

## What is a relic?

Relics are objects that have a direct association with a saint or with Jesus and are categorized into three classes:

**First Class:** These relics are the physical remains of a saint. These can include pieces of bone or hair.

**Second Class:** These relics are items touched by a saint, also known as "contact relics." Examples of second-class relics can include clothing or a rosary the saint used for prayer.

**Third Class:** These relics refer to articles that have come into contact with a first- or second-class relic. An example of a third-class relic would be a cloth that touched the tomb of a saint.

Catholics have venerated relics for more than a thousand years.

Relics are mentioned in the Bible in 2 Kings 13:20-21. The first known account of veneration of relics outside of the Bible was in A.D. 156 by the people of Smyrna. Their bishop, St. Polycarp, was martyred by being burned at the stake. His followers wrote, "We took up his bones, which are more valuable than precious stones and finer than refined gold, and laid them in a suitable place, where the Lord will permit us to gather ourselves together, as we are able, in gladness and joy and to celebrate the birthday of his martyrdom." One of the most well-known relics is the Shroud of Turin; the fabric believed to be the burial cloth of Jesus.

While relics are venerated by Catholics, they are not to be worshipped. St. Jerome tells us: "We do not worship, we do not adore, for fear that we should bow down to the creature rather than to the Creator, but we venerate the relics of the martyrs in order the better to adore Him whose martyrs they are." However, St. Thomas Aquinas acknowledges that it is human nature for us to respect items related to those who have

passed away. While a strong connection may be felt in the presence of a relic, the Catholic Church does not claim relics to possess any mystical powers.

## Forthcoming Events

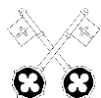
Thursday 24 March, 8pm: Social Dancing.
Friday 25 March: Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord.
Friday 25 March, 1.30pm: Social Club - Bingo with Gretta.
Friday 25 March, 7.30pm: Stations of the Cross.
Saturday 26 March, 10.30am-4pm: Eucharistic Adoration
Saturday 26 March, 4.45pm: Catechism for Older Children III
Monday 28 March, 8pm: Baptism Course
Friday 1 April, 1.30pm: Social Club - Clive and his accordion.
Friday April 1, 7.30pm: Taizé service
Saturday 2 April, 9.00 - 10.30am/11 - 12.30pm: FHC
Saturday 2 April, 2-4pm: Wanda's Cake Sale for Ukraine, at Worcester Villas.
Saturday 2 April, 4.45pm: Catechism for Older Children IV
Sunday 3 April: Book Exchange all morning.
Sunday 3 April, 10am: FHC Mass
Monday 4 April, 7.45pm: Jubilee Action Committee meets.
Saturday 9 April, 4.45pm: Catechism for Older Children V

**Saint Michael** the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; may God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

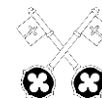
## St Peter's Catholic Church Diocesan Shrine of the Blessed Carlo Acutis.

Portland Road Hove

BN3 5GD



20 March 2022



**Parish Priest: Fr. Alexander Lucie-Smith**

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Parish Secretary: Aisling Brombley

Hovestpeters@abdiocese.org.uk

Office hours: Wed 9-3.30, Thu 9-3.30, Fri 9-1

Follow us on Twitter @HoveSaint Join us on Facebook: search for 'Saint Peter's, Hove'. Find our YouTube channel: search for 'Alexander Lucie-Smith'. Right now we are doing a virtual Walking Tour Through the Bible, starting with the Book of Genesis, in bite size chunks. We are currently on the Book of Psalms. Please visit our website which is constantly being updated. Do ask to join our WhatsApp group.

## This Sunday is the Third Sunday of Lent.

The readings and prayers for this day can be found in the purple books on page 160. The first reading comes from the Book of Exodus, and is the account of God's revelation of Himself to Moses as a compassionate Lord and His giving Moses the mission to bring about the liberation of the Chosen People from slavery in Egypt. The Gospel passage, taken from Saint Luke, is the parable of the fig tree. Lent is our special time dedicated to making sure that we, like the tree, bear fruit; in our case the fruit that is good works.

Hall events: Please remember that tea and coffee are available every Sunday after the 10am and 11.15am Masses. Our next Book Exchange Day is on Sunday 3 April, all morning: just leave your books that you do not want, and pick up any book you like the look of, and no money changes hands. This coincides with one of the First Holy Communion Masses, so children's books particularly welcome. Books can be left the night before. On Sunday 8 May we are holding our next Table Top sale. It costs £7 for a large table and £5 for a small table, to be paid in advance. Put the money in an envelope with your name and marked 'Table Top sale' and post through the Presbytery door or hand in at the parish office. We also want to hold a Polish Market, and a Syrian Market. Do get in touch if you have any ideas for these.

**To donate to people in need in Ukraine**, either put some cash into a Cafod envelope and place that in the collection, or else make a donation to Cafod or the DEC appeal online. Having spoken to members of the Red Cross, it seems that cash donations are preferred to goods.

**There will be Confessions** after each weekday Mass in Lent, as well as the usual confessions on Saturdays.

**On Friday Stations of the Cross are at 7.30pm.**

**On Saturday we shall have Eucharistic Adoration from after Mass until 4pm.** This is in accord with the Holy Father's wishes that we should have a Holy Hour each week for the Ukraine, as well as being a wonderful opportunity for devotion to the Saint, and a useful Lenten exercise. You can sign up for this online, via our Facebook page, or else via the list in the sacristy.

**On Saturday at 4.45pm, Catechism classes** continue for older children and last for one hour.

### Mass intentions

Saturday 19 March, 6pm: GE Anna Hudson
Sunday 20 March, 8.30am: For all parishioners
Sunday 20 March, 10am: Elizabeth Murphy RIP
Sunday 20 March, 11.15am: For our benefactors
Monday 21 March, 10am: DM O'Toole family
Tuesday 22 March, 10am: Holy Souls
Wednesday 23 March, 10am: Hannah Roche RIP 2 anniv
Thursday 24 March: No Mass
Friday 25 March, 10am: GE Michael Murphy
Saturday 26 March, 10am: Giuliana Sussex RIP
Saturday 26 March, 6pm: For benefactors
Sunday 27 March, 8.30am: Teresa lo Porcaro Sassi RIP
Sunday 27 March, 10am: For all parishioners
Sunday 27 March, 11.15am: Pietro Addis RIP

### Liturgical Notes

Lent is forty days of preparation for the feast of Easter, recalling the forty years the Children of Israel spent in the desert, journeying towards to Promised Land, and the forty days Our Lord spent in the desert before His public ministry. Lent is a time of fasting, prayer and almsgiving. During Lent, the vestments are purple, which is the colour of penance. There are no flowers in Church and the organ is only used to sustain the singing. The Gloria is omitted. In Lent let us try to dedicate ourselves to prayer, to practical works of charity and to fasting. This Lent we are singing the Creed at the

11.15am Mass, and the Our Father at both the 10am Mass and 11.15am Mass.

**Wednesday** is the liturgical commemoration of Saint Turibius.

**Friday** is the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. This important feast day does not count as part of Lent. That seems a good excuse for another Power Breakfast, should anyone want to join us.

**Good news!** Our Church shop, known as the Repository, will be re-opening this Sunday. Opening times are from before 8.30am Mass until half an hour after 11.15am Mass, every Sunday. Items for sale include goods from the Holy Land, which have been blessed in the Nativity Church in Bethlehem, the selling of which helps Christian families. We also have blessed items from Lourdes including Lourdes holy water. In addition, there are gifts for Easter, First Holy Communion, Confirmation and Blessed Carlo Acutis items too. Do support our shop!

**More good news!** The Holy Pictures of the Blessed Carlo have come and are now in the shrine. Please help yourself to as many as you need and pass them on to those who might like them.

**Even more good news!** A relic of the Blessed Carlo has arrived in England and will be with us soon.

**In other news....** We have received a fresh consignment of votive candles, 40,000 in all, a year's supply. Many thanks to Fila who curates our votive candles so devotedly. It is always so cheering to see candles burning in Church, as one does at any time of day, as each candle represents a prayer, and our Church is a house of prayer for all nations. The candles are free, but we are very grateful for the donations that people leave in the boxes marked 'Candles'.

**Wanda McRae is holding a Cake Sale** in aid of those in need in Ukraine at 33 Worcester Villas on Saturday 2 April from 2pm to 4pm. Put that date in your diary!

**Are there any more young persons from Year 10 or above who wishes to be Confirmed?** If so, please get in touch with Fr Alexander, by email. The bishop is scheduled to be coming here to confer the Sacrament on Saturday 28 May at 11.30am. We have eighteen candidates so far, and have room for more. Given the constraints of time, thanks to the aftermath of Covid, it is proposed to run a compressed five session course on Sunday evenings in Eastertide, that is to say, starting Sunday 24 April through to Sunday 22 May, every Sunday at 7pm. The deadline for registration is the evening of Palm Sunday, 10 April.

**Don't forget Social Dancing at 8pm** on Thursdays to which all are welcome. (There will be no social dancing on 7 and 14 April.) On Fridays the Social Club meets in the Hall at 1.30pm to which all are invited. This Friday This Friday come and play Bingo with Gretta.

**Our next Baptism Course** will be on Monday 28 March at 8pm in the Hall. If you have a baby to baptise, please get in touch with Fr Alexander who will come and see you at home before the course begins.

**If you are a reader, a Eucharistic minister,** on duty at Mass, please come into the sacristy for prayers before the Mass begins at about seven minutes prior to the start.

**We are collecting donations for the Food Bank.** Please leave your donation in the tub inside the door of the Outer Sacristy. If locked, by the door.

### Some Thoughts on Children's Liturgy

[part four]

Top Tips for Parishioners – Helping Young Families

- Smile! It can be hard bringing young children to Mass! The families who are in church need all the support you can give them – a smile and a kind word can make all the difference.
- Say it! If someone is doing a great job with their children, please tell them so – a little encouragement builds a community!
- Ignore it! Noisy Masses may not be your preference – rise above it! Better that our children are in church, making a noise and running around and learning to feel at home in God's love, than that the church is quiet and empty and remains devoid of life... Let the little children come to me!
- Welcome! It takes a whole community to raise a child – what can you do to help the parents of these children? I still remember the parishioners who helped me – the man who gave a handkerchief when my child was crying; the lady who held my baby when my older child fell over and bumped her head; the lady who gave us her children's old church books... Little things which helped us to know we were welcome and our children were loved and important in this parish family.

Now almost grown-up, our three children still attend Mass regularly, they feel at home in any church anywhere and they are still supported in their faith by friends of all ages from the parish community where they grew up. Best of all, they know themselves loved by God. Who needs children's liturgy?




## Parish Notice Board


**You are warmly invited to a Lenten Retreat Day** led by the monks of Worth Abbey based in Brighton. Venue: St Martha's Convent, Rottingdean. Date: Saturday March 19. (Please note the change of date.) Time: 10am – 3pm. Bring your own lunch. Teas and Coffees provided. Donations on the day to St. Martha's. Please book your place(s) via [brightonmonks@worth.org.uk](mailto:brightonmonks@worth.org.uk)

**If you are a reader, a Eucharistic minister,** on duty at Mass, please come into the sacristy for prayers before the Mass begins at about seven minutes prior to the start.

**SVP England & Wales Tower House** provides sociable lunches and more for older people in Brighton & Hove. Tuesdays we host a memory café providing support, snacks and activities for people with dementia and their carers.

**Wednesday, Thursday and Friday** join us for lunch, visit our pop-up or take part in art and activities. To book or find out more

 [towerhouse@svp.org.uk](mailto:towerhouse@svp.org.uk)

 01273 549604

**We are collecting donations for the Food Bank.** Please leave your donation in the tub inside the door of the Outer Sacristy. If locked, by the door. We have bought some new tubs and new boxes for donations.

**Deep Waters Sunday lunches are back,** organised by Wellspring Community, for students & young adults. It will be every 1st & 3rd Sunday of the mass after 11am mass (around 12pm) outside St Joseph's. We will gather after mass before going into the kitchen through the back gate to have lunch together. It is a great opportunity to meet & have fellowship with other like minded young adults & students. Starting February 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Lenten Reflection for young adults (18-35)** Saturday 12 March 10am – 4pm. To book contact [lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.oeg.uk](mailto:lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.oeg.uk)

### Counselling Service

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

**Oncology yoga course aimed at supporting cancer patients,** no matter where they are on their journey. Learn how to improve your body functions, provide a container for your emotions and become excited about your healing. Course runs at The Tree of Life on Fridays 16.00-17.00. Call Eva on 07962 505782 for more information.

**Professional Organiser & Photo Manager.** If you're looking for help decluttering and organising your home, business or photographs please contact

Nicola Austin on 07747798858 or [nicola@lifeoflibra.com](mailto:nicola@lifeoflibra.com)

### 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)

**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)

### Music Tuition

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

 Donate with Dona



**Dona contactless giving:** Our digital collection plate / contactless machine is in the porch.

**Statistics from Dona** thank you for your donations since the launch last October:

- Total Donated £1,279
- Donations Gift Aided 47%
- Number of Donors 57
- Average donation £9.2

You can choose to gift aid your donation this way or you may find it easier to register for gift aid using our online platform on our website initially. Please note! 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. Parishes that are a similar size to St Peter's have raised between £400-£800 extra a month.

You can also donate directly to St Peter's via the Dona donations webpage on our website if you wish to donate that way, go to the following link <http://www.stpeters-hove.org.uk/donations/> Or just click on the Donate button on the home page.