



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

Sunday 16th February is the Sixth Sunday of the Year

The readings and prayers can be found in the purple books on page 139. The first reading is from the prophet Jeremiah and contrasts two differing ways of life: those who trust in the Lord and those who do not. The person of faith is like a tree which draws its strength from the water of the stream; in the same way, we rely on the grace of God to help us and sustain us. In Saint Luke's Gospel, we hear the Sermon on the Plain, where Jesus salutes as blessed all those who are poor and downtrodden as the true possessors of the Kingdom of God.

Liturgical notes

We are in Ordinary Time and the vestments are green, the colour symbolic of growth. This will last until Wednesday 5th March, when Lent begins. The month of February is dedicated to the Holy Family, and on days when there is no feast, we shall celebrate a Votive Mass of Saint Joseph or a Votive Mass of the Blessed Virgin.

Monday is the feast of the Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order. They were a group of Catholic merchants in Florence who were devoted to Our Lady, who decided, in the year 1245, to retreat from the city to Monte Senario nearby, in order to devote themselves to God in prayer, eventually forming the Servants of Mary, or Servite Friars.

Friday is the feast of Saint Robert Southwell, (c. 1561–1595) priest and martyr. He was an English Catholic priest of the Jesuit Order. He was also a significant poet of the Elizabethan era, and a clandestine missionary in England. After being arrested and imprisoned in 1592, and intermittently tortured and questioned by priest hunter Richard Topcliffe, Southwell was eventually tried and convicted of high treason against Queen Elizabeth I, but in reality for refusing to take the Oath of Supremacy, renounce his belief in the independence of the English Church from control by the State, and similarly repudiate the authority of the Holy See. On 21st February 1595, Southwell was hanged at Tyburn. In 1970, he was canonised by Pope Paul VI as one of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales.

Because Lent is now not so very far off, we need to start thinking now of what we plan to do. On Tuesdays in Lent we shall celebrate an early morning Mass for workers and others at 7am. On Fridays in Lent, we shall have Stations of the Cross at 7pm. The Stations will last 25 minutes. In addition, we all need to think of two personal things: what we should give up, and what we should take up. The giving up could perhaps be an item of food, drink or tobacco; the taking up should be something spiritual.

Daily Mass in the week is on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10am. On Thursday, Mass is at 7pm. Confessions are on Saturday from 10.30am until at least 11am, along with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

The next Parish Open Meeting will be on Saturday 18th May after the 10.30am Mass.

Many thanks to those who came to last week's meeting. Next time we will try to streamline procedures to make the meeting swifter and, we hope, deeper.

Churches Together

Fr Alexander recently had a meeting with Russell Holding who is the Chair of Churches Together in Epsom. Naturally, given the commitment of the Catholic Church to ecumenism, this is a group we wish to be involved with. Churches Together is undertaking a Good Friday passion play which will be starting at 10.30am on the day by the pond in Rosebery Park, before moving to the Market Place. We are all invited to be there to witness this. If anyone is interested in taking active part, rather than just spectating, please get in touch. Several people from St Joseph's are involved. The play is being written and managed by Susie Pottinger. Her contact details can be supplied on request. In addition, Churches together is sponsoring a social project under the aegis of ROC (Redeeming Our Communities) which will lead in due course to a Conversation about what needs to be done in our Borough and how we can all help. Russell will keep us updated as this proceeds. There is more information and more videos at roc.uk.com, for those who are particularly interested.

The Holy Year, or Jubilee, has begun, part 7

Many famous sites & artworks in Rome & at the Vatican have been cleaned or restored for the jubilee, much to the chagrin of many tourists in 2024, who found major monuments obscured by scaffolding. While many jubilee events will take place in Rome & at the Vatican, it's a celebration for the whole church. On Dec. 29, diocesan bishops opened the Holy Year locally with Masses at their cathedrals. Catholics are encouraged to make pilgrimages to their cathedral during the year, as we shall be doing in May. The Jubilee Year concludes with the closing of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica Jan. 6, 2026, on the feast of the Epiphany. However, the Holy Doors at Rome's other major basilicas will close Dec. 28, 2025, the same day dioceses are to end local celebrations of the Holy Year.

Hall Hire

To Hire our hall please contact Praetorium, on 01372 457651 or email: office@lowcosthalls.co.uk.

The office is open 9am-5pm Monday-Friday.

This Thursday A to Z of Catholicism takes place after 7pm Mass, with 'J is for Jesus.' All are welcome.
We shall be looking at who Jesus is and why He is important, indeed, at the centre of the Universe and history.

Are you looking forward to a really good clear-out? Or are you hoping to acquire a lot of stuff for nothing? in which case do not forget the Exchange of Children's Books, Toys and Equipment in the Hall on Sunday morning 2nd March.
Please tell all your friends.

Core Group Meeting 13th February 2025

On Thursday the Core Group met and had a wide-ranging discussion. The minutes will be published on the website in due course. Anne Crisp has now taken over safeguarding, an essential task in which we are all involved & responsible; many thanks to Wilf Hodder who has undertaken this until now. We discussed the recent audit and what we have to do to make ourselves compliant. We also spoke about Churches Together in Epsom, our music, the refurbishment of the kitchen (particularly the cooker and the dishwasher). We also talked about the ministry of welcoming

FHC Cafod Collection

The First Holy Communion children have raised **£131.13** for CAFOD. Well done to all of them.

Copies of the Parish Finance Statement Summary

are available in the Narthex.

Children's Catechesis

We have some children in the parish desirous of being catechised and prepared for Christian initiation, that is, in some cases, baptism. So, for children of school age, we are going to do meetings on Thursdays at 6pm in the Tivey Room before Mass at 7pm, starting on Thursday 20th Feb. If anyone else is interested, please let Father Alexander know.

Deanery news!

The next edition of the Deanery newsletter is scheduled for 8th/9th March, 1st Sunday of Lent, & will include a report on recent events and discussions, information on forthcoming events around the Deanery, clergy biographies, and more. One date for the diary now is our

Lent Reconciliation Service: Bishop Richard is visiting each Deanery to celebrate Reconciliation Services & will be coming to the Epsom Deanery on **Tuesday 25th March, 7pm, at St Michael's, Ashtead.**

At the Deanery Clergy Meeting, it was agreed that, as a sign of our working towards greater collaboration, this would replace all other Lenten Reconciliation Services. There are, the regular opportunities for Reconciliation in each community, & the opportunity for Reconciliation at the Deanery Retreat Days.

Holy Hour: Bishop Richard has asked that each Deanery pray for the Diocese in a monthly Holy Hour of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. We'll do this on the first Friday of each month, from 5pm to 6pm, at St Michael's, Ashtead, including the Rosary, Scripture Reflection & Benediction. All are very welcome.

Forthcoming Events

Thu 20 Feb **7.30pm** The A to Z of Catholicism, 'J is for Jesus.'
Thu 27 Feb **7.30pm** The A to Z of Catholicism, 'K is for Kyrie Eleison.'
Sun 2 Mar **9am-12 noon** Children's Book, Toys & Equipment exchange.
Wed 5 Mar **Ash Wednesday.**
Sat 8 Mar **11am-12pm** FHC Session 8.
Sat 8 Mar **6pm** FHC Celebration Mass.
Tue 11 Mar **7am** Mass
Wed 12 Mar, **12.15pm Funeral Mass of George White RIP**
Fri 14 Mar **7pm** Stations of the Cross
Sat 15 Mar St Patrick's Evening
Tue 18 Mar **7am** Mass

Lent groups

The Lent groups will be using a booklet recommended by the diocese called '**We Dare to Hope**' Each session will involve a meditation on a Gospel passage & then time for prayer & sharing.

There will be 3 groups:

1. **Wednesday after 10am** Mass led by Pauline Groves
2. **Wednesday at 7.30pm** on zoom led by adult formation team (please email johnlodge47@gmail.com if you would like to attend)
3. **Friday at 2pm** in St Clement's school for parents of pupils at the school led by Fiona Perks. The Wednesday groups will start on 12th March and the Friday group on the 7th March.

The Parish Bookstall will be open at all Masses next weekend

22nd/23rd February. Please come & see books to help you grow in faith, including more missals.

Mass Intentions for 15th-22nd February 2025

Sat 15	6pm	Vigil Mass	People of the parish
Sun 16	8:30am	6th Sunday in OT	Edward Bell RIP
Sun 16	10:30am	6th Sunday in OT	Dave Pinfield RIP
Mon 17	10am	7 Holy Founders	GE Marcia Bancroft
Wed 19	10am	Feria in OT	Bridie Holland RIP
Thu 20	7pm	Feria in OT	Available
Fri 21	10am	St Robert Southwell	Available
Sat 22	6pm	Vigil Mass	People of the Parish
Sun 23	8:30am	7th Sunday in OT	Ints of Emyr Daniel
Sun 23	10:30am	7th Sunday in OT	Elizabeth Keogh RIP

Recovery and Well Being

Please pray for:

Chris Williamson,
Jocelyn Bowen, 3 year-old Finlay Ewen,
Rosa Undasan (Angelina True's Mum)
Joseph Ewing, Martina Savage, Sally Mason,
Shona Dane, Elpedio Tavares, Nicholas Ward,
Marcia Bancroft, Mel Alvarez, Mary Bruce,
Bob Parker, Kitty Cusack,
& Steve Kamm.

Many thanks for your continued support of your parish, the Offertory collection has been calculated from the last 4 weeks Offertory donations, to create a weekly figure. This month's weekly total is equivalent to: £533.58 SO, £75.44 Cash, & £196.63 Gift Aid Envelopes, an average weekly total of £805.65.