

**It is now clear to us that as from 1st** January, there will be no resident priest in Saint Peter's, and the Church will be served by various visiting priests, among whom will be Fr Rod Jones OSB who is the dean, and his fellow monks, along with Fr Chris Benyon, Fr Carl Davies, Fr Paul Wilkinson, Fr Celestine, the hospital chaplain, and others. The ultimate referee is the Dean, Fr Rod. The new parish priest will be arriving in the summer. In the meantime, the parish secretary and the parish treasurer will on duty at their usual hours. In addition, members of the Acutis Group are there to liaise with the Dean. The Acutis Group members include: Mary Yagoub, Melitsa Bowen, Aleks Szczerbiak, Sam Barrett & Kate Szeless.

All Masses are to continue as scheduled, both on weekdays and Sundays. Emergency sick calls will be undertaken by Father Tony in Southwick. This is not a desirable situation, but it is an opportunity rather than a crisis. Certain things like opening the Church and getting it ready for Masses will be reliant on our parishioners stepping forward to help out; and there is nothing to stop parishioners organising things if they so desire. To this end, we need co-ordinators at every Mass who can make sure everything is put out, and put away, and answer the questions of the visiting priests with regard to things like lighting, heating etc. The parish is the responsibility of all its parishioners, and has always been; from 1st January this will be more apparent than ever.

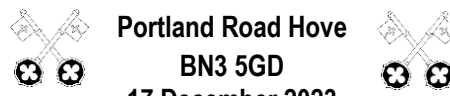
**Fr Alexander's Leaving:** We will host a gathering to wish him well on his next journey after 11.30am Mass on December 31<sup>st</sup> in the hall, please join us. This is the

last week to donate towards his gift cash only please. Please donate if you wish using the envelopes attached to the newsletter and place either in the collection baskets or post through the Presbytery door.

**A short series of talks on St Mark's Gospel** Fr Tony Milner. Wednesday 10, 17 & 24 January, St Theresa's, 7:45pm. Mass at 7pm, followed by refreshments. This year on Sundays we will be hearing the Gospel of Mark. It the shortest and most dynamic of Gospels. It was probably written in Rome, for a small Church community that had known St Peter, and was now enduring persecution and seeing people falling away. What was it like to hear the Gospel for the first time, possibly hidden secretly in a room in the city? The first session on 10 Jan will be a 'read through' of the whole gospel after a brief 'scene setting' to try to 'capture' its atmosphere. Then on the 17 and the 24 we will look more closely at key features of Mark's story of Jesus.

**Thank you all for your kind good wishes** on the occasion of my leaving the parish! I am greatly looking forward to my sabbatical in Italy, Israel and the Balkans. I shall pray for you all in Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Nazareth, and also remember you before the tombs of Blessed Carlo, Saint Francis and Saint Claire in Assisi, and before the tomb of Don Bosco and that of Blessed Piergiorgio Frassati in Turin, which is also home to the Holy Shroud. It should prove to be the trip of a lifetime. Thank you for all your kindness and support during my five and a quarter years here. With all best wishes, farewell for now, and until we meet again, Fr Alexander.

**St Peter's Catholic Church**  
**Diocesan Shrine of the Blessed**  
**Carlo Acutis.**  
**Portland Road Hove**  
**BN3 5GD**  
**17 December 2023**



Priest's House, Shelley Road,  
Hove BN3 5GD  
Tel: 01273 733840  
hovestpeters@abdiocese.org.uk  
www.stpeters-hove.org.uk  
Parish Office Hours: Wed-Thurs 9-3.30pm,  
Fri 9-1pm.  
Safeguarding Rep: Anna Finlason  
Email: sg1.hovestpeters@abdiocese.org.uk

Follow us on Twitter @HoveSaint Join us on Facebook: search for 'Saint Peter's, Hove'.

**Last week the stall for Aid to the Church in Need raised an astonishing £200 for our Christian brethren in Syria.** This sum has now been dispatched. Many thanks to all who participated. Many thanks to Santa Claus/Saint Nicholas, for dropping by. There are still some items for sale this weekend if you missed it.

**We still have a lot of £10 Sainsbury gift card to pass on to anyone who might like it on behalf of the parish.** Please ask Fr Alexander. We have a hundred such cards to disburse.

**Offertory Sunday 10 December 2023:**  
Total = £1,429.

## Mass intentions

Sat 16 Dec, 6pm: Special Intention (JC)
Sun 17 Dec, 8.30am: GE UCM
Sun 17 Dec, 10am: For all parishioners
Sun 17 Dec, 11.30am: Ignacy Mackowiak (birthday) RIP
Mon 18 Dec, 10am: DM Lorimer and Roser families
Tue 19 Dec, 7am: Special intention (JC)
Wed 20 Dec, 10am: Holy Souls
Thu 21 Dec: No Mass
Fri 22 Dec, 10am: Funeral of Veronica Hope RIP
Sat 23 Dec, 6pm: Maureen Hardiman RIP
Sun 24 Dec, 8.30am: For all parishioners
Sunday 24 Dec, 10am: Mary Peyton RIP (5 anniv)
Sunday 24 Dec, 11.30am: Stanislaw Szczerbiak RIP (anniv)
Sunday 24 Dec, 6pm: Joe Higgins RIP
Sunday 24 Dec, midnight: For all parishioners
Monday 25 Dec, 8.30am: Daniel Payne RIP
Monday 25 Dec, 10am: GE McGuigan family
Monday 25 Dec, 11.30am: GE Members UCM
Tuesday 26 Dec, 12 noon: Bernard and Patricia Sherratt RIP
Wednesday 27 Dec, 10am: Holy Souls
Thursday 28 Dec: No Mass.
Fri 29 Dec, 10am: GE Breda Sherlock
Sat 30 Dec, 6pm: Simon de Winter RIP
Sun 31 Dec, 8.30am: Thanksgiving (N and M Lock)
Sun 31 Dec, 10am: The members of the UCM
Sun 31 Dec, 11.30am: For all parishioners.

## Programme of Events

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December is the Third

**Sunday of Advent.** The prayers and readings are to be found in the aquamarine books on page 87. Today is one of two days in the Church's year when rose vestments are worn. This colour represents a softening of our Advent penances, and our happiness that Christmas is approaching. This Sunday is known as Gaudete Sunday, after the opening words of the Mass: 'Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.' The first reading is from the Prophet Isaiah, in which the prophet explains the role of the coming Messiah, which is to proclaim the Lord's year of favour, that is, a special time for us to be reconciled with God. In the Gospel, from Saint John, we hear from John the Baptist, a voice crying in the wilderness, calling people to a baptism of repentance.

**On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December, the Carol Service takes place at 6.30pm.** There will be a retiring collection for Aid to the Church in Need, earmarked for Syria. If you would like to bring wine and mince pies to the Hall afterwards, that would be greatly appreciated.

**On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December,** Mass is at 10am. Confessions will be heard after Mass.

**On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December,** Mass is at 7am, and is the last of our Rorate Masses in honour of Our Lady as we prepare for Christmas. Please bring your own candle, as Mass will be by candlelight and will end at dawn. After Mass we will go to Scottie's for a Power Breakfast to which all are invited.

**On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December** Mass is at 10am.

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December** is a *dies non*, and there will be no Mass. The Church will be shut for cleaning and flower arranging and other important matters.

**On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December,** Mass is at 10am, and is the funeral of the late Veronica Hope, who died, having received the sacrament of the Sick and the Apostolic Pardon, in the Lindridge Nursing Home at the age of 100 on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November. Veronica will be commended for cremation at the Church door. After the funeral is over, there will be Confessions.

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>/Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December is the Fourth Sunday of Advent.** The prayers and readings are to be found on page 90 of the aquamarine books. The first reading is taken from the second Book of Samuel, and in it the prophet Nathan foretells the coming of the Messiah, the descendant of David whose throne will be established forever. The Gospel comes from Saint Luke and tells of the Annunciation to Our Lady by the Angel Gabriel, who tells her that she is to bear a son who will be called Jesus and whose reign will have no end. Please note the following:

- Confessions 5.15 -5.45pm
- Masses are at the usual times, namely:
- 6pm
  - 8.30am
  - 10am
  - 11.30am.

Because the Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve there will be minimal music at all Masses.

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>/Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December** is the feast of the Nativity of the Lord, known as Christmas. There will be, as usual, five Christmas Masses, along with Mass in Portuguese, as well as an Oriental Orthodox Liturgy. All will have music bar the Dawn Mass. Mass is at

- 4.30pm (in Portuguese)
- 6pm Vigil
- 12 Midnight
- 8.30am Dawn
- 10am Day
- 11.30am Day.
- 1pm: Oriental Orthodox Liturgy celebrated by Abouna Aphram

The prayers and readings can be found in the aquamarine books on page 94 for the Vigil Mass, page 98 for Midnight Mass, page 100 for the Dawn Mass, and page 102 for the Day Mass. On Christmas Day the collection is the traditional offering of the parish for the maintenance of the parish priest throughout the year.

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December** is the Feast of St Stephen, deacon and first martyr of the Church, and Mass is at noon. Carols will be sung. Also on Tuesday there will be an Eastern Orthodox Liturgy at 2pm. The celebrant will be the Bishop, Mar Silwan, assisted by Abouna Michel.

**On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December,** feast of Saint John, apostle and evangelist, Mass will be at 10am. Carols will be sung.

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> December** will be a *dies non* and the Church will be shut.

**On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December,** feast of Saint Thomas of Canterbury, martyr and patron saint of the English parochial clergy, Mass will be at 10am. Carols will be sung.

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>/Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December** is the Sunday after Christmas and is the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The prayers and readings can be found in the aquamarine books on page 105. The first reading is an exhortation, from the Book of Ecclesiasticus, to children to fulfil God's commandment to honour their parents. The Gospel, from Saint Luke, is the story of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, where the Child Jesus is hailed as the Messiah by Simeon and Anna, who make prophesies about Him. Because this Sunday falls on New Year's Eve, the last day of the year, it is customary to recite the Te Deum, the hymn of thanksgiving for all the blessings we have received in the year 2023. We shall do this at all Masses after Holy Communion. There will be sheets provided.

### **Bishop Richard has written a new**

Pastoral Plan for the Diocese which will be released in the New Year: 'The Word Who is Life: The Call to Mission'. As society becomes more secular our parishes must be ever-clearer beacons of light guiding people to Christ. The new Plan highlights how our community of faith can embrace this important time of renewal, forging diocesan parishes into communities of saints and strong, lively, and welcoming schools of discipleship. The Pastoral Plan will be released on the diocesan website on **Tuesday 2 January**: [www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/pastoral-plan](http://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/pastoral-plan) with hard copies available to read in each parish.

Bishop Richard met with members of Clergy earlier this week and will be hosting a Pastoral Plan Webinar for people across our diocesan community on Wednesday 10 January at 7.30pm. Please use the following link to join the webinar. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86457734895>.

## Parish Notice Board

**Children's Liturgy takes place at the 10am Mass.** It is for children from year minus 1 to First Holy Communion age. Children and parents who wish to take part will be called up after the Gloria and Opening Prayer, and will then process into the Hall. They will return for the Offertory. Children's Liturgy is every Sunday, irrespective of school holidays, except in the months of April, August and December.

**Please remember, if you have need** of a baptism certificate, a confirmation certificate, or a marriage certificate, the email address you need to use is as follows: [SaintPeterArchives@gmail.com](mailto:SaintPeterArchives@gmail.com)

**We have a permanent Book Exchange in the Hall,** which you will find by the windows above the cupboard to one side of the main entrance. Please help yourself to all the books you like the look of, as they all need good and appreciative homes. We have lots of books in stock at present, so please help yourselves! We are not particularly soliciting donations for the moment.

**Clerk to Governors Cottesmore St Mary Catholic Primary School required.** Part-time, permanent post NJC Scale 5 (Senior Clerk) £22,571 - £24,920 pro rata. 4 hours per week, plus extra hours for clerking working groups and panels. For further information contact (Chair of Governors—[suehollow@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:suehollow@cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk) )

**The Royal Sussex County Hospital Chaplain is Fr Celestine,** and he can be reached via tel. 01273 696955 ext. 64122 or this email: [celestine.nnolim@nhs.net](mailto:celestine.nnolim@nhs.net). He is in the hospital from 8.30am to 4.30pm every weekday.

**Financial Adviser - Nick Lee**  
He would be delighted to help anyone with their Mortgage, Pension and Investment needs. You can contact him on 07500 660492 [nicklee@pebble-financial.co.uk](mailto:nicklee@pebble-financial.co.uk)



**Thank you for your offertory donations via the Dona device.**

If you are an existing Gift Aid donor, you still need to opt-in for Gift Aid on this system – it is not linked to the envelope or standing order system. You can also donate directly to St Peter's via the Dona donations webpage on our website at <http://www.stpeters-hove.org.uk/donations/> Or just click on the Donate button on the home page and follow the instructions.

**Thinking of driving lessons?** Please contact Phil Harris (Bartholomew's Driving School) on 07711 688147.

**Seagull Delivery** - they deliver newspapers all over Brighton and Hove. If you want your paper delivered contact [raj@seagulldelivery.co.uk](mailto:raj@seagulldelivery.co.uk)

**Social Dancing takes place on Thursdays** in the Hall, starting at 8pm. Do

come and join in the fun! Suitable for all ages, 19-99. The social Club meets in the Hall at 1.30pm on Fridays.

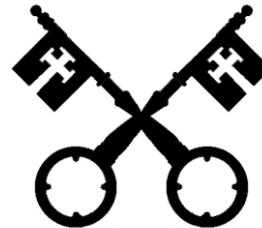
### Music Tuition

Are you interested in learning to play the piano? Then contact John Byrne on 07989 413459. Theory, GCSE, etc.

**Counselling Service.** Contact Lara who is experienced with counselling people with substance abuse, sexual abuse, bereavement, couple counselling. Tel 07787 555168.

### Catering Services

Please contact Victoria for your catering needs, she will be happy to talk and guide you through her menus which she tailors to each individual's needs. Please contact me Victoria Myall, [Victoriamyall@hotmail.com](mailto:Victoriamyall@hotmail.com) or Tel 07788673097



## List of Hall Clubs at St Peter's

Day	Event	Contact
Mon 9.15 - 10.15	Yoga	lee.spearpoint@googlemail.com
Mon 10.15 - 11.30	Tai Chi	stpetershallbn3@gmail.com
Tue 17.00-19.00	Brownies	<a href="http://girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter">http://girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter</a>
Tue 19.15 – 21.00	Guides	<a href="http://girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter">http://girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter</a>
Tue 14.30	UCM	Winter meetings time January - 11 April
Wed 9.45–11.45	Baby Ballet	brightonwestandhove@babyballet.co.uk
Wed 14.15-19.00	Alta Academy of Dance	info@altadance.co.uk
Wed 19.00-21.00	Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM)	wendywallis@ntlworld.com
Wed 09.30-12.00	Music with Mike	mike@musicwithmike.co.uk
Thu 15.30.-16.30	West Hove Dance Academy	Westhovedanceacademy@hotmail.com
Thu 09.30 - 12.00	Music with Mike	mike@musicwithmike.co.uk
Thu 15.30.-16.30	West Hove Dance Academy	Westhovedanceacademy@hotmail.com
Thu 16.45 -18.00	Rainbows	<a href="http://girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter">http://girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter</a>
Thu 18.00 – 19.45	Brownies	<a href="http://girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter">http://girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter</a>
Thu 20.00 – 22.00	Social Dancing	stpetershallbn3@gmail.com
Fri 9.30- 10.30	Pilates	nicolajhowarth@gmail.com
Fri 10.30.13.30	ESOL (English language lessons)	KWadham@wea.ac.uk
Fri 13.30- 15.30	Apostles Lunch Club	stpetershallbn3@gmail.com