



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

8th December 2024 is the Second Sunday of Advent

In the Gospel today we encounter John the Baptist who comes to prepare a way for the Lord and to make his paths straight. John is calling the people to repent and to be baptised as a sign that they wish to wash away their sins, though the actual cleansing from sin will only come when Jesus appears and 'all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'

John is rightly called the forerunner, or precursor, of the Lord. The first reading is from the prophecy of Baruch, who urges Jerusalem to welcome back the exiles who are coming home from Babylon. He stresses that the age of mourning is coming to an end, to be replaced by a time of joy. Hence Jerusalem will figuratively change her clothes: 'Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God.'

Put on the robe of the righteousness from God; put on your head the crown of the glory of the Everlasting.'

Having been a widow, she will now be a Queen. The Church too (that is to say the people of God, us) should see Advent in the same way, a time of coming joy and glory.

This Sunday there was going to be a retiring collection for Christmas flowers. This is being put off till next week. Instead, there is going to be an appeal for **HCPT** which stands for the **Hosanna House and Children's Pilgrimage Trust**. This unique 'family' charity has benefited from generous support of St Clements at around this time for many years. The charity raises money for pilgrimages to Lourdes for disabled and disadvantaged people from around the UK and further afield. Every Easter around 1,000 disabled and disadvantaged children enjoy a fun and safe week in Lourdes, staying in hotels with their volunteer helpers ('Family Groups'). Each Summer over 1,500 people, many of them with disabilities or life limiting conditions, enjoy a week at HCPT's Hosanna House in Bartrès near Lourdes. HCPT is a charity with its roots in the Catholic faith. The support services are open to all. Volunteers & beneficiaries come from all walks of life and from all faiths and none. We are grateful for your support. For HCPT to continue helping children and adults in need, we rely on donations and volunteers. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us <https://www.hcpt.org.uk/about-hcpt> To donate: bit.ly/hcpturgent

This afternoon, there will be Christmas Wreath making in the Hall from noon, until 2pm.

Liturgical notes

Monday is the (transferred) feast of the Immaculate Conception. This feast marks the fact that the Blessed Virgin, from the first moment of her existence, was preserved from the stain of sin by the grace of God granted to her alone as the future Mother of the Incarnate Word. **Wednesday** is the feast of St Damasus (305–384), pope, who preserved the memory of many of the early martyrs of Rome by embellishing their tombs and decorating them with inscriptions about them, which he composed himself. He also encouraged St Jerome in his translation of the Bible, and fixed the biblical canon. **Thursday** is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. She appeared on the hill of Tepeyac in Mexico in 153 to an indigenous peasant, Juan Diego. After she had identified herself to him, Our Lady asked that he build her a shrine there. Juan Diego visited Juan de Zumárraga, Archbishop of Mexico City, who dismissed him in disbelief and asked proof of his story and proof of the Lady's identity. Juan Diego returned to the hill and encountered Our Lady again. The Virgin told him to climb to the top of the hill and pick some flowers to present to the Archbishop. Although it was winter, Juan Diego found an abundance of flowers of a type he had never seen before. The Virgin bundled the flowers into Juan's cloak, known as a tilma. When Juan Diego presented the tilma of exotic flowers to Zumárraga, the flowers fell out and he recognised them as Castilian roses, which are not found in Mexico. Moreover, the tilma had been miraculously imprinted with an image of the Virgin herself. It is this image that is now revered at the shrine. It is the only image of Our Lady to show her pregnant, wearing, as she is, Aztec maternity dress. **Friday** is the feast of St Lucy, virgin and martyr. She is the patron saint of Syracuse, where she was martyred under the Emperor Diocletian. She is particularly invoked by all those suffering from eye trouble.

This Week

On Tuesday Mass is at 7am. This is a Mass of Our Lady known as a Rorate Mass after the first words: "Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down the just one." It will be dark and Mass will be celebrated by candlelight. The faithful are invited to bring their own candles. For safety's sake please bring them in a suitable container, such as a jam jar.

On Tuesday, the Choir meets for practice at 6.15pm. If you would like to join them, just rock up.

On Wednesday there is an Advent Reflection Group in the Tivey Room from 11:15am-12noon.

All are welcome. The same meeting also happens on Zoom from 7:30pm-9pm.

On Wednesday there is a Penitential Service at St Joseph's in Epsom at 7.30pm.

On Thursday, Mass is at 7pm and after Mass '**An A to Z of Catholicism**' takes place in the Tivey Room.

This week it is '**H is for the Holy Spirit**'.

On Saturday at 9am the Liturgy Planning Committee is meeting in the Tivey Room.

On Saturday Confessions are at 10.30am, with Adoration, and continue until at least 11am.

Maureen Ellis RIP



We have heard the sad news of the death of Maureen Ellis, which took place at the Priory Court Nursing Home on Sunday 24th November 2024, having received the Sacrament of the Sick and the Apostolic Pardon. She was 87 years of age. The funeral Mass will take place here on Friday 20th December at 10am, to be followed by burial at Randalls Park.

We have just despatched £450 to Cafod

Our response to the emergency appeal for people suffering the effects of war in the Middle East.

Our next baptism course is on Thursday 9th January and Thursday 16th January 2025

Please contact the office if you would like to take part, Please pick up an application form the Narthex table if you would like to have your baby baptised.

Hall news

We have placed our Hall under management, and bookings are now being handled by Praetorium, who specialise in this field. We are keen to take bookings. Contact details are: **01372457651** email: **office@lowcosthalls.co.uk**. The office is open 9-5 Mon-Fri. The code to the Key Safe can be made known on application.

Holy Book Stall

Will be open next weekend at all Masses.

Small Christmas books for children, Bibles, Missals and books of devotion will all be available.



Advance notice: The Christmas Masses are going to be as follows:

24th December, Christmas Eve, at 5.30pm (Vigil Mass) and 10pm (Mass during the Night).

25th December, Christmas Day: 8.30am (Dawn Mass) and 10.30am (Day Mass).

The four Masses of Christmas all have different readings, as you can tell from your brand new Missals!

We Can Still Defeat Assisted Suicide!

There is a clear path toward the assisted suicide Bill being defeated at Third Reading. Early analysis shows that at least 36 MPs supported the Bill but have concerns that mean they may vote NO at later stages.

Just 28 MPs switching their stance to NO would ensure it is defeated at Third Reading.

We need MPs to know that their constituents want them to vote NO at Third Reading.

Please take action now and visit www.righttolife.org.uk/ASvote to find out how your MP voted and ask them to vote against the Bill at Third Reading.

Pastoral Plan Feedback

Part of the feedback at the recent meeting about the Pastoral Plan, when discussing what our parish should be like, spoke of it as a place that would be 'Welcoming, inclusive & diverse, being confident about our faith, safe, listening, [where] people feel known and valued, [which] uses all skills, open to the Holy Spirit working in us, [offering] support to the disadvantaged and the marginalised.'

That is a very good summary, especially the bit about using all skills, as these things - such as a commitment to safeguarding, and a welcome to all - are projects where everyone is invited, indeed needs, to take part, that is to say tasks that cannot be devolved to others, even if some may have 'official' roles to play. The more involved we all are, the better our parish will be!

Possibly 'welcoming' is the key, and welcoming others is a matter of being as much as doing. As Christmas approaches (when a lot of 'strangers' will come to our church) let us remember the welcome given to the Holy Family in Bethlehem by the shepherds, in contrast to the 'no room at the inn' crowd.

Recovery and Well Being

Please pray for:

Mary Bruce, Bob Parker, Louise Charge, 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.



Help Required

Could you help a fellow parishioner who needs an extra pair of hands, an hour in the morning and an hour in the evening to help her carer with her general needs please? The role will pay £20 per hour for the right person who will be helping Carmen Kelly's carer. If you feel you could offer Carmen your support please contact Carmen's daughter Sandra Bannion on 07884257467.

Mass Intentions for December 2024

Sun 8	8:30am	2nd Sunday of Advent	Leo McNamee RIP
Sun 8	10:30am	2nd Sunday of Advent	Tony Bellino RIP
Mon 9	10am	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Gary Bennett RIP
Tues 10	7am	Rorate Mass	Ints: Kopec family
Wed 11	10am	2nd Weds of Advent	Ints: St Hugh's
Thu 12	7pm	Our Lady of Guadalupe	Ints: Buczek family
Fri 13	10am	St Lucy	Stanley Moore RIP
Sat 14	6pm	Vigil Mass	Bernie Sullivan RIP
Sun 15	8:30am	3rd Sunday of Advent	William & Johanna O'Halloran RIP
Sun 15	10:30am	3rd Sunday of Advent	People of the Parish

Dates For Your Diary

8 Dec	Christmas Wreath Making (Hall) Noon-2pm
9 Dec	Feast of the Immaculate Conception.
10 Dec	Rorate Mass 7am
10 Dec	Choir practice 6pm
11 Dec	Penitential service at St Joseph's Epsom 7.30pm
12 Dec	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.
12 Dec	A to Z of Catholicism: H is for the Holy Spirit.
14 Dec	Liturgy Committee. 9am
14 Dec	Confirmation I, Enrolment Mass 4pm-6pm
17 Dec	Rorate Mass 7am
18 Dec	St Clement's School Advent Service 7pm
29 Dec	Opening of the Holy Year.
7 Jan	FHC Catechists Meeting 7pm