultures and peoples.

Finally, responding to journalists, Ruffini noted that the Pope has personally supported the initiative and has already recorded videos for the coming months. Through a short message on social media, Pope Leo XIV encouraged people to step away from endless scrolling and make space for prayer—a pause that allows the Word of God to breathe new life into hearts grown weary of constant distraction. *Source* [Catholic Church in England and Wales - Catholic Bishops' Conference](https://www.catholicchurchinenglandandwales.org.uk/catholic-bishops-conference)

Mental Health Awareness training – Saturday 7 February 2026 10-3pm at the St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley

One of the challenges that we are experiencing in our modern world is the growing number of people, of all ages, experiencing the darkness and challenge of various mental health conditions. Thanks to the support of Mental Health England, we are able to offer this training, to explore the realities, symptoms and impact of living with these many debilitating conditions.

Thanks to the support of the trainer, we are able to highly subsidise the event. Tickets are now £40 per delegate (usual price £120). To register scan the QR code or go to the Events page of the Diocesan website. If you have any questions about this course, do not hesitate to contact Simon South, Marriage & Family Life Adviser at

E: simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk



Regular Events

Weekly Reconciliation Times

Sacred Heart & St Peter's Saturdays at 5:15pm, before Mass.

St Mary Magdalen Fridays during Holy Hour at 5:00pm, Saturdays at 11:00am, and on request.

St Theresa's Fridays after the 7:00pm Mass.

Prayer Groups

Tuesday Prayer Group – Sacred Heart Every Tuesday at 10:30am, SH Parish Room. All welcome. You may leave prayer requests in the box at the back of the church.

Online Prayer Group – Thursdays at 8pm via video-link. A small and informal group, meeting to pray and read the scriptures together. If you would like to join the group, or just 'come and see' you are very welcome. Just send an email to westhove@abdiocese.org.uk and you will receive the link for the meeting. You may leave prayer requests in the box at the back on St Theresa's, or in the basket at St George's church.

St Peter's You are warmly invited to join the online contemplative prayer group on Fridays from 7:30–8:30pm.

For more information, please email:

quietenginesprayer@gmail.com.

Sacred Heart Online Rosary: Friday's 11am Rosary, available online only. Please join via our livestream.

Social Groups

St George's Tea and Chat On the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, the 10am Mass at St George's is followed by a time of socialisation and activity, in the hall, aimed at the older people in the parish. No need to book. Just turn up! Next date Tues 27th January.

Sacred Heart SVP Social Group For all parishioners: join us for soup, sandwiches, tea, and cakes, with entertainment, quizzes, and more after the 12 noon Mass. The next meeting is on 5th February, and then every two weeks thereafter.

St Peter's Social group The St Peter's Social Group meets on Fridays from 1–3pm in the parish hall. Please do join us for light refreshments and friendly conversation.

Sacred Heart Film Club The next Film Club will be held on **7th February** after 12.00pm Mass, showing 'Mr Jones' starring James Norton as a dauntless journalist who exposes Stalin's horrific treatment of Ukraine in the 1930's. Refreshments served, all welcome.

Faith Formation Group Thursdays, 6:45pm, St Mary Mags. An informal group designed for those wishing to join the Church and is open to anyone who would like to learn more about the Catholic faith. Please contact the office for more information.

Other Events/Notices

SMM-The next Healing Service will be **1st February**, 3pm with Fr Alphonse and Fr Rod. All are warmly encouraged to attend.

'Mass of Thanksgiving for Bishop Richard's Ministry in Arundel & Brighton - 30 January, 6.30pm, Arundel Cathedral.

People across our diocesan family are invited to join a special cathedral Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Archbishop-Elect Richard, followed by a reception in the Baron's Hall, Arundel Castle, by kind permission of His Grace, the Duke of Norfolk. All are welcome - abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/c5a7autu

St Peter's Repository Volunteer

Required We are looking for a volunteer to help run the Repository. No previous experience is required; the main part of the role is keeping an eye on stock control. If you would like to help, please contact the parish office.

The next Marriage Preparation course

begins on 2 March 2026, to register email bh.marriage.prep@gmail.com Apply before 31 January.

Sacred Heart Repository: Copies of the Diocesan Directory and available for sale in the Repository.

Newsletter by email If you would like to receive a copy of the newsletter to your inbox each week, email Lisa at, hovesacredheart@abdiocese.org.uk

Mary's Meals is looking for volunteers. Could you spare a few hours during the year to help? We are looking for parish reps, volunteer speakers (training and support provided!) and volunteers who can help at events. Please contact Roy Peachey roy.peachey@marysmeals.org or 07593 447297 if you can help.

Fundraising / Giving

Special Collections:

Pax Christi special collection - £165.53 raised Sacred Heart.

Charity Quiz Night – In Aid of SAFE IN SUSSEX The Adur Valley Catenians invite you to a Charity Quiz Night on Saturday 28th February at Towers Convent, Henfield Road, BN44 3TF, in support of SAFE IN SUSSEX, a local charity providing practical help and support to those affected by domestic abuse. Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start. Tickets are available from andrew.davey160@gmail.com or after the 9.00am Mass at St Theresa's. Sponsored by the Adur Valley Catenians.

Martlets Hospice fundraising at St Peter's

Many of you will have known someone who has benefitted from this wonderful resource, perhaps as a patient or receiving outreach services. We are fortunate to have this in our area but it relies on private financial support. Some hospices have waiting lists while beds are empty as they cannot afford to staff them. St Peter's has raised over £400 for the Martlets in the last few months, through coffee donations and small sales after Mass. Please support these – and go home with a bargain or a nice gift, or just pop in for a biscuit and M&S coffee!

St Peter's Spring Sale

in aid of the Martlet's Hospice Sunday 1st February. Homemade marmalade, cakes, bric a brac, gifts, scarves and other nice items at very reasonable prices for a good cause. Cash only. All welcome

Prayer List Please pray for those who are sick or in need of our prayers:

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

St Peter's -We have heard the sad news of the death of **Patrick (Paddy) Woods** RIP, who died on 8th January. Beloved husband of Nicky and loving father of Xavier and Zachary. Positive throughout. A much loved, gentle giant; always to be seen in shorts whatever the weather. Paddy passed peacefully at his home in Hove.

**Sunday 25th January 2026,
Third Sunday in Ordinary time**

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1b-4

In the former time the Lord brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm Response

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgement. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarrelling among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each one of you says, 'I follow Paul', or 'I follow Apollos', or 'I follow Cephas', or 'I follow Christ.' Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptised

in the name of Paul? For Christ did not send me to baptise but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom

and healed every affliction among the people.

Alleluia.

Gospel Matthew 4:12-23

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 'The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles — the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.' From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

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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