

Brighton and Hove Deanery: Western Churches

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

Canon Colin Wolczak, Dom Rod Jones OSB, Canon David Parmiter

Sunday 23rd March 2025, 3rd Sunday in Lent, Year C. Weekdays: Lent Week 3

Canon David Writes:

In some communities the Gospel of the Samaritan Women may be read as part of the first scrutiny for those to be baptised at Easter. Hearing that Gospel they are invited to believe in Jesus as the 'living water' and they are presented with the Creed. This ritual can inspire all of us as we journey through Lent to Easter.

In other communities of faith we will hear the Gospel of Luke where people have been disturbed by some difficult and troubling events; the cruelty and disrespect of authorities and a serious accident. As the story of the Galileans, whose blood Pilate had spilt, was told to Jesus he saw the assumption being made. What had those Galileans done to deserve that treatment? He answers; they were no worse than you.

Sometimes there is not a ready explanation for the difficult and hard events of life. We know we should not blame the victims but in some cases we are tempted to think that they might have done something to avoid their misfortune. Maybe, but maybe not, we often don't know and perhaps we would not have fared any better given the same circumstances.

Jesus is asking us not to give him, or others, a running commentary on what we think is fair or unfair, right or wrong and so on...but to produce good fruit in our own lives. He gives us the grace and the time to produce good fruit: "Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig round it and put on manure." This good fruit could be the mercy and compassion for those, and their families, who have been visited by misfortune.

Catholic Social Teaching refers to this compassion as solidarity, which is a rather clumsy word and has certain historical resonances. However this principle of the Social Teaching of the Church recognises the interdependence between people and the social nature of the human person together with their equality in dignity and rights. A timely reminder that our Lenten journey is not just an individual one but also one that has at its heart concern for our brothers and sisters.

Brighton & Hove Wide Reconciliation Service

Thursday 27th March at 7pm, St Mary Magdalen's, Upper North Street, Brighton BN1 3FH (parking available on school playground off Spring Street)

Led by **Bishop Richard**. There will be a short service followed by the opportunity to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation. This is a Deanery wide event and replaces any local services.

Stations of the Cross at each church

St Peter's: from Friday 14th March at 7pm during Lent.

St Theresa's & St George's: Fridays during lent. Starting at St Theresa's on Friday 14th March at 6:15pm (before Mass at 7pm) and then alternating between St George's (at 7:30pm) and St Theresa's (at 6:15pm) thereafter.

Sacred Heart: Every Tuesday up to and including 15th April, the SH Prayer

Sacred Heart, 39 Norton Road, BN3 3BF, 01273 732843,

www.sacredheartrove.org.uk; hovesacredheart@abdiocese.org.uk.

All Masses Live Streamed: www.sacredheartrove.org.uk/videos.html

St Georges, Court Farm Road, BN3 7QR and **St Theresa's**, Old Shoreham Road, BN42 4RY, 01273 708227; westhove@abdiocese.org.uk.

St Mary Magdalen, 55 Upper North St, BN1 3FH;

stmarymagdalenbrighton.blogspot.com; brightonstmarymag@abdiocese.org.uk.

St Peter's, Portland Road, BN3 5GD, 01273 733840, www.stpeters-hove.org.uk; hovestpeters@abdiocese.org.uk.

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

Mass Schedule

Sat 22	March
6.00pm †	SH Mr & Mrs GW Gillow & Family
6.00	SP People of the Parish
6.30	SG <i>Polish Mass</i>
Sun 23	March Third Sunday of Lent
8.30 am	SP Oliver Neary RIP
9.00	ST All Parishioners
9.30	SH Anna Domagala RIP
9:30	SMM
10.00	SP People of the Parish
11.00	SG All Parishioners
11.00	SMM
11.30	SH People of the Parish
11.30	SP People of the Parish
5.00 pm	SP <i>Brazilian Mass</i>
5.00	SMM
Mon 24	March
10.00 am †	SH Angie Evans Intentions
Tue 25	March Annunciation of the Lord
10.00 am	SG All Parishioners
10.00 am †	SH David Fenn RIP
10.00	SP People of the Parish
7.00pm	ST All Parishioners
Wed 26	March
8.00am	SH Bob & Elena's Ints
10.00am	SP NO MASS
7.00pm	ST All Parishioners
Thu 27	March
10.00am	SP Roger Van Veen RIP
10.00am ‡	SG All Parishioners
12 noon †	SH Brian Cosgrove RIP
7.00pm	ST All Parishioners
Fri 28	March Survivors of Sexual Abuse
8.00 am	SH Bob & Elena's Ints
10.00	SP
7.00pm	ST All Parishioners
Sat 29	March
6.00pm †	SH Mary Scherer RIP
6.00	SP People of the Parish
6.30	SG <i>Polish Mass</i>
Sun 30	March 4th Sunday in Lent
8.30 am	SP People of the Parish
9.00	ST All Parishioners
9.30	SH People of the Parish
9:30	SMM
10.00	SP People of the Parish
11.00	SG All Parishioners
11.00	SMM
11.30	SH Sarah Parker RIP & Danny Collard RIP
11.30	SP Hugh & Patricia Maguire - Renewal of Wedding Vows
5.00 pm	SP <i>Brazilian Mass</i>
5.00	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

Group will lead the Stations of the Cross, immediately after the 10am Tuesday Mass. All are welcome to join.

St Mary Magdalen's after holy hour at 6:30pm on Fridays during Lent. All are welcome to join.

Sycamore: 'Prayer for Pilgrims'

We are delighted to invite you to six informal gatherings running weekly from Monday 7th April at 7pm in St Peter's Church Hall. Each evening we will begin by enjoying a bite to eat together, watch a short Sycamore film and consider questions that will inspire relaxed and friendly discussions. We will reflect on what prayer is, share what is most fruitful and ponder in our hearts how we might go deeper.

The first week will begin with the film 'Who is Jesus?' Perfect for Pilgrims of Hope. All are welcome including fellow pilgrims from our sister parishes. For more on the wonderful resource that Sycamore is visit:

www.sycamore.fm

SYCAMORE

Lenten Holy Hour at St Peter's

You are invited to spend time in prayer, face to face with Jesus in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: **each Saturday in Lent from 5pm**, concluding with Benediction at 5:45 (Mass at 6pm as usual). Jesus is really present in the consecrated host, which is displayed on the altar throughout this time. You can pray with Scripture, the rosary, or simply in your own words as you enjoy His presence. Please pray especially for the pastoral plan and for our collaboration with other communities of faith across Brighton & Hove. The time of prayer concludes with a special blessing called 'Benediction'. Times of Adoration in other Churches are in the newsletter and on their websites.

Weekly Events

Reconciliation

5:15-5:45pm before Mass every Saturday at Sacred Heart, & St Peter's.

Sacred Heart Rosary Group

Every Monday after 10am Mass (in person) in the Lady Chapel, and on

Fridays at 11am (livestreamed only). All are welcome.

St Mary Mags: Sanctuary of Prayer

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.

Online Prayer Group

Thursdays at 8pm via video-link:

A small and informal group, meeting to pray and read the scriptures together. If you would like to join the group, or just 'come and see' you would be very welcome. Just send an email to westhove@abdiocese.org.uk and you will receive the link for the meeting.

Regular Events

Coffee and Cake

Sacred Heart coffee is 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 after 10:00 and 11:30 Mass every Sunday, and after 10:00 Mass on 2nd and 4th Sundays, 23rd March. Everyone is welcome. The organisers will be happy to introduce you to some new friends.

St Peter's Friday Social Club

Meets in the Hall, **Fridays at 1:30pm**, term time only. You are welcome to join this friendly group for good conversation and some light refreshments. Recent talks and activities have included learning sign language, a Harrods window-dresser, sale of personalised art cards, 101 ways to wear accessories, and stories of some special crucifixes. Tea and cake always provided.

St George's Tea and Chat

25th March, 8th & 22nd April

This takes place on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, after the 10am Mass at St George's, offering a time of socialisation and activity, aimed at older people in the parish. No need to book. Just turn up!

St Peter's Tai Chi

In the hall **10:30-11:30am on Mondays**, during term time.

St Peter's Union of Catholic Mothers

(UCM) **Tuesdays in the hall, 2-4pm**, term time only, new members are always welcome.

Sacred Heart SVP Social Group

12:30pm after Mass. Next date is 27th March. For all parishioners, (run by the Sacred Heart SVP). Soup, sandwiches, tea, and cakes. Entertainment- quizzes etc. All are welcome.

Our Lady Star of the Sea SVP

Conference Meeting

27th March, 6pm, St Theresa's If anyone would like to get involved with our SVP, or learn more, please come to our next meeting, in the meeting room at the back of St Theresa's. All are welcome!

Other Events/Notices

Mass Intentions/Memorial Book Entries (Sacred Heart)

For those wanting to book Mass Intentions or entries to the Memorial book, please use the envelopes provided in the Porch so that all the required information is received, rather than writing on scraps of paper, as these can often get lost or have incomplete information. Thank you.

Eucharistic Healing Service

Sunday 6th April, 3pm – 4:15pm, St Mary Mags

A time of prayer, reflection and music. Praying for the healing of our families, for those we know in need and for ourselves. (Parking available on the school playground off Spring Street).

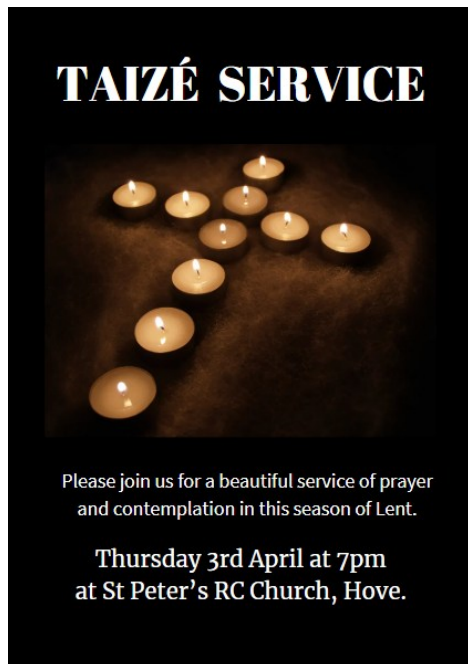
Canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis

Sunday 27th April, 11am, St Peter's Canon David has invited Bishop Richard to celebrate Mass at 11:00am, and we will have a reception in the hall following Mass. That weekend there will be Mass celebrated at 6pm on Saturday evening, and at 8:30am on Sunday morning. Our usual 10:00am and 11:30am Masses will be combined at 11:00am, and we are delighted that the two choirs will join together with students from Cardinal Newman and Cottesmore.

Second collections this week:

Sacred Heart - Our Lady of Walsingham

St Peter's Offertory Collection for Sunday 16th March - £1,229.45.



Cleaning the Churches for Holy Week and Easter

St Theresa's, Palm Sunday 13th April, 6pm. Please come along and help to make the churches spick and span in preparation for Easter! Refreshments will be provided!

Welcomers at St Theresa's

We are in need of a few more welcomers at the **9am Mass at St Theresa's** please. Please speak to Gill or Pauline or email the parish office.

Parking in the Sacred Heart Car Park

This is a reminder that people should not be double parking their cars in the car park during Mass times. There are often people working/visiting the Parish office or using the Parish Rooms who need to leave the car park and last Thursday around 4/5 cars were blocking their exit. If the car park is full, please park on the street.

Fundraising

St Peter's Spring Sale and Coffee after **10:00 and 11:30 Mass on 23rd March.** We have some lovely items, some of them hand-made, including: Cards, Mother's Day gifts, Easter gifts, and mini-hampers, Toiletries, Small toys, Bric a brac. All at very low prices. So far this has raised over £100 for Kids for Kids. Please support this and enjoy coffee, cake and chat.

St Peter's 200 Club Winners

Congratulations to: Anne Gallagher wins £50, Vincent Joyce wins £90, and

Anna Finlason wins £200, in our January draw. **What is the 200 Club?** This was set up initially twenty years ago to raise money for the parish Link construction between church and hall, and when that was paid off we kept the 200 Club going to support the charities which the parishioners voted for. It now supports two charities selected by our parishioners, namely:

Reaching the Unreached

<https://www.rtu.org.uk/>, and

Sussex Nightstop

www.sussexnightstop.org.uk

How the 200 Club works. Sign up for £52 per year for a chance to win a bi-monthly draw, payable annually, half yearly or quarterly. The 1st prize is £200, the 2nd prize is £90, and 3rd prize is £50. All the while your money is helping others. We are looking for new members, so please do get in touch with the Parish office if you wish to join.

Hangleton and West Blatchington

Food Bank If you would like to donate to the foodbank we would be grateful for: Plain noodles

Rice pudding

Savoury snacks

We still have plenty of pasta, rice, soup, and a mountain of baked beans so please do not buy us more.

Donations may be brought to the hall on Wednesdays between 10:30 and 11:45 or dropped into the collection bins in, One Stop in Court Farm Road, Books Alive in Elm Drive, Hove Waitrose, or at any of our churches. Thank you.

Newsletter by email

Please email Lisa, SH Parish Secretary: hovesacredheart@abdiocese.org.uk to be added to the distribution list, this list is for all our churches.

Who to contact in Fr Tony's absence

Re school admissions, marriages, funerals etc? In the first instance people can contact **Juliette (parish secretary)** via the parish office, Juliette will forward the enquiry to the relevant person. St George's and St Theresa's Parish Office, 01273 708227, westhove@abdiocese.org.uk.

Canon David at St Peter's is the main clergy contact in place of a parish priest.

Baptism – contact Fr Paul, via the office.

School admission – contact Canon David.

First Holy Communion – contact Fr Paul, via the parish office.

Confirmation – contact Sacred Heart.

Rite of Christian Initiation of

Adults (RCIA) – contact Sacred Heart.

Marriage – contact the parish office.

The Sacrament of the Sick – contact the parish office.

Taking Communion to People at Home – contact the parish office.

Home visits to the sick or lonely – contact the SVP, via the parish office.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation – Available on request.

Funerals – contact the parish office.

Please Pray For...

Bob & Elena White, Tom Piggins, Cathy Howes, Margaret Guy, Marion Shannon, Noah Baker, Rebecca O'Brien, Rex Curd, Sally Harvey, and Suzanne Grassie.

Please pray for all the sick and/or housebound members of our parishes. Please tell your parish office if you would like to add someone to the list above.

Please pray for those who have died recently, especially:

Rev Canon William Oliver Heaney RIP died on the 1st March 2025, served the Diocese for many years. His funeral will take place at St Mary's Preston Park Tuesday 25 March at 12 noon, please remember him in your prayers.

Roger Van Veen RIP (Sacred Heart) who passed away on 14th March 2025.

Cath Grafen RIP (Sacred Heart) who sadly died on 28th February 2025. Funeral will be held at Sacred Heart on Friday 28th March at 12noon.

Shirley Burrow RIP (St Theresa's) Requiem Mass Monday, 31st March 2025 at 11 am, St Theresa of Lisieux, Old Shoreham Road, Southwick, BN42 4RY, followed by Cremation at the Downs. No flowers, donations for either Sense or Lourdes Pilgrimage fund please. Those not attending the Committal at the Crematorium are welcome for refreshments at Hangleton Manor, Hangleton Valley Drive, Hove BN3 8AN. Those who wish to attend the Wake, can you advise the parish office of your name and any dietary requirements asap please.

Thank you.

23rd March 2025, 3rd Sunday in Lent.

Entrance Antiphon

My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.

Collect

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

First Reading Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15

In those days: Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, 'I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.' When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' And he said, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the LORD said, 'I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey.' Then Moses said to God, 'If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?' God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' And he said, 'Say this to the people of Israel: "I AM has sent me to you."' God also said

to Moses, 'Say this to the people of Israel: "The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for ever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm Response

The Lord is compassionate and gracious.

Second Reading: Philippians 3:17-4:1

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptised into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

Repent, says the Lord, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

There were some present at that very time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, 'Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem?

No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.'

And he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vine dresser, "Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?" And he answered him, "Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig round it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."' The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Profession of Faith

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, (all bow during the next three lines) 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.

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