

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 8th March 2026, Third Sunday of Lent, Year A. Weekdays: Week 9, Psalter Week 3

Fr Paul Writes...

When Water features in both the First Reading and the Gospel this Sunday. While both readings concern the love and generosity of God, the use of water in both situations is part of a recurring theme throughout Scripture.

Of all the symbolic things used in the sacraments, such as bread, wine, oil, along with words and actions, water is one of the most symbolically powerful. The words used in blessing the water in the font, in both the celebration of baptism and during the Easter Vigil, recall some of the ways in which water has been a sign of God's work throughout history.

At the Creation, the Spirit 'hovered over the waters, so that ... water would even then take to itself the power of sanctity.' The waters of the Great Flood are described as a means of regeneration, washing away a sinful past and bringing a new life of virtue. Moses leading the children of Abraham through the waters of the Red Sea is presented as a sign of God's liberation of his people by leading them from slavery to freedom, just as baptism marks a transition into the freedom of God's children.

Jesus' baptism in the Jordan and the water that flowed from his side as he hung on the cross is also recalled. Through his sacrifice new life becomes possible. The words of the liturgy then remind us that Jesus' last instruction to his disciples was to teach all nations and baptise them in the name of the Trinity.

It is against this background, of water as a sign of the transforming, liberating, lifegiving power of God at work in our lives that the water in today's readings may be understood. In the reading from Exodus, God provides lifegiving water for his people in the desert despite their ingratitude and lack of faith, showing God's overwhelming generosity. As Paul points out in the Second Reading, God saved us even though we were still sinners.

In the Gospel, Jesus uses the sharing of water as a vehicle for welcoming the stranger to the gift of salvation. Despite being a Samaritan, a foreigner who did not share the Jewish faith, and someone leading a less than exemplary life, Jesus makes her welcome and treats her with respect. In doing so he shows us the love and generosity of God for all people, whatever their circumstances, and invites everyone to respond in whatever way the realities of their life allow. The waters God gives us can truly be the water of new life.

News from Cardinal Newman Catholic School & Sixth Form At Cardinal Newman we are marking this holy season of Lent with the theme '**Give it Up / Give it More**'. Throughout Lent, our students and staff are engaging in prayer, reflection and fundraising, and we are pleased to share some of these initiatives with our parish community.



**CARDINAL NEWMAN
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

Soup Lunch Last Friday, students gave up their usual lunch and shared a simple meal of soup and bread, donating £2 each to support the work of CAFOD.

Big Lent Walks We have two Big Lent Walks planned: Thursday 12th March (School) and Friday 20th March (College). Raising funds for CAFOD's campaign to provide water tanks for communities without access to clean, running water.

Food Bank Donations We are also encouraging generous support for our food bank collections, helping local families who are struggling with the rising cost of living.

If you would like to support our Lenten fundraising, please visit our JustGiving page via the link below:

<https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/cardinal-newman-catholic-schools-fundraising-page>

Thank you for your continued support and prayers during this Lenten season.

Sacred Heart 39 Norton Road, BN3 3BF; 01273 732843; www.sacredheartove.org.uk;
hovesacredheart@abdiocese.org.uk. All Masses at SH are Live Streamed: www.sacredheartove.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 Street, 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; 01273 696955 Ext. 64122; celestine.nnolim@nhs.net

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

Mass Schedule

Sat 7	Mar	Saints Perpetua and Felicity
12noon	SH	For the election of a Bishop in our Diocese
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 8	Mar	3rd Sunday of Lent
8.30 am	SP	Peter Poole & Jackie Jackson
9.00	ST	Michael Dunn RIP
9.30	SH	Rev Augustine O'Leary
9:30	SMM	People of the Parish
10.00	SP	Ronald & Elsie Garner RIP
11.00	SG	Leonardo Iacono RIP
11.00	SMM	People of the Parish
11.30	SH	Mary Scherer RIP
11.30	SP	Yvonne Prendergast
5pm	SP	<i>Brazilian Mass</i>
5.00pm	SMM	People of the Parish
Mon 9	Mar	Saint Frances of Rome
10.00 am †	SH	Clement Evers
Tue 10	Mar	Tuesday
10.00 am	SG	People of the Parish
10.00 †	SH	Marion Donovan
10.00	SP	People of the Parish
6.00pm †	SMM	People of the Parish
7.00pm	ST	People of the Parish
Wed 11	Mar	Wednesday
8.00am	SH	Keith Simpson RIP
8.00am	CNCS	
10.00	SP	People of the Parish
12noon	SP	Funeral Mass of Martin Harvey
6.00pm †	SMM	People of the Parish
7.00pm	ST	People of the Parish
Thurs 12	Mar	Thursday
10.00am	SP	People of the Parish
10.00 am ‡	SG	People of the Parish
12noon †	SH	Anna Kendall RIP
6.00pm †	SMM	People of the Parish
7.00pm	ST	People of the Parish
Fri 13	Mar	Friday
8.00 am	SH	Thanksgiving
10am	SP	People of the Parish
6.00pm †	SMM	People of the Parish
7.00 ‡	ST	People of the Parish
Sat 14	Mar	Saturday
12noon†	SMM	People of the Parish
6.00pm †	SH	James Kendall RIP
6.00	SP	Thanksgiving
6.30	SG	<i>Polish Mass</i>
Sun 15	Mar	Laetare Sunday
8.30 am	SP	Holy Souls
9.00	ST	People of the Parish
9.30	SH	People of the Parish
9:30	SMM	People of the Parish
10.00	SP	People of the Parish
11.00	SG	Bridget Flaherty RIP
11.00	SMM	People of the Parish
11.30	SH	Terence Melville Shrieves RIP
11.30	SP	People of the Parish
1.00pm	SP	<i>Arabic Mass</i>
5pm	SP	<i>Brazilian Mass</i>
5.00pm	SMM	People of the Parish

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

Regular Events

Weekly Reconciliation Times

Sacred Heart & St Peter's Saturdays at 5:15pm, before Mass.
St George's After Sunday Mass, on request.
St Mary Magdalen Fridays at 5pm, and Saturdays at 11am.
St Theresa's Fridays after the 7:00pm Mass.

Prayer Groups

Online Prayer Group – Thursdays at 8pm via video-link westhove@abdiocese.org.uk
St Peter's "Be still and know..." (Psalm 46:10). You are warmly invited to join an online and in person contemplative prayer group, Fridays at 7:30pm. Please email James quietenginesprayer@gmail.com for more info.
Sacred Heart Online Rosary: Friday's 11am Rosary, available online only. Please join via our livestream.

Social Groups

St George's Tea and Chat After 10am Mass on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, join us in the hall, next on 10th March.
Sacred Heart SVP Social Group Join us after 12noon Mass. Next date is 19th March, then every two weeks.
St Peter's Social group Fridays, 1–3pm in the parish hall. Join us for light refreshments and friendly conversation.
Sacred Heart Film Club The next Film Club will be held on 2nd May after 12pm Mass. The film showing will be announced in due course.
Faith Formation Group Thursdays, 6:45pm at St Mary Mags. For anyone interested in joining the Church or learning more about the Catholic faith. Contact the parish office for info.

Stations of the Cross During Lent will take place across our parish at the following times:

Sacred Heart During Lent, and continuing for six weeks, the usual Prayer Group following the 10am Mass at Sacred Heart will be replaced by Stations of the Cross, which will be held in the church. All are warmly welcome to attend.
St George's Every Friday at 7:30pm. All are warmly invited to attend and to enter more deeply into this Lenten journey of prayer and reflection.
St Mary Magdalen's Every Friday after 6pm Mass.
St Peter's Every Friday at 7pm.
St Theresa's During Lent, Stations of the Cross will take place every Friday at 12 noon at St Theresa's, followed by a simple austerity lunch. Everyone is warmly invited to come and pray together. We are looking for a few kind volunteers who would be willing to make a vegetarian soup for the lunch (for around 15 people). If you feel able to help in this way, please have a word with James after Sunday Mass at St Theresa's for more information. Thank you for your generosity.

Coffee and Cake After Sunday Mass each week, after the 10am and 11:30am Masses at St Peter's, after the 9:30 Mass at Sacred Heart, and after Sunday Mass at St Theresa's and St George's, thanks to our wonderful volunteers. If you would like to help with this ministry, please contact your parish office.

Other Events/Notices

Children's Liturgy – Can You Help?

Children's Liturgy is a valued part of Sunday Mass at Sacred Heart, St Peter's, and St Theresa's, helping children hear and respond to the Gospel in ways that connect with their everyday lives. We are looking for a few more volunteers to support this ministry. You could be the second adult present or, if you feel called, lead a session after shadowing an experienced leader. Full support is provided, and you only need to help at your own church. To get involved or find out more, contact your parish office.

St Theresa's & St George's SVP Meeting

Thursday 12th March, 5:45pm, St Theresa's (meeting room at the back of the church). If you would like to get involved with our SVP, or simply learn more about what we do, please come along to our next meeting. All welcome.

Southwick Churches Together

We meet at 9:30 every Wednesday morning, at St Michael's Church in Southwick, for a short service, led by people from churches in the local area. There are refreshments afterwards. All welcome!

St Peter's Archive Team

For a baptism, or confirmation certificate contact our team of volunteers by email SaintPeter-Archives@gmail.com. Please allow two weeks for documents to be processed.

Missio Red Boxes at Sacred Heart

Please bring your Missio red box to church during the month of March to be counted. You can leave it in the Outer Sacristy for me. I will put it back in the Outer Sacristy after about a week, for you to collect. Many thanks, Marilyn.

TAIZÉ SERVICE



Please join us for a service of prayer and contemplation in the season of Lent.

Thursday 12th March 2026
at 7pm at St Peter's RC Church, Hove.

Good Friday Walk of Witness 3rd April at 10am. You are invited to join this event to commemorate the events of Good Friday. Christians from churches in Brighton will come together to symbolically walk behind Jesus on his way to Calvary and to the Cross. We will pause for readings and prayers in a quiet public witness of faith. The walk will conclude with a 15-minute outdoor service at St Nicholas Church at approximately 10:45am.

Divine Mercy Sunday Healing Service

The next Healing Service at St Mary Magdalene's will take place on Divine Mercy Sunday, 12th April, at 3pm, with Fr Rod and Fr Alphonse. All are warmly encouraged to attend.

Fundraising / Giving

Special Collections 2026

3rd April (Good Friday) - The Holy Places
26th April. Education of Priests (Gift Aid)

Offertory Collection Reporting

Totals are reported monthly, in arrears.

SH offertory for Jan = £5,750.

SG & ST offertory for Jan = £2,400.

SMM offertory for Jan = £3,422.34.

SP offertory for Jan = £5,569.

Martlets Hospice fundraising at SP

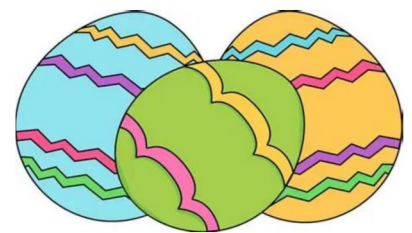
THANK YOU to everyone who supported last week's sale for Martlet's Hospice, with donations, purchases or just popping in for coffee. We have now raised £700 which will cover a bed for 24 hours with all services. You might have seen that Martlets is having to review some services due to costs, so our support is much needed. There are usually a few items on sale after 10am Mass most weeks, and always fresh coffee and very nice biscuits. Do come into the hall and support this.

Soup Run Each week, from Monday to Friday, 7pm at the shelter next to the Angel of Peace on the seafront. Please consider giving your time to this valuable work of charity. For more information, please contact SMM office.

St Peter's Repository Has a wide range of St Patrick's and Mother's day cards along with Confirmation and First Holy Communion items, please do take a look. Opening times are before and after Mass every day apart from Monday, please use our Dona machine in the porch to pay for any purchases.

SVP Easter Sale & Raffle The appeal for donations has now closed, and we are very grateful to everyone who contributed so generously. The SVP Easter Sale will take place after the 9am Mass at St Theresa's on 1st and 8th March. A variety of Easter treats and cards will be available to purchase, with all proceeds supporting much needed causes within our local community and beyond. Raffle tickets are also on sale for a Simnel cake, with the final draw taking place on 29th March. Thank you for your continued support of the SVP.

Easter Sale & Raffle



1st March after 9.00 mass:

8th March after 9.00 mass:

@ St Theresa's Church

Raffle for Simnel cake will be drawn on:

29th March

Hangleton & W Blatchington Foodbank

If you would like to donate to the food bank this week, we are most in need of: **Washing up liquid; Tuna; Veg chilli; Creamy pasta sauce; Tinned mince and onions; Single toothbrushes.** We have a mountain of porridge, baked beans, pasta and tea so please don't buy us any more! We also have plenty of bags and egg boxes and won't need any more for a while. Donations may be brought to SG hall on Wed 10:30-11:45am, or the collection bins in any of our churches.

Prayer List During Lent, we are asked to pray for: Candidates for the sacraments; Women; the needy and hungry of the world; penitents; and wanderers.

Please also pray for all who are sick, housebound, or in need of our prayers in our communities, including:

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

**Sunday 8th March 2026,
Third Sunday of Lent**

First Reading Exodus 17:3-7

In those days: The people thirsted for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' And the Lord said to Moses, 'Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.' And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarrelling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the Lord by saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

The word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

O that today you would list to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts.'

Second reading Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

Brothers and Sister: Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die — but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God. Lord, you are indeed the Saviour of the world; give me living water, so that I will not be thirsty. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

Gospel Matthew John 4:5-42

At that time: Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' (For his disciples had gone away into

the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?' (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come here.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming — he who is called Christ. When he comes, he will tell us all things.'

Jesus said to her, 'I who speak to you am he.' Just then his disciples came back. They marvelled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you seek?' or, 'Why are you talking with her?' So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, 'Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?' They went out of the town and were coming to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, 'Rabbi, eat.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Has anyone brought him something to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, "There are yet four

months, then comes the harvest"? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.' Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me all that I ever did.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Saviour of the world.'

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.**