

Sunday 22 December 2024,  
4th Sunday of Advent

### Entrance Antiphon

Drop down dew from above,  
you heavens, and let the clouds rain  
down the Just One; let the earth be  
opened and bring forth a Saviour.

### Collect

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your  
grace into our hearts, that we, to whom  
the Incarnation of Christ your Son was  
made known by the message of an Angel,  
may by his Passion and Cross be brought  
to the glory of his Resurrection. Who lives  
and reigns with you in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

Thus says the LORD:  
You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are  
too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me one  
who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming  
forth is from of old, from ancient days.  
Therefore he shall give them up until the  
time when she who is in labour has given  
birth; then the rest of his brothers shall  
return to the people of Israel. And he  
shall stand and shepherd his flock in the  
strength of the LORD, in the majesty of  
the name of the LORD his God. And they  
shall dwell secure, for now he shall be  
great to the ends of the earth. And he  
shall be their peace.  
The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalms Response

Bring us back, O God; let your face shine  
forth, and we shall be saved.

### Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came  
into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and  
offerings you have not desired, but a body  
have you prepared for me; in burnt  
offerings and sin offerings you have taken  
no pleasure. Then I said, "Behold, I have  
come to do your will, O God, as it is  
written of me in the scroll of the book."'  
When he said above, 'You have neither  
desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices  
and offerings and burnt offerings and sin  
offerings' (these are offered according to  
the Law), then he added, 'Behold, I have  
come to do your will'. He does away with  
the first in order to establish the second.  
And by that will we have been sanctified  
through the offering of the body of Jesus  
Christ once for all.  
The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia. Behold, I am the  
handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me  
according to your word. Alleluia.

### Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

In those days Mary arose and went with  
haste into the hill country, to a town in  
Judah, and she entered the house of  
Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And  
when Elizabeth heard the greeting of  
Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And  
Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit,  
and she exclaimed with a loud cry,  
'Blessed are you among women, and  
blessed is the fruit of your womb! And  
why is this granted to me that the mother  
of my Lord should come to me? For  
behold, when the sound of your greeting  
came to my ears, the baby in my womb  
leaped for joy. And blessed is she who  
believed that there would be a fulfilment  
of what was spoken to her from the Lord.'  
The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### The Creed

**I believe in one God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all things  
visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the  
Only Begotten Son of God, born of the  
Father before all ages. God from God,  
Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial  
with the Father; through him all things  
were made. For us men and for our  
salvation he came down from heaven,  
(At the words that follow up, up to and  
including 'and became man' all bow)**

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of  
the Virgin Mary, and became man  
For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and  
was buried, and rose again on the third  
day in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven and is seated  
at the right hand of the Father. He will  
come again in glory to judge the living  
and the dead and his kingdom will  
have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the  
giver of life, who proceeds from the  
Father and the Son, who with the Father  
and the Son is adored and glorified, who  
has spoken through the prophets. I  
believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism  
for the forgiveness of sins and I look  
forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.**

### Prayer over the Offerings

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord, sanctify these  
gifts laid upon your altar, just as he filled  
with his power the womb of the Blessed  
Virgin Mary.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### Holy, Holy

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he  
who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

### Communion Antiphon

**Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear  
a son; and his name will be called  
Emmanuel.**

### Prayer after Communion

Having received this pledge of eternal  
redemption, we pray, almighty God, that,  
as the feast day of our salvation draws  
ever nearer, so we may press forward all  
the more eagerly to the worthy  
celebration of the mystery of your Son's  
Nativity. Who lives and reigns for ever  
and ever.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### Solemn Blessing

May the almighty and merciful God,  
by whose grace you have placed your  
faith in the First Coming of his Only  
Begotten Son and yearn for his coming  
again sanctify you by the radiance of  
Christ's Advent and enrich you with his  
blessing.  
**Amen.**

As you run the race of this present life,  
may he make you firm in faith, joyful in  
hope and active in charity. Amen.  
So that, rejoicing now with devotion at  
the Redeemer's coming in the flesh, you  
may be endowed with the rich reward  
of eternal life when he comes again in  
majesty.  
**Amen.**

And may the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy  
Spirit, come down on you and remain  
with you for ever.

**Amen.**

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## Brighton and Hove Deanery: Western Churches

Sacred Heart, St George's & St Theresa's, St Mary Magdalen, St Peter's

Canon Colin Wolczak, Fr Tony Milner, Dom Rod Jones OSB, Canon David Parmiter

Sunday 22nd December, Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year C. Weekdays: Advent Week 4

### Fr Tony Writes:

On this final Sunday of Advent  
our attention is drawn to Mary.

But this year we don't hear  
about the announcement of  
Jesus birth (the 'Annunciation'),  
rather we hear about the story  
that comes immediately after:  
the Visitation. It is a story filled  
with joy, a joy which I think is  
beautifully captured in this



image. That joy is also expressed in the Magnificat, which follows the story  
from Luke that we hear in today's Gospel. Mary sings, "the Almighty has done  
great things for me". Yet, at this point there was a great deal of uncertainty.  
We know that things did not exactly go smoothly for the Holy Family! Being  
able to rejoice in God's gifts, even when we face challenges and difficulties is  
something we can learn from Mary as we prepare to celebrate Christmas.

I hope you all have a joyful and faith-filled Christmas, but if Christmas is  
going to be tough for you this year, remember that it was not easy for the  
Holy Family either, and yet that note of joy is always present. May the joy of  
the Holy Family warm your hearts this Christmas.

### Taking a Break

Depression has been part of my life for some years now. Generally it has  
been in the background, but in the last couple of years it has been a bit more  
challenging at times. The recent death of my father has made it yet more  
challenging. Up to now I have been managing it 'on the job', as it were, with  
the support of both the diocese and of others. But that is not really working  
at present. So, after discussion with Bishop Richard, I will be taking a break  
from parish ministry.

The details are still being worked out, but the break will start after the  
Epiphany (This year on Sunday 5th January) and probably last until Autumn  
next year. The house here in Mile Oak will continue to be my base. And when  
I return to pastoral ministry I hope to continue as part of the team serving  
the new parish of Brighton and Hove, with particular responsibility for  
St George's and St Theresa's. While I am away, Fr David at St Peter's will have  
pastoral oversight, and Masses will be covered by priests of the deanery.

I know you will keep me in your prayers. I will keep you in mine.

**Sacred Heart**, 39 Norton Road, BN3 3BF, 01273 732843,  
[www.sacredheartrove.org.uk](http://www.sacredheartrove.org.uk), [hovesacredheart@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:hovesacredheart@abdiocese.org.uk),  
Streamed: [www.sacredheartrove.org.uk/videos.html](http://www.sacredheartrove.org.uk/videos.html)

**St Georges**, Court Farm Road, BN3 7QR and **St Theresa's**, Old Shoreham Road, BN42  
4RY, 01273 708227 [www.brightondeanerywest.org.uk](http://www.brightondeanerywest.org.uk) [westhove@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:westhove@abdiocese.org.uk)

**St Mary Magdalen**, 55 Upper North St, BN1 3FH  
[stmarymagdalenbrighton.blogspot.com](http://stmarymagdalenbrighton.blogspot.com) [brightonstmarymag@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:brightonstmarymag@abdiocese.org.uk)

**St Peter's**, Portland Road, BN3 5GD, 01273 733840, [www.stpeters-hove.org.uk](http://www.stpeters-hove.org.uk)  
[hovestpeters@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:hovestpeters@abdiocese.org.uk)

For any other contact information, including Safeguarding, please see the relevant  
parish website or church noticeboards.

### Mass Schedule

Advent Week 4	
Sat 21st	Dec
6.00 pm †	SH
6.00	SP
6.30	SG
Sun 22nd	Dec
8.30 am	SP
9.00	ST
9.30	SMM
9.30	SH
10.00	SP
11.00	SG
11.00	SMM
11.30	SH
11.30	SP
5.00 pm	SP
5.30	SMM
Mon 23rd	Dec
10.00 am †	SH
Tue 24th	Dec
10.00 am	SG
10.00 †	SH
10.00	SP
5.30	ST
6.00	SH
6.00	SP
7.00	SMM
9.30	SMM
Midnight	SH
Midnight	SP
Wed 25th	Dec
8:30am	SP
9.00	ST
9.30am	SH
10:00am	SP
11.00	SG
11.00	SMM
11.30am	SH
11.30am	SP
1:15pm	SMM
Thu 26th	Dec
10.00 am †	SG
10.00	SP
12 noon †	SH
7.00 pm	ST
Fri 27th	Dec
8.00 am	SH
11:00am	SP
10.00 †	ST
7.00 pm	ST
Sat 28th	Dec
6.00 pm †	SH
6.00	SP
6.30	SG
Sun 29th	Dec
8.30 am	SP
9.00	ST
9.30	SMM
9.30	SH
10.00	SP
11.00	SG
11.00	SMM
11.30	SH
11.30	SP
5.00 pm	SP
5.30	SMM

SH: Sacred Heart; SG: St George's

SMM: St Mary Magdalene's

SP: St Peter's; ST: St Theresa of Lisieux

† Adoration before. ‡ Adoration after

## Crib Blessing & Decorating of Trees

**Sunday 22nd December, 9am at St Theresa's, and 11am at St George's**  
Children and their families will be invited to help put the figures in the cribs during Mass, and to decorate the trees after Mass.

## Advent Penitential Service

**Sunday 22nd December, 3pm,** at St Theresa's. A short service followed by adoration and the opportunity for individual Confessions.

## St Peter's Carol Concert

**Sunday 22nd December at 6:30pm** with a reception in the hall afterwards, please do come and join us.

## Christmas Eve Masses

10:00am, Sacred Heart  
10:00am, St George's  
17:30pm Vigil, St Theresa's  
18:00pm Vigil, Sacred Heart  
18:00pm Vigil, St Peter's  
19:00pm Vigil, St Mary Mags  
21:30pm, St Mary Mags (Polish Mass)  
Midnight Mass, (with Carols from 11:30pm), Sacred Heart  
Midnight Mass, St Peter's

## Christmas Day Masses

08:30am, St Peter's  
09:00am, St Theresa's  
09:30am, Sacred Heart  
10:00am, St Peter's  
11:00am, St George's  
11:00am, St Mary Mags  
11:30am, Sacred Heart  
11:30am, St Peter's  
13:15pm, St Mary Mags (Polish Mass)

## Boxing Day Masses

10:00am, St George's  
10:00am, St Peter's  
12:00noon, Sacred Heart

## Special Collections 2024

**During the Christmas Season**  
Catholic Children's Society

## The Christmas Offering

This is your gift to your Parish Priest. It is also one of his principal sources of personal income, so please be generous if you can! It can be Gift-Aided in the normal way.

## Sacred Heart Christmas Choir

Anyone interested in supporting the choir in the choir loft at one of the sung Christmas Masses? We will be singing carols and Mass parts at the 18:00

Christmas Eve Mass, the Midnight Mass and the 9:30 Christmas Morning Mass. If you are interested in joining the choir in the choir loft at one of these Masses, please contact Cees ([csbrkl@gmail.com](mailto:csbrkl@gmail.com)) or Scott ([scottmarlow@hotmail.com](mailto:scottmarlow@hotmail.com)), who will add your name to the sign-up sheet and tell you about any rehearsals that may be happening.

## Dates for your diary

**Sacred Heart Prayer Group:** Every Tuesday after Mass at 10:30am, SH Parish Room. All Welcome.

**Weekly Reconciliation:** 5:15-5:45pm before Mass every Saturday at Sacred Heart & St Peter's Church.

## Newsletter by email

If you would like to receive a copy of the newsletter to your inbox each week, please email Lisa, SH Parish Secretary: [hovesacredheart@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:hovesacredheart@abdiocese.org.uk) to be added to the distribution list, this list is for all our churches.

## SVP Social Group

For all parishioners, (run by the Sacred Heart SVP). Next one is Thursday 2nd January and every fortnight thereafter. Soup, sandwiches, tea, and cakes. Entertainment, quizzes, etc. All Welcome.



## Update on our New Parish

Bishop Richard invited us all, in his Pastoral Plan: The Call to Mission, to help build strong, lively, and welcoming schools of discipleship. Against the pillars of Prayer, Formation and Mission he called for the Brighton & Hove Deanery to make its transition to a new parish led by a team of clergy with a moderator from January 2025. The local clergy and laity began meeting to prepare some 18 months ago, and plans have progressed since Canon David Parmiter was named as our future moderator in the summer. As well as being Parish Priest of St Peter's, he is designated to become Moderator of the new parish serving Brighton & Hove. The next stage begins when the Deanery clergy meet on 11th February

2025 to discuss and establish the processes and decision-making bodies that the new parish will need to run. Once the bishop gives his assent to the plans, he will hold a celebration during the first quarter of 2025 for the Inauguration of the new Parish and the Installation of Canon David as its Parish Priest. Although the teams behind the scenes may change shape in the months following, we expect the communities in the existing parishes will continue to operate just as they do now, until personnel changes or operating improvements require otherwise.

## Sacred Heart Film Club

Saturday 4th January 2025. Join us in the Parish Rooms at the Sacred Heart from 12:30pm for the showing of 'A Month in the Country' (starting 1pm) Starring Colin Firth, Kenneth Branagh and Natasha Richardson, about two WW1 Veterans working on the murals and archaeology of a rural Church; followed by 'The Murals of Challock' about the creation of murals in a remote Kent church around 1950/2000. Refreshments available. Contact Michael Rainbows on 07368 958076 or David O'Brien on 07741 416501.

## Michael Dixon (St Theresa's)

Michael is now in Cavell House Care Home in Shoreham. He would like to thank everyone who has been to visit him and wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas!

## Mary's Meals

Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, thank you so much for your precious gift of **£488.56**, which is helping us to transform the lives of hungry children around the world with a nutritious daily meal in school. Your kindness is bringing food, joy, and hope to the children who eat Mary's Meals, allowing them to make the most of their education and giving them the chance of a better future. As part of our Double the Love Appeal, your donation will be matched – all thanks to a group of generous donors who are doubling donations, up to £1.1 million at this time! This means your gift will feed even more hungry children with Mary's Meals. Our meals make an enormous difference to children like Mary, in Liberia, where more than half of children do not finish primary school, and poverty and gender

inequality continue to hinder education. Mary says: "I have been eating Mary's Meals for more than six years now, the meals make me active and strong. I would like to be a lawyer to plead cases and make sure that everyone receives justice." Today, more than 2.4 million hungry children in 17 of the world's poorest countries – including South Sudan, Ethiopia, Malawi, and Liberia – are sitting in classrooms with full stomachs, and learning how to read and write, thanks to supporters like you. Sincerely, we thank you for your incredible generosity which will have a life-changing impact on some of the world's poorest children, providing them with food, education, and hope for a brighter future.



## St Mary Mags: Sanctuary of Prayer

The church will now be open from 3pm to 6:30pm each Friday afternoon. There will be a 'Holy Hour' with Adoration and Benediction between 5:30 and 6:30pm. You would be most welcome to come and spend a little time with the Lord, joining together in prayer for our deanery, our city and for our own personal intentions. Confession available during the Holy Hour.

## St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School and Nursery

StMM's Catholic Primary School and Nursery is a vibrant, inclusive community school reflecting the beauty of our city and wider world. Our children and families come from a variety of backgrounds, faiths and abilities where everyone is celebrated, respected and nurtured. Why not join us for a tour and discover this hidden gem for yourself.



## Parking at St Peter's

The space alongside the church in Shelley Road is church property and it can be used by those on parish business if they cannot find on street parking. Please respect this practice.

## Christmas Gifts

Stocking fillers and other goodies on sale in the hall after 10:00am and 11:30am Mass at St Peter's. Funds to help farming projects in Darfur (Sudan) and Dame Joanna Lumley will match all donations made during December. All are welcome for coffee, chat and maybe go home with a bargain.

## Funerals

Sadly, we have a few funerals coming up at St Peter's, please remember them and their families in your prayers. Funeral of **John Lloyd** will take place at St Peter's on Friday 27th December at 11am, please note the family wishes to invite you to a reception in the parish hall afterwards. Funeral of **Alan Sillence**. Alan who lived in Portslade, died in Shoreham on 23rd November aged 76 years. His funeral will take place at St Peter's on Tuesday 7th January 2025 at 11am. Funeral of **Maria Harvey** will take place at St Peter's on Friday 10th January at 2pm. Funeral of **Pearl Violet Hazeldine** will take place at St Peter's on Wednesday 15th January at 10am.

## St Peter's Archive

For a baptism, or confirmation certificates contact the archive team by email: [SaintPeterArchives@gmail.com](mailto:SaintPeterArchives@gmail.com).

## St Peter's Gift Aid Envelope Users

From April next year we are aiming to move away from envelopes to a standing order payment system only for our scheme, please could any envelope users contact the office for further information. Alternatively, offerings may be made by using our Dona machine or in the offertory plate.

## Coffee

**Sacred Heart** coffee available after all 9:30am Sunday Masses, in the Parish Rooms.

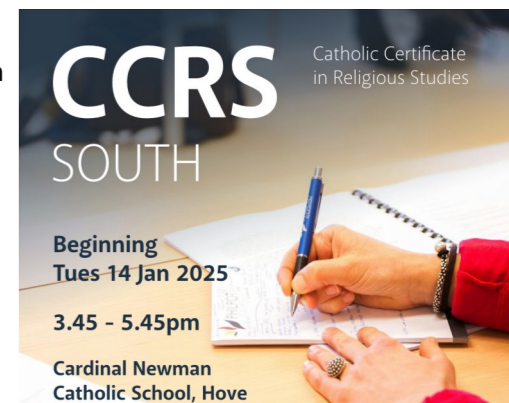
**St George's & St Theresa's** coffee is available after every Sunday Mass at both churches.

**St Peter's** coffee available after 10:00 Mass on 4th Sunday (22nd December). Coffee is available after 11.30 Mass

every week, in the hall. Everyone is welcome. If you are new or unsure, please ask any of the organisers, who will be happy to introduce you to some new friends.

## CCRS South

**14 January onwards, 3:45-5:45pm**  
Cardinal Newman School, Hove, The two-year Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies will run on Tuesdays with five session modules delivered over a term. Teachers, TAs, catechists and anyone wishing to develop their understanding of the Faith are welcome. To book go to: [abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/](http://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/)



## CAFOD A Year of Hope: An introduction to the Jubilee Year

18th January 2025: 10:30am-12 noon. Join us for an introduction to the Jubilee Year with special guests Fr Jan Nowotnik, Director of Mission for the Catholic Bishop's Conference, Christine Allen, CAFOD Director, and Kayode Akintola, CAFOD's Head of Africa Programmes. Hear how we're celebrating Jubilee as a global Church and how we can be tangible signs of hope, building a better world together throughout this holy year. Register at <https://cafod.org.uk/news/events/a-year-of-hope-an-introduction-to-the-jubilee-year>

## Please Pray For...

**Bob & Elena White, Cathy Howes, John Lloyd, Lucy, Margaret Guy, Michael Dixon, Noah Baker, Rebecca O'Brien, Sally Harvey, Lucy, Rex Curd, Suzanne Grassie, and Tom Piggins.**

Please also pray for all the sick and/or housebound members of our parishes, and all who have died recently.

Please tell your parish office if you know of anyone who needs to be added to this list.