

Sick Parishioners

Please pray for; Jim McFarlane, Caroline Audy, Margaret Chapman, Vincent O' Rourke, Jim and Valerie Lee, Eileen Banks, Matthew Garcia, Beverley Coughlan, Sonia Wall, Dennis Tribe, Rosemary Kilcourse, Adrian Van Twest.

Parish Events

Saturday/Sunday 21/22 December: Visit of the Bethlehem Nativity Group.

Sunday 22 December, 6pm: Carol Service.

Sunday 5 January, 7pm: Confirmation, session III.

Monday January 6, 8pm: Baptism course.

Friday 10 January, 1.30pm: Social Club resumes.

Saturday/Sunday 22/23 February: Apostolate of Adoration visit.

Sadly, the final Masses have now been said in the Catholic churches and chapels of ease in Sidley (Bexhill Parish), Pulborough (Billingshurst Parish) and Hurstpierpoint (Keymer Parish). We are asked to remember in prayer the people of these communities as they adjust to the changes that result. Let us remember that the diocese has already closed the churches and mass centres at Portslade and Newhaven. Let us redouble our prayers for vocations to the priesthood. The Secretariat of State in the Vatican has requested that the Holy Father's thanks go to all who have contributed to Peter's Pence, the annual collection that is taken up on the feast of saint Peter and Paul and which is then sent to the Holy See to fund its activities. A recent report, giving the figures for 2018, indicated a rise in contributions from the diocese of £5,772 – a wonderful expression of support for the charitable work of the Holy Father.

Diocesan Justice & Peace

Assembly: How can we respond to the homelessness crisis facing our society today? On Sat 25 January 2020 from 10 to 4pm at the St. Philip Howard Centre, Crawley. To book your free place contact rosie.read@abdiocese.org.uk.

Thursday mornings Scripture Reflection: will be back 2 January at 10am all welcome.

Mass intentions this week & next week:

Saturday 21 Dec 6pm Frank Atherton RIP
Sunday 22 Dec 8.30am Peggy Haslam RIP
Sunday 22 Dec 10am Catherine Barnes RIP
Sunday 22 Dec 11.15am All Parishioners
Mon 23 Dec 10am Maureen Hardman RIP
Tuesday 24 Dec 6pm GE Simone Lloyd
Tuesday 24 Dec midnight Mary Peyton RIP
Wednesday 25 Dec 8.30am All parishioners
Wednesday 25 Dec 10am Kieran Cashman and Jimmy O'Meara RIP
Wednesday 25 Dec 11.15am Rosemary Sheppard RIP
Thurs 26 Dec 11am Healy family intention
Friday 27 Dec 10am Mayance van Twest RIP
Saturday 28 Dec 10am Clarke, Leslie and van Twest families intention
Saturday 28 Dec 6pm Jane F. Cuthb  RIP
Sunday 29 Dec 8.30am Rowland Cross RIP
Sunday 29 Dec 10am For all parishioners
Sunday 29 Dec 11.15am GE The Towers School
Tuesday 31 Dec noon In Thanksgiving
Wednesday 1 Jan noon M. Locke intention
Friday 3 Jan 10am Racoczy intention
Saturday 4 Jan 10am Michael Machin RIP
Saturday 4 Jan 6pm GE Mikey and Mary Ann O'Toole
Sunday 5 Jan 8.30am All parishioners
Sunday 5 Jan 10am Sheila O'Rourke RIP
Sunday 5 Jan 11.15am Bill Fuller RIP

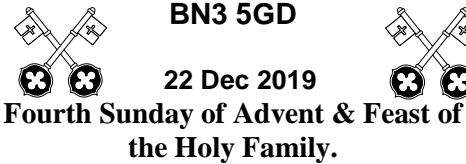
Evening prayer for the separated, divorced & remarried: Diocesan afternoon of welcome, listening, conversation & afternoon tea for people, at St John the Evangelist parish in Horsham on Sunday 23 February at 3pm and will conclude with the celebration of Evening Prayer. For info contact Katherine.Bergin@abdiocese.org.uk to assist with catering.

CAFOD: we received a thank you letter from Cafod to thank us for the £398.86 gratefully received. Letter available in porch.

Collection Sunday 15 December, £1,452.

St. Peter's Catholic Church Portland Road Hove

BN3 5GD



22 Dec 2019

Fourth Sunday of Advent & Feast of the Holy Family.

Parish Priest: Fr. Alexander Lucie-Smith

Priest's House,
Shelley Road, Hove BN3 5GD
Tel: 01273 733840
ppsaintpeters@gmail.com
Parish Secretary: Aisling Brombley
st.peters.parish.ad@gmail.com
(Office Hours: Wed 9-1, Thur 9-3, Fri 9-1pm.)
Website: www.stpeters-hove.org.uk

This newsletter covers the period up to the feast of the Epiphany on Sunday 5 January.

Sunday 22 December is the Fourth (and final) Sunday of Advent. The first reading this Sunday is once again from the prophet Isaiah: in it we hear the prophecy of the maiden who will conceive and the Child she will bear, who will be called Immanuel, a name that means God is with us. The Gospel gives us Saint Luke's account of the conception of Jesus. The Angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she has been chosen to be mother of the Son of God, and she gives her willing consent to this proposal. Jesus, who is to be born of her, is fully human being born of an earthly mother, and at the same time fully divine, being the Son of God, and having no earthly father. Mary, for her part, is the perfect disciple of the Lord, wanting what He wants, and attuning her will perfectly to that of God.

On Sunday 22 December, the Bethlehem Nativity Group, a missionary grouping from Bethlehem, in the Holy Land, is visiting the parish, as part of a

tour through the United Kingdom. They will give a brief talk about the Holy Land and sell religious articles made out of olive wood (Musical Cribs, Crucifixes, Rosaries, Figurines, Wall Plaques, Christmas Gifts) from the Holy Land to help and support poor Christian families. The things they sell make excellent First Holy Communion and Confirmation presents.

On Sunday 22 December at 6pm we have our Carol Service, to which everyone is invited. Please extend that invitation to all your family and friends. A lot of people who do not usually go to Church or who may not be Catholics, do nevertheless like going to Carol services and we aim to make them welcome. There is no sermon, and no collection! There will be lots of lovely music provided by our choirs and congregational singing, and there will be mince pies and wine, tea and coffee in the Hall afterwards. Parishioners are asked to bring along mince pies.

The retiring collection last week for Christmas flowers raised the sum of £132. Many thanks for your kind and generous contributions. If anyone still wants to contribute, please drop any monies off in the sacristy, as long as it is marked 'For Christmas flowers'.

Have you seen the Advent wreath? Would you like to light the fourth, purple, candle at the beginning of Mass, at the opening prayer? In which case just ask in the sacristy beforehand. Small children may need to be accompanied by a parent; the candle can be lit by a person of any age. Please note the wreath is very delicate; people are asked to refrain from moving it. The final, white, candle will be lit at Christmas.

A very happy Christmas to all our parishioners, as well as a happy and prosperous New Year! As you may know, the Christmas collection is one of two collections a year (the other being Easter Sunday) which make up the annual gift of the parishioners to their parish priest, and these collections are a major source of his income (and they are taxed as such, of course). Many thanks in advance from Father Alexander for your kindness and generosity.

Our stained glass debt currently stands at £ 14, 636. (Another £10 came in from the table top sale.) Many thanks to all for our stupendous fundraising which has considerably reduced our debt.

Confessions are heard every Saturday morning, from 10.30 to 11.15am.

Liturgical Calendar:

Tuesday 24 December is Christmas Eve. There is no morning Mass this day, as the Church is being prepared for Christmas.

Wednesday 24/25 December is the Solemnity of the Nativity, commonly known as Christmas. There are five Masses celebrated, and four sets of different readings. These are the Vigil Mass (at 6pm on Christmas Eve) at which children are particularly welcome; Midnight Mass which starts at midnight but which is preceded by carols at 11.30pm; the Dawn Mass at 8.30am; and the Day Mass which will be celebrated at 10am and 11.15am. At each Mass we will place the Bambino in his place at the altar. There is a sign up sheet for Extraordinary ministers and readers in the sacristy.

Thursday 26 December, commonly known as Boxing Day, is the feast of Saint Stephen, the first martyr. Mass will be at 11am. Carols will be sung. This is a

special day for altar servers, as Saint Stephen is their patron, and deacons, of whom Saint Stephen was one of the first.

Friday 27 December is the feast of Saint John the Apostle, and Mass will be celebrated at 10am. Carols will be sung.

Saturday 28 December is the feast of the Holy Innocents, the children killed by King Herod, who died in the place of Baby Jesus. Mass will be at 10am, and we will sing carols, especially the carols that call this event to mind. The Vigil Mass for Sunday will be at the normal time of 6pm.

Sunday 29 December is the Sunday in the Octave of Christmas, the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. All the Sunday Masses will be at the normal times.

Monday 30 December is Monday in the Octave of Christmas. This will be a 'dies non'. There will be no public liturgical functions on this day, and the **church will be shut**.

Tuesday 31 December is the last day of the year, New Year's Eve, and the feast of Saint Sylvester, pope. Saint Sylvester was the first Pope to lead the Church after the persecutions had ceased, and he was the one who is reputed to have baptised the Emperor Constantine. As this is the last day of the year, we give thanks to God for all his blessings of the year of Our Lord 2018, by reciting the hymn of thanksgiving, the Te Deum at Mass, which will be held at noon. This Mass will be offered in Thanksgiving and for all who have died this year and not only this year, and all those who have been bereaved recently and not so recently. There will be no music, and afterwards there will be refreshments in the Hall. Do please come, and bring a plate to share, as a sign of your support for the bereaved. Please provide names to be

remembered to Fr Alexander beforehand.

Wednesday 1 January 2020 is the Octave of Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, and New Year's Day. On this day we implore the help of the Holy Spirit for the coming year, and we will sing the Veni Creator, the hymn to the Holy Spirit, so that He may inspire, strengthen and console us in the year to come. We shall also sing other suitable hymns and carols. Mass is at noon. Afterwards there will be drinks and something to eat in the hall, to which all are welcome.

Sunday 5 January is the (transferred) feast of the Epiphany, the Twelfth Night of Christmas, the day on which Jesus was seen and adored by the Magi. All Sunday Masses are at the normal times. On this day we shall sing the carols associated with the Three Kings.

Liturgical notes:

Christmas is a time of great celebration, as we all know. Hence, we have flowers on the altar and we sing the Gloria which we did not do during Advent. The Gloria is the song of the angels on the first Christmas night, and it is sung throughout the Octave of Christmas, the eight days of celebration that run until the 1 January inclusive. We have copies of the Lourdes Gloria printed to help us sing it at every Mass, unaccompanied if necessary. The Gloria is meant to be sung not read, particularly at Christmas time.

Christmas is a time for Cribs, and we hope you like ours, and the Bambino at the foot of the altar. The Twelve Days of Christmas end with the Epiphany after which all Christmas decorations should be taken down, though cribs can remain until the feast of the presentation of the Lord on 2 February.

The **new Diocesan Directory** for the year 2020 has arrived. If you would like a copy, they are available from the office, and the cover price is £5. Please note the days on which the office is shut over Christmas and New Year (office opens again Thursday 2nd January 2020).

From the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

274. What does the Eucharist represent in the life of the Church? It is the source and summit of all Christian life. In the Eucharist, the sanctifying action of God in our regard and our worship of him reach their high point. It contains the whole spiritual good of the Church, Christ himself, our Pasch. Communion with divine life and the unity of the People of God are both expressed and effected by the Eucharist. Through the eucharistic celebration we are united already with the liturgy of heaven and we have a foretaste of eternal life.

275. What are the names for this sacrament? The unfathomable richness of this sacrament is expressed in different names which evoke its various aspects. The most common names are: the Eucharist, Holy Mass, the Lord's Supper, the Breaking of the Bread, the Eucharistic Celebration, the Memorial of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Lord, the Holy Sacrifice, the Holy and Divine Liturgy, the Sacred Mysteries, the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar, and Holy Communion.

Congratulations to the Rev Tom Kent, who was ordained deacon by Bishop Richard Moth on Saturday 14 December 2019 at St John's Seminary, Womersley. Let us keep the new deacon in our prayers, as he prepares to be ordained priest next year.

UCM are on their Christmas break and back Wednesday 15 January at 7.30pm in the hall.

Tea & Coffee in the hall: Please note our hardworking volunteers are taking a well earned next month but will be back on duty 19 January. Thanks to you all for your loyal service to the Parish.

Churches' Nightshelter Project

2019-20: Two Catholic Churches have been involved with the Nightshelter Project sharing responsibility by serving one half of the winter each since its start. This year sees a new format using the redundant St Patrick's Church as the permanent venue, but requiring 11 months of the year support from all denominations Brighton & Hove churches, on a shared basis of so many weeks on and so many off.

We are asking for your help in providing additional volunteers to maintain a Catholic foothold in the city-wide Churches Nightshelter Project (excluding August when we can all go on holiday...)

To participate please complete an application form which is where your normal church literature is kept, or email Patrick Wallace at nightsheltersh@gmail.com

Curious about Catholics? To learn more and talk in an unpressured and confidential environment, please contact Sue Hollow on 0755 730 1796 or Fr Alexander.

Old Books wanted for Books Abroad: Message from Bernie Harvey. Instead of putting your old educational textbooks in the recycling bin or into the landfill, can you please leave them at the back of the church? I will organise them to go to a reputable charity. I have discovered Books Abroad, which is a registered charity that supports education in developing countries worldwide by redistributing second hand books. From its base in Aberdeenshire, Books Abroad collects good quality second hand books donated by schools, colleges, universities and private individuals from across Scotland and some parts of England. It

then redistributes them to educational establishments around the world in response to specific requests for support.

I was informed that I need at least 2,000 books for the organisation to collect them for free, so if you have any young people's books at home or any classic novels that you no longer need, please bring them in. The charity will accept damaged books but not if there are pages missing. They do not need any foreign language books. Thanks for your help, Bernie.

Marriage Preparation Course

You will need to contact Esther Lyon 01273 698182. www.stpetersbrighton.org

The Bible Society have sent us several copies of Saint Matthew's Gospels in useful pocket size editions. They are on the magazine rack in the porch. Please help yourself (the same applies to everything on the rack.) This gift is part of the initiative 'The God who speaks', a year long campaign to get people to read the Bible more. It is being supported by the Catholic Church, other Christian groups and the Bible Society.

Rite of Election 2020 – Advance Notice: Saturday 29th February, at 2.30 pm, with registration from 1 pm.

Foot Health Clinic, Portslade. Hard to reach toe nails? For professional treatment of nail cutting, corns, calluses & diabetic foot care. (109 Victoria Road, Portslade) Tel 01273 782850 www.ambiencefoohhealth.com

Guitar Lessons

Fun friendly lessons. Full CRB Visit www.learnuitarbrighton.com **07855169344**

Recruiting now fully employed part time housekeeping roles available with **Bright & Beautiful Hove**. We operate in Hove & Shoreham. Contact Velda on 07498 758582 velda@brightandbeautifulhome.com

Counselling Service

Contact Lara who is experienced with counselling people with substance abuse, sexual abuse, bereavement, couple counselling. Tel 07787 555168 <http://www.larasmith.co.uk>

Homework Help for Students in Secondary School: stress-free homework, study and revision with support from qualified teachers. For more information visit <https://studysessionshove.wordpress.com> & contact Claire 07989 973890.

Seagull Delivery - they deliver newspapers all over Brighton and Hove. If you want your paper delivered contact raj@seagulldelivery.co.uk

Food for all occasions. Call 07826 526527 or 07930 378899 food@feastofhove.co.uk

Recruiting now fully employed part time housekeeping roles available with **Bright & Beautiful Hove**. We operate in Hove & Shoreham. Contact Velda on 07498 758582 velda@brightandbeautifulhome.com

Thinking of driving lessons? Please contact Phil Harris (Bartholomews Driving School) on 07711 688147.

Guitar Lessons- all styles. Dr James Westbrook Dip. Mus., FLCM, PhD (Music, Cambridge). jrw84@cam.ac.uk or: 07836 550210

Music Tuition

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

Host Families needed

All year round. Single/twin room accommodation required. Ring Maureen 01273 778918 or 07801827323 Studenthomes.me@hotmail.com

Caroline's Kitchen – Tel 595922

Caterers for Baptisms, etc. Tel 595922 or carolineriley@carolines-kitchen.co.uk

Small Group maths tuition for children 7 to 11. Experienced primary school teacher. Call Katie Jackson 07776 098522

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