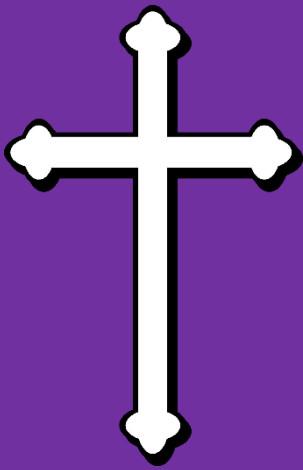


Advent & Christmas



December 2024

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NEW CHURCH YEAR – NEW BIBLE TRANSLATION – NEW PARISH A JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE!

The Season of Advent started on December 1st when we lit our first Advent candle and started a new liturgical year (Year C –St Luke's Gospel). The first Sunday is the Sunday of Hope, also the theme for the Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope' which will begin on Christmas Eve when Pope Francis will open the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica, and invites all of us on a year of Pilgrimage.

We have also welcomed the new Lectionary / Book of the Gospels from which we hear the Word of God proclaimed at Mass in our churches and schools. These Sacred Books communicate God's presence to us in the Word, inviting us to a loving and full response in our lives and communities. After 50 years using the Jerusalem Bible our own Bishops have approved use of the English Standard Version: Catholic Edition. It is more faithful to the original Hebrew and Greek texts and will give us a fresh experience of hearing God's Word. We pray that those who listen to the spoken words, will use the knowledge and wisdom it reveals to them in living out ever more deeply and joyfully their Baptism promises.

You will also be able to read below an important update on the steps we will be taking into the new year as we become a New Single Parish, across our deanery.

Please pray for this important work and be open to being part of this journey.

Wishing you all a very Blessed and Spirit filled Season of Advent and Christmas

Father Kevin



Pope Francis has decided that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee – something which happens every 25 years – with the theme "Pilgrims of Hope".

The Jubilee will offer people across our global family of faith an important opportunity to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

It is recognised that not all can travel to the Holy Doors in Rome and for everyone to share in the celebration of the Holy Year, all Diocese Bishops are permitted to designate diocesan churches as special places of pilgrimage, where Holy Year indulgences may be gained. In our Diocese Bishop Richard has designated:

- Arundel Cathedral, Arundel BN18 9AY
- Worth Abbey, Crawley, RH10 4SB
- St Joseph's, Guildford, GU1 4AZ

For more information and a calendar of events for the Jubilee Year in Rome visit: www.iubilaeum2025.va

"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you...yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand."

—MOTHER TERESA



Arundel & Brighton Diocesan Trust
www.abdiocese.org.uk
Registered Charity, No 252878



Advent in Our Deanery

There are many opportunities to keep Christ in Christmas this advent season across our deanery, here are a few you may wish to consider being part of. Also see page 5 of this newsletter for more Advent services and a complete list of parish Christmas Mass times.



Bambinelli Sunday 15th December

Bring your Baby Jesus Crib Figure to Mass

The beautiful Advent tradition of 'Bambinelli' Sunday was instituted by St Pope John Paul II during his papacy and every year on the Third Sunday of Advent families bring their 'baby Jesus' figure to St Peter's Square in the Vatican, for the Pope to bless.

On the Third Sunday of Advent this year (Sunday 15th December) some of our Deanery parishes are joining in this tradition and are inviting all local children and families to bring their baby Jesus figure from their nativity scene at home to be blessed at church.

Bambinelli blessings will be part of services at:

St George's, Polegate; St Wifrid's, Hailsham; St Thomas's, St Leonards; Holy Redeemer, St Leonards; St Martha's, Little Common; St Joachims, Hampden Park; St Mary Star of the Sea Hasting (4th Sunday of Advent in Hastings)

Following the blessing in church, you then take your 'bambinelli' home, wrap it in Christmas paper and put it under the Christmas tree. Then on Christmas Eve let it be the first gift you open and place it in the crib or on display.

A gift of the presence of Christ in our home this Christmas!



Rorate Caeli Mass

Friday's in Advent 6.30am at Our Lady of Ransom

The "Rorate" Mass is an ancient Advent tradition that takes its name from the first word of the Introit: *Rorate, caeli, desuper, et nubes pluant iustum*, "Drop down dew, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness." This Mass in honour of Mary is a beautiful candlelit Mass that begins in the darkness of early morning. The interplay of light and darkness as the church becomes progressively brighter with the sunrise symbolizes the coming of the Eternal Light, whom we await during the Advent season.

The first Rorate mass this Advent was attended by over 50 people, many of them our Catholic children who all delighted in the occasion before heading to school.

Attending the mass is a blessed way to start your Friday and with Breakfast available in the hall after will be ready to head to school or work afterwards.



**Our Lady of Ransom Church - Tuesday 17th December
6.30pm – 7.30pm**

An invitation to all to join in a talk given recently by Fr Tony Milner on the New Lectionary, followed by sharing and discussions. This is an opportunity to help all our parishioners deepen their love of Mass, the Bible and living the Gospel in daily life.

All will be most welcome as we start to forge new relationships within our new Parish. Refreshments from 6.15pm

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you— that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. Luke 24:44-45

Christians in Battle
Advent Devotions 2024

WAITING HERE FOR YOU

- An advent Journey of Hope -

8am at the Catholic Church
Followed by a help yourself breakfast upstairs at the Baptist Church
Tuesdays and Fridays 3rd, 6th, 10th, 13th, 17th and 20th December



Focus On Youth Pilgrimages

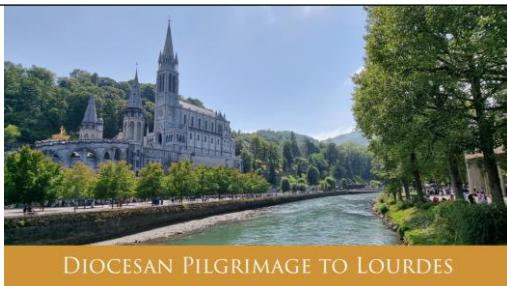
Our diocese puts much emphasis on Formation, and especially the formation of our Youth. It is also not surprising that Pope Francis encourages the global Church to celebrate young people! Pope Francis advocates to the young that YOU are the NOW and future of the Church. A focus in 2025 will include encouraging further the young families and youth of our parishes by highlighting opportunities open to them for Faith in Action including pilgrimages in this Jubilee Year of Hope. Here are a few for now!



**Flame 2025
Wembley
OVO Arena
Saturday 15th
March 2025**



Flame is a one-of-a-kind event bringing together 10,000 young people aged 14 through to university age from across England and Wales. It is the biggest event for our Catholic youth in the UK and one of the biggest events in the Catholic calendar for young people worldwide! As a Deanery we are delighted to already have over 80 youth (year's 9+) committed to attending, with our youth leaders, the Flame Youth Congress. Tickets are selling fast with the organisers already having sold over 7500 across England & Wales! That's 7500 Catholic youth and leaders in one place celebrating our Catholic faith! If you are currently school year 9+ or know a young person who is and they want to attend email your parish office (see parish directory on page 6) to be contacted with more details. Tickets are now £35 plus travel (fundraising pre-event is hoped to cover most travel costs)



DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

**Lourdes
2025
25th July
To
31st July**

Last year's Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes saw 850 pilgrims journeying together to celebrate 50 years of pilgrimage there. In this the Jubilee year of Hope it is once again expected that this pilgrimage will be very popular, and we pray it is blessed especially with our youth and families attending in abundance.

Family groups, Red shirts (years 10&11), Purple shirts (year 12), Young Helpers, Helpers, Doctors, Nurses, Assisted Pilgrims, independent pilgrims and our Diocesan Clergy are all encouraged to go. **Applications will Open January 2025**



YOUNG ADULT JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE

Rome 2025 28th July - 4th August

The Diocese is inviting young adults aged 18-30 to celebrate the special Jubilee year with a pilgrimage to Rome. Pilgrims will travel with other like-minded young people, to the beautiful city of Rome for opportunities to hear from, and pray with, Pope Francis on the theme of Hope. Booking open now, more details visit: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events>

60th Anniversary of the Diocese

Celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton and the Universal Jubilee Year with your family and friends on 20th September 2025. We pray that this inspirational and uplifting event will ignite a spiritual renewal in our own lives and across our communities. Put the date in your diary now, and watch out for tickets becoming available through your Parishes in the new year!

The event is taking place at Ardingly South of England Event Centre, tickets will be free of charge, with talks and activities suitable for all ages.





UPDATE ON PROGRESS TO NEW SINGLE PARISH

DEANERY OF EASTBOURNE & ST LEONARDS-on-SEA including Catholic Churches in
Battle, Bexhill-on-Sea, Eastbourne, Eastbourne (Langney & Hampden Park), Hailsham & Polegate,
Hastings, Rye, St Leonards-on-Sea

In November we had two very important and fruitful meetings of the Deanery clergy (priests and deacons), firstly with the Diocesan Team dedicated to overseeing the practical process of joining up our parishes, then a week later a meeting with Bishop Richard. These really helped us understand how we need to work together in a new way as a Clergy Team, working closely with parishioners from across our new large parish.

Many of you, along with us clergy, have been wondering what's going to happen and when?

The answer is that from January we will begin forming a **leadership structure of clergy and laity**, with representation from across our 15 church communities, who will work together to begin putting in place a concrete **Parish Pastoral Plan**, based on the Diocesan Plan with focus always on Prayer, Formation and Mission. Our Parish Plan will have clear actions and timelines to begin reorganising how we can work closely together, sharing all our best human and material resources. We will make sure that this is all communicated across the parish and give opportunity for people to participate in making the Plan concrete and the best it can be for us all. We will not be rushing to make big changes too soon but will concentrate on getting all of you who work in important church ministries to start meeting and sharing your expertise and experience. Quite quickly though we will need to audit our **Mass schedules** so that, working in our 2 Hubs ("Eastbourne" and "St Leonard's/Hastings"), we create a more realistic Mass schedule across the churches that can be managed by a smaller number of priests. This will mean people being more flexible in when and where they go to Mass. Every church community will be supported to continue as a place of worship, but just needing to be open to flexibility in how and when we provide worship. The other important work we will be undertaking thoroughly in the initial weeks of the new year will be **auditing who does what and how things work** in each of our church communities – this will allow us to start communicating and working effectively across the large "community of communities" that we will be.

This process is happening across the 11 Deaneries of the Diocese – so in the months ahead we will end up as a Diocese of 11 new large parishes. **The moment that our Deanery formally and legally is constituted as a single new Parish will be some months from now;** the Bishop has indicated this will probably be around June. This gives us time to get a lot of the basic new foundations in place, especially working relationships across our many church communities. Priests will substantially continue living where they are, having a particular relationship of care and pastoral oversight to the people who already know them. But little by little we will all experience being part of something larger, with all the good new opportunities that will create. When we are officially constituted as a new Parish, we will need to take on a new Parish name, something you will be invited to share your thoughts on in due course!

From January there will be more regular updates on this journey we will be making together. Please be ready and open to being involved, helping and above all praying for the Holy Spirit to guide our every step!

Wishing you all a Peaceful and Holy Christmas.

Fr Kevin (Moderator of the Clergy Team)

The New Single Parish and The Ministry of the Deacon

The change to a "larger single" parish will soon be upon us and so far, the Pastoral Plan has spoken in detail about the lack of priests and the future need for lay involvement but does not go into much detail about the role of the Deacon.

I thought it might be helpful to clarify the nature of the deacon's ministry and how it fits in the changes being made. A deacon is an ordained sacred minister who works closely with his bishop and priests in serving the faithful; in this he has the distinct ministry of service, which is most visible at the altar as Christ the Servant, in proclaiming the Word/Gospel and in the distribution of the Eucharist both at Mass and to the sick and housebound.

Unlike the priest, the deacon is not ordained to consecrate at Mass or provide the Sacraments of Healing but there are other sacramental and liturgical duties that a deacon can and does undertake. For example, baptisms, marriages, funerals (without Mass), house blessings, preaching and liturgies. Many deacons are actively involved in the running of their parish.

With fewer priests, the deacon, if a current parish has one, should be the person to turn to for help and guidance in the running of the community and for the provision of the sacraments. Deacons spend a good number of years preparing for their ministry by study and discernment which is ongoing, and so have been well prepared to undertake the ministry required of them in the life church. Furthermore, many deacons are family men who have had professional backgrounds which can be of added help in their ministry.

I hope that this clarifies a matter which some parishioners have been thoughtful about.

With every blessing

Deacon Eugene



Advent & Christmas Services 2024

Advent and Christmas is celebrated in all our Catholic churches in a variety of ways. Below is a list of the Christmas service times, and some advent services/events being held at each church.

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS and join us at our masses and events during this special time when we prepare for and welcome the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Parish Community of Our Lady of Ransom, St Gregory & St Agnes

Advent 2024 Extra Events & Services

Rorate (Candlelit) Mass 6.30am Fridays in Advent at OLR (pg 3)
Taizé Service 7.00pm Thursday 12th December at OLR
Carol Service 3pm Sunday 15th December at OLR
Cafod Soup Day for GAZA 11.45pm Mon 16th December at OLR

Christmas Eve Masses

5.00pm at St Gregory Vigil Mass
6.00pm at Our Lady of Ransom Vigil Mass (Carols 5.30pm)
8.00pm at St Agnes Vigil Mass (Carols 7.30pm)
11.00pm finish Midnight at Our Lady of Ransom (Carols 10.30pm)

Christmas Day Masses

9.00am at St Gregory Shepherds' Mass
10.15am at Our Lady of Ransom Shepherds' Mass
11.30am at St Agnes Mass of the Day

Parish of St George & St Wilfrid

Advent 2024 Extra Events & Services

Bambinelli Blessing both Masses 15th December (see pg 3)
Carol Service 3.0pm Sunday 15th December at St Wilfrid

Christmas Eve Mass

5.30pm at St Wilfrid Vigil Mass (with Nativity Mime)

Christmas Day Mass

9.30am at St George Mass of Christmas Day

Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary

Advent 2024 Extra Events & Services

Advent Morning of Reflection 10.00am Saturday 14th December at St Mary Magdalene (includes confessions)

Christingle Service 2.30pm Sunday 15th December St Martha
A Nativity Play will form part of the above service, and our Christingles are prepared as part of our Confirmation Groups Service

Christmas Eve Masses

4.00pm at St Martha Mass of Christmas Night
6.00pm at St Mary Magdalene Mass of Christmas Night

Christmas Day Masses

9.00am at St Martha Dawn Mass of Christmas
11.00am at St Mary Magdalene Mass of Christmas Day

Parish of St Mary Star of the Sea

Advent 2024 Extra Events & Services

Blessed Carlo Acutis Eucharistic Exhibition until 15th December

Christmas Eve Masses

6.00pm at St Mary Star of the Sea Family Mass
8.00pm at St Mary Star of the Sea Vigil Mass
10.00pm at St Mary Star of the Sea Vigil Mass (Carols 9.30pm)

Christmas Day Masses

10.00am at St Mary Star of the Sea Mass of Christmas Day
11.30am at St Mary Star of the Sea Mass of Christmas Day

Parish of the Good Shepherd

Advent 2024 Extra Events & Services

Bambinelli Blessing both Masses 15th December (see pg 3)

Christmas Eve Masses

4.00pm at Holy Redeemer Vigil Mass (Carols 3.30pm)
7.00pm at St Thomas Nativity of the Lord (Carols 6.30pm)

Christmas Day Masses

9.00am at Holy Redeemer Shepherds' Mass at Dawn
11.00am at St Thomas' Mass of Christmas Day

Parish of Christ the King and St Joachim

Advent 2024 Extra Events & Services

Bambinelli Blessing St Joachim 15th December (see pg 4)

Christmas Eve Masses

4.30 pm at Christ the King Children's Liturgy
6.00 pm at St Joachim Vigil Mass
8.00 pm at Christ the King Vigil Mass
11.30pm at Christ the King (Divine Worship)

Christmas Day Masses

10.00am at Christ the King Mass of Christmas Day

Parish of Our Lady Immaculate & St Michael with St Teresa of Lisieux

Advent 2024 Extra Events & Services

Christians in Battle Advent Devotions with prayer sessions in Our Lady Immaculate & St Michael followed by breakfast at Battle Baptist Church Tuesday and Friday 8.00am until 20th December.

Christmas Eve Masses

6.00pm at Our Lady Immaculate & St Michael Vigil Mass
9.00pm at Our Lady Immaculate & St Michael Vigil Mass

Christmas Day Masses

9.00pm at St Teresa of Lisieux Mass of Christmas Day
11.00am at Our Lady Immaculate & St Michael Mass of Christmas Day

Parish of St Anthony of Padua - Watchbell Street Rye, TN31 7HB

Advent 2024 Extra Events & Services

Christmas Eve Mass

6.00pm at St Anthony of Padua Vigil Mass

Christmas Day Masses

10.00am at St Anthony of Padua Mass of Christmas Day

A warm welcome awaits you all.

Why not invite friends!

Christmas Collections are for Our Clergy.



Deanery Parishes Directory

Our Deanery is becoming a New Single Parish in 2025. It is however still formed of eight smaller parish communities and 15 churches. Each community, led by its priest, holds a Sunday Eucharistic celebration weekly and during each week a wide variety of additional faith and community focussed services, devotions, events and meetings can be accessed. We are lucky to be rich with opportunity to be a bigger part of our Catholic Faith together and should access as much as we can as families of faith. Listed below is each of our Parish communities, current priest and contact details along with links to their websites.

Parish of Our Lady of Ransom, St Gregory & St Agnes

Parish Priest: Fr Kevin Dring

Churches:

Our Lady of Ransom, 2-4 Grange Road, Eastbourne, BN21 4EU
St Gregory, Victoria Drive, Eastbourne BN20 8QY
St Agnes, 10 Whitley Rd, Eastbourne BN22 8NJ
Parish office 01323 723222 / eastbourneolor@abdiocese.org.uk
Website: <http://ourladyofransom.org.uk/>

Masses:

Saturday: 6.00pm at Our Lady of Ransom
Sunday: 9.00am at St Gregory
Sunday 10.15am at Our Lady of Ransom
Sunday 11.30am at St Agnes
Sunday 5.30pm at Our Lady of Ransom
POLISH MASS: St Agnes - every 2nd and 3rd Sunday 6.00 pm

Parish of St George & St Wilfrid

Parish Priest: Father Rory

Parish Deacon: Deacon John Truman

Churches:

St George, 110 Eastbourne Rd, Polegate BN26 5DF
St Wilfrid, South Road, Hailsham, BN27 3JG
Parish office 01323 841504 / hailsham@abdiocese.org.uk
Website: <https://saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk/>

Masses:

Sunday 9.00am at St George
Sunday 10.30am at St Wilfrid

Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary

Parish Priest: Fr Stephen O'Brien

Parish Deacon: Deacon Simon Kirkdale

Churches:

St Mary Magdalene, Sea Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN40 1RH
St Martha's, Little Common, Cooden Sea Road, TN39 4SL
Parish office: 01424 210 263 opt 4 / bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk
Website: <https://stmmbexhill.co.uk/>

Masses:

Saturday 6.00pm at St Mary Magdalene:
Sunday 9.00am at St Martha
Sunday 11.00am at St Mary Magdelene

Parish of St Mary Star of the Sea

1 High St, Hastings TN34 3EY

Parish Priest: Fr Eamonn Monson

Parish Deacon: Deacon Duncan Brown

Parish office 01424 421263 / hastings@abdiocese.org.uk
Website: <http://www.stmarystarofthesea.net/>

Masses:

Saturday: 6.00pm
Sunday: 10.00am & 11:30am

Parish of the Good Shepherd

Parish Priest: Fr Mícheál Beatty

Parish Deacon: Deacon Ian Moon

Churches:

St. Thomas of Canterbury, 31c Magdalen Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, TN37 6ET
Holy Redeemer, 24 Upper Church Road, St. Leonards on Sea, TN37 7AS
Parish Office: 01424 602077 / stleonards@abdiocese.org.uk
Website: <https://parishofthegoodshepherd.net/>

Masses:

Saturday 6.00pm at St Thomas of Canterbury
Sunday 9.00am at Holy Redeemer
Sunday 11.00am at St Thomas of Canterbury

Parish of Christ the King and St Joachim

Parish Priest: Fr Neil Chatfield

Parish Deacon: Deacon Eugene Adams

Churches:

Christ the King, 3 Princes Road, Eastbourne, BN23 6HT
St Joachim 106, Brodrick Road, Hampden Park, Eastbourne, BN22 9NY
Parish office: 01323 760048 / priest.ckk@icloud.com
Website: <https://christthekingeastbourne.org/>

Masses:

Saturday 5.00pm at Christ the King
Sunday 9.30am at St Joachim
Sunday 11.30am at Christ the King (Divine Worship)

Parish of Our Lady Immaculate & St Michael with St Teresa of Lisieux

Parish Priest: Fr Richard Blythen

Churches:

Our Lady Immaculate & St Michael,
14 Mount St, Battle TN33 0EG
St Teresa of Lisieux, Horns Cross, between Northiam and Brede,
Northiam TN31 6JQ
Parish office: 01424 773125 / battle@abdiocese.org.uk
Website: <https://battlewithnorthiam.parishportal.net/>

Masses:

Saturday 6.00pm at Our Lady Immaculate & St Michael
Sunday 9.00am at St Teresa of Lisieux
Sunday 11.00am at Our Lady Immaculate & St Michael

Parish of St Anthony of Padua - Watchbell Street Rye, TN31 7HB

Parish Priest: Fr Maximillian McKeown

Parish Deacon: Deacon Simon South

Parish office: 01797 222173 / chapelrye@gmail.com
Website: <https://stanthonrye.com/>

Masses:

Saturday 6.00pm
Sunday 8.00am & 10.45am