



St Clement's Church, Ewell

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Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton Charity No. 252878

All Masses are now live streamed. Access via the Parish Website

5th January 2025 is the Feast of the Epiphany

The Epiphany is when the Child Jesus was made manifest to the Magi, wise men from the East, who found Him after following a star. Saint Matthew's Gospel gives no indication of how many wise men there were, but because they give three gifts, we assume they were three in number; we also assume that 'the East' means Babylonia, a land long associated with astronomy. The wise men remind us that the study of nature will lead us eventually to God, and that at the same time the search for truth can be long and arduous, like their journey. The three gifts are taken to have a symbolic meaning: gold for a king, frankincense for God, and myrrh, a spice used for anointing the dead, for one who is to suffer and to die. We are told, significantly, that 'going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother.'

The sight of Jesus necessarily involves the sight of Mary as well and vice versa. Moreover it takes place in a house (not the stable of Bethlehem) which reminds us that we shall encounter God in His house, that is, in Church.

Finally we should note the last sentence: 'they departed to their own country by another way.'

They return home changed, having seen the Lord. We too must hope that the sight of God will change us.

This afternoon, from 2pm, there is an Epiphany party in the Hall for the children who take part in Children's Liturgy.

Liturgical notes

Next Sunday is the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, after which the 'normal' Sunday cycle begins, and we resume green vestments to signify ordinary time. This will last until Wednesday 5th March, when Lent begins. After today's feast, all Christmas decoration must be removed, but cribs can stay in place until 2nd February, if desired, which is the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, known as Candlemas. You might like to have a good look at our own Crib which will be decommissioned after this year, and replaced with a new one. Some of the figures, especially the poor animals, are a bit battered. If you would like one of the crib figures as a memento, or indeed all of them, please ask. They are looking for a good home!

Once more, many thanks, from Father Alexander, for all the cards and Christmas presents delivered to the Presbytery over the festive period, and many thanks for the Christmas collection. Many thanks to all who made our liturgical celebrations a success: to the flower arrangers, the musicians, the servers, the readers, the extraordinary ministers, the sacristans, the welcomers, those who made tea and coffee and cake, and the Church cleaners. It was a great team effort.



After many years of faithful service as our flower arranger, Margaret Cossou is calling it a day. We are all grateful to her for her hard work, the results of which we can see. Would anyone like to take this over? It has been the custom to decorate the sanctuary with flowers for major feasts; Margaret also looked after the greenery on the altar, making sure it was well watered and dead heads were removed.



The Holy Year, or Jubilee, has begun:

This is a special year in the life of the Church, currently celebrated every 25 years. The most recent ordinary jubilee was in 2000, with Pope Francis calling for an Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy in 2015-2016. Jubilee years have been held at regular intervals in the Catholic Church since 1300, but they trace their roots to the Jewish tradition of marking a jubilee year every 50 years. According to the Vatican website for the jubilee, these years in Jewish history were "intended to be marked as a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation, and involved the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land, and a fallow period for the fields."

Who wants to be an altar server?

You may have noticed that we had five on duty last week at the 10.30am mass, which was excellent as it meant we could have a cross-bearer, a thurifer, two candle-bearers or acolytes, and an incense boat-bearer. This meant that our servers were able to put into practice their liturgical skills learned during the training session to the full. If you want to be an altar sever, the only qualification is to have done your First Holy Communion, along with the commitment to turn up on time and undertake training. Please do not be shy.... We could always do with more.

Hall news

We have placed our Hall under management, and bookings are now being handled by Praetorium, who specialise in this field. We are obviously keen to take bookings. The office number is **01372457651** and the email is **office@lowcosthalls.co.uk**. The office is open 9-5 Mon-Fri. To the left of the Hall door is a key safe, newly installed. The code can be made known on application.



We have heard the sad news of the death of Thomas Horgan, for many decades a faithful member of this parish, who died in hospital on Saturday 28th December, at the age of 94. His funeral Mass will be here on **Monday 3rd February at 12.30pm**, to be followed by cremation at Randalls Park.

Let us pray for the repose of his soul and for his family at this sad and difficult time for them.



Parish Quiz: Saturday 18th January

Our next Parish Quiz will be on Saturday 18th January. Hall doors will open at 7pm. Please sign up in the narthex if you'd like to come along for another fun filled and sociable evening out. Please bring your own drinks. Entrance is £1 per person which will include nibbles, teas and coffees. There will, of course, be a raffle. Any questions, please ask the Hannans or phone Robin (our quiz master) on 07810 647733.

Core Group Meeting

On Thursday the Core Group met to discuss various matters of interest, which may be of wider interest too. Our finances are steady, which is reassuring. There will be a statement made about them in detail nearer the time of the next Parish general Meeting, which is on Sunday February 9th.

The long running matter of the Hall kitchen is also nearing completion, and we hope to have a new kitchen with new cooker and fridge in due course, which will, among other things, make the place more attractive to hirers.

Also under way is the matter of the roof of the lavatories in the Hall.

On spiritual matters we decided that a pilgrimage for the Holy Year would be a good thing: in the month of May it is proposed to visit the Tyburn Convent (near the site of the martyrdom of so many Catholics in penal times) and the Holy Door at Westminster Cathedral. The date is to be finalised.

There are now two days of recollection in Lent, one at Ladywell Convent, the other at Chilworth Monastery, both on the Passion of the Lord, seen through the lens of the Stations of the Cross at one and the Sorrowful Mysteries at the other. More details soon.

Finally, we discussed what the Core Group is for: it is there to provide 'leadership from a team'; in other words to help the parish priest make decisions, not on his own, but after discussion in a forum. Do speak to members of the Core Group if you have any concerns or suggestions you would like to raise.

Forthcoming events:

Tues 7 Jan **7pm:** FHC Catechists Meeting.
 Thurs 9 Jan **7.30pm:** Baptism course.
 Sat 11 Jan **11am-12pm:** FHC Session 5
 Sat 11 Jan **4pm-7pm:** Confirmation II
 Sun 12 Jan **8:30am:** FHC Celebration Mass
 Thurs 16 Jan **7.30pm:** Baptism course.
 Sat 18 Jan **4pm-7pm:** Confirmation III
 Sat 25 Jan **11am-11:45am:** FHC Session 6.
 Sat 1 Feb **9am:** Liturgy planning meeting.
 Sun 2 Feb **Candlemas.**
 Sat 8 Feb **11am-12pm:** FHC Session 7.
 Sat 8 Feb **4pm-7pm:** Confirmation IV
 Sun 9 Feb **10:30am:** FHC Celebration Mass.
 Sun 9 Feb **11.30am:** Parish Open Meeting.
 Sun 16 Feb **6pm-7.30pm:** Altar Servers' Training, Pizza and Games.
 Wed 5 Mar **Ash Wednesday.**

Coffee After Mass Rota January

05 Parish Funds Lesley, Wyn and Lil
 12 Parish Funds Ann & Robin Hannan & Pat Russell
 19 Brownies Elaine Briggs
 26 St Clement's Sch Anna Piechock

Parish Notice

The new Diocesan Directory for 2025 has arrived. As always it is packed full of useful information about the parishes of the diocese, the Curia, its central offices, and the liturgical calendar. We have several copies for sale at £5 each, available from the parish office.



Recovery and Well Being



Please pray for:

Mary Bruce, Bob Parker, Kitty Cusack, Steve Kamm, Chris Williamson, Jocelyn Bowen, Joseph Ewing, Martina Savage, Sally Mason, Shona Dane, Elpedio Tavares, Nicholas Ward, Marcia Bancroft and Mel Alvarez.

Mass Intentions for December/January 2024/2025

Sat 4 6pm	The Epiphany of the Lord	Samantha Joanne Watkins RIP
Sun 5 8.30am	The Epiphany of the Lord	People of the Parish
Sun 5 10.30am	The Epiphany of the Lord	Alan Bryne RIP
Sat 4 6pm	Vigil Mass	Samantha Joanne Watkins RIP
Sun 5 8.30am	The Epiphany of the Lord	People of the Parish
Sun 5 10.30am	The Epiphany of the Lord	Alan Bryne RIP
Mon 6 10am	Feria after the Epiphany	Available
Wed 8 10am	St Raymond of Penafort	Available
Thu 9 7pm	Feria after the Epiphany	St Hugh's Intentions
Fri 10 10am	Feria after the Epiphany	Edith Ming RIP
Sat 11 6pm	Vigil Mass	Benedict Fonseka RIP
Sun 12 8.30am	The Baptism of the Lord	People of the Parish
Sun 12 10.30am	The Baptism of the Lord	Agnes & Peter Mitchell RIP

Mass Intentions: If you would like to have a Mass said for someone, please do pick up one of the Mass Intention envelopes in the Narthex and pop it into the Parish Office. Alternatively, you can email your request to ewell@abdiocese.org.uk.