

The Parish of Southwick with Portslade (St Theresa's and Mass Centre) and The Parish of West Blatchington with Hangleton (St George's)

The Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Trust is a Registered Charity No. 252878

Parish Priest: The Rev Fr Alistair Simmons

Deacon: Rev Richard Harvey Tel: 01273 888823

Parish Contact Details

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Safeguarding Contacts

Maggie Wares (for Southwick & Portslade) 07919 335632

Awaiting appointment (for St George's)

St George's Parish Hall Bookings

Colm Lennon, tel: 01273 241661 or 07717 842966

First Sunday of Advent (Year B)

Volume 4, Number 1

3rd December 2017

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 2nd	6 pm	Portslade	In Thanksgiving
Sunday 3rd <i>Advent Sunday</i>	9.30 am	Southwick	People of the Parish
	11 am	St George's	Deceased members of the Alphonso & Moonjappilly families RIP
Monday 4th	10.30 am	St George's	<i>Requiem Mass - Theresa Simmonds RIP</i>
Tuesday 5th	10 am	Portslade	NO MASS
Wednesday 6th	10 am	St George's	NO MASS
Thursday 7th	7 pm	Southwick	Keon Martin RIP
Friday 8th	10 am	Portslade	NO MASS
Saturday 9th	6 pm	Portslade	People of the Parish
Sunday 10th <i>Bible Sunday</i>	9.30 am	Southwick	Mary Walsh RIP & Joseph Mitchell RIP
	11 am	St George's	Ints of Brian and Cora Owen

~ MORNING PRAYER ~

Tuesday & Friday, 9.15 am

~ EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION ~

as announced

~ CONFESSIONS ~

Saturdays 5.30 pm (Mass Centre) *by arrangement*,
Sundays following 11 am Mass (St George's) *on request*,
& at call

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 2018

Bishop Richard invites families to join him on a pilgrimage to Dublin for the World Meeting of families 22nd – 26th August 2018. This event includes: a three day congress exploring themes from *Amoris Laetitia*. Wonderful international speakers will lead sessions for adults and there are age appropriate activities for children and young people. This is followed by a concert style "Festival of Families" on the Saturday and the event concludes with Sunday Mass concelebrated by Pope Francis. For further details please see flyers in the porch or contact wmo2018@dabnet.org (Bishop Richard refers to this important event in the life of the universal church in his Advent Pastoral Letter.)

Decorating our churches for Christmas

We'd welcome new ideas for our Christmas decorations at St George's. Are you artistic? Or would you be willing to help decorate the church as part of a team? If so, we'd like to hear from you very soon. It's appropriate that our churches look their festive best for this major feast.

Carol Singing at The Martlets

For many years, a group from St George's (and, latterly, from St Theresa's and the Mass Centre too) has visited The Martlets Hospice in the week before Christmas and sung carols for the benefit of the patients. This has always been appreciated.

However, the size of the group has been becoming smaller and, before we commit to The Martlets for this year, we need to ensure that there would be sufficient singers.

It's informal carol singing, not a choir performance, and children are very welcome. It's likely to be at about 6.30 pm one evening between 19th and 23rd December.

If you are willing to join the group, please put your name on the list at the back of the church and indicate which evenings you could do. Alternatively contact Helen (St George's) on 01273 779022 or the Parish Office on 01273 708227.

Let's try to make sure this annual event can continue!

FAITH EDUCATION

Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard.

The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to U-turn on their promise to Catholics.

Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> or search for Catholic Education in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

Let us pray ...

... that the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming new generations.

Holy Father's Prayer Intention
December 2017

Emergency Sick Calls: The Parish Office

If no reply, try Fr Jerry O'Brien at St Peter's, Hove: 01273 733840

Information for the next newsletter to Wai-Fan

at the Parish Office no later than Wednesday 10 am please.

DIARY DATES

TODAY (Advent Sunday 3 December) ... is the start of the new Church / liturgical year and we will follow Year B, the Gospel according to Mark, for Sunday readings and Cycle 2 for weekday readings.

The Gospel according to Mark is now generally acknowledged to be the earliest of the Gospels. The early tradition that it was written in Rome for Gentiles, and primarily Romans, is probably correct. In support of this, no reference is made to the Mosaic Law, no genealogy of the Messiah is given, and all Jewish words, localities and customs are explained. Jesus is represented as the Son of God, exhibiting the Divine power in mighty wonders, especially in vanquishing the powers of evil by healing demoniacs.

Most would agree that the evangelist's full name was John Mark (see Acts 12:12,25; 15:37), a combination of Hebrew (Johanan = Jehovah is gracious) with Roman (Marcus = "hammer" or "mallet"). His mother, Mary, was a friend of Peter (Acts 12:12), and Peter probably converted Mark, and so calls him his son (1 Peter 5:13). The young man mentioned in Mark 14:51,52 is possibly the Evangelist. He was cousin to Barnabas (Acts 12:25; 13:5).

- Pastoral Letter from Bishop Richard, copies available to take home.
- A SERVICE FOR ADVENT (Churches Together in Portslade), 3 pm, Mass Centre, Vale Gardens, with refreshments. All welcome.

NEXT SUNDAY (Bible Sunday 10 December) - The theme this year is "Welcome the Word". As part of our celebration of Mass that day all those who currently exercise the liturgical ministry of reader in our parishes will be invited make a formal renewal of their commitment. If you wish to continue reading at Mass and appearing on the readers' rotas, please make every effort to be at one of the parish Masses on that particular Sunday.

Friday 15 December - DEANERY PARISH CLUSTER RECONCILIATION SERVICE, 7 pm, Sacred Heart Church, Norton Road.

Sunday 17 December (Gaudete) - is the Third Sunday of Advent and we will celebrate **BAMBINELLI SUNDAY** when you are invited to bring the Baby Jesus / Bambino / Christ Child from your own crib or nativity at home and have them blessed.

Friday 22 December - CAROL SINGING on Portslade Village Green, 6.30 pm. Bring a torch or lantern and wrap up well. (If wet, in the Parish Centre.) Followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

SACRAMENTS

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Monday 4 December, 7.30 pm - an additional and very important meeting for all parents at the Mass Centre.

Saturday 9 December, 9.30 - 11 am: The next preparation session for the children at The Mass Centre (Portslade).

CONFIRMATION

Thursday 7 December, 7 - 9 pm: The next session for candidates, in the Parish Room Meeting at St Theresa's.

NOTICES

THE SVP are holding regular Tuesday evening prayer meetings, 7 pm for 7.15 pm start in St George's Church **from 5th December**. All welcome. If you need transport, please contact Colm Lennon on 07717 842966 about lifts.

DICK WHITTINGTON, *The Family Pantomime Adventure*, The Parish Centre, South Street, Portslade. Tickets £5: contact agb.75@hotmail.com or 01273 410044. 28th, 29th & 30th December at 7 pm. 31st December at 4 pm.

Street Pastors needed The Church in action on the streets. Volunteers from the Churches in Brighton and Hove are needed to ensure the streets are safe for clubbers and others on a night out. After receiving training, volunteers do a once a month patrol usually between 10.30 pm to 3 am Friday or Saturday. If you can help please contact Alister Crow on 07817 604232 brighton@streetpastors.org.uk

ADVENT SMALL GROUPS

Wednesday evenings:
(7.30 pm, the Parish Room, St Theresa's)
6th, 13th and 20th December

Friday afternoons:
(2 pm, the Mass Centre, Portslade)
8th, 15th and 22nd December.

Hangleton & West Blatchington Foodbank

This Christmas we are really in need of:
Small coffee, small (250g) sugar, vegetable oil, UHT milk, noodles, shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, deodorant (men's and women's), shaving foam, razors, toothpaste, toothbrushes and toilet rolls. We are fully stocked and unable to store any more pasta, beans, cereal, soup or tea.

Please help us to continue to support members of our local community who find themselves in crisis or urgent situations this Christmas. Thank you!



Please pray ...

... for all the sick and / or housebound:

St Theresa's and The Mass Centre:

Stephen, Olive, Christopher, John, Roy, Giuseppe & Ester, Connie, Jean, Tom, Ena, Cheryl, Mark, Mary, Sheila, Elizabeth, Audrey, Mary, Stephen, Robert, Joan, Mac, Jean, Padriag, May, Heather, Christine, Ana, Keith and Anna.

St George's:

Lavinia, Elizabeth, Flo, Rev Andrew, Balavendra, Claire, Celia, Patrick, Maria, Compton, Vince, Ina, Sheilagh, Gwenda, Sandra and Fr David.

... for all whose anniversaries occur about this time:

St Theresa's and The Mass Centre:

Bernard Hurst, Mary Ann Hatton, Maria Chatfield, Alan Giles, David Moran, Ethel Toohey, Fred Washer, Louis (Cyril) Roberts, Sratia Bowden, Gladys Fallon, Robert Johnson, Lilian Hale, Katherine Hayes, Kathleen Howard and Arthur Doyle.

St George's:

Victoriano Velarde, Audrey Hollis, Basil B-Fielding, Ellen McMahon, Peter Heffernan, Lucinda Lloyd, Concepcion Rodrigues and Percy Jee.