

Diocese of Arundel and Brighton

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Newsletter of Catholic Parish of St. John the Evangelist Tadworth

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The Parish Office will be closed from Thursday 23rd December to Friday 31st December

18th – 26th December 2021 **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Saturday 18th 6.00pm Parish November Dead List

Sunday 19th 8.30am People of the Parish
10.30am Parish November Dead List

Tuesday 21st 9.15am William Toulmin RIP
7.00pm **Parish Carol Service**

Wednesday 22nd 9.15am Joy and Michael Farrelly RIP

The Nativity of the Lord

Friday 24th 5.00pm **Family Mass**
Parish November Dead List

8.00pm **"Midnight Mass" preceded by carols at 7.45pm**
Jackie Davies and Annie Barton RIP

Saturday 25th 9.30am **Parish Mass with carols**
Mary Boucher RIP

The Holy Family

Sunday 26th 8.30am Oliver Fogarty's recovery

10.30am People of the Parish

CONFESSION: Saturdays 10.00am – 11.00am and 4.30pm – 5.30pm.

On request after weekday and Sunday Masses. Confession will be heard in the Sacristy.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET:

Wednesdays 9.45am – 10.15am

ROSARY: Wednesdays 9.00am – 9.15am (May and October before every weekday Mass)

MORNING PRAYER (Breviary): Tuesdays and Fridays 9.00am

Dear Parishioners

In today's Gospel we meet two expectant mothers: Mary and Elisabeth with their maternal happiness. This is the reason why the fourth Sunday of Advent is the day of prayer for expectant mothers. Through Mary's greeting, John the Baptism leaps for joy in his mother; Elisabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and enabled to give a loud cry of happiness. Mary shares her Joy with us: first the joy of believing – trusting, then the Joy of carrying, protecting and expecting the birth of the Saviour, the Son of God.

Faith is both an act of belief or trust and also that which is believed or confessed. Both aspects work together inseparably, since trust is adhesion to a message with intelligible content, and confession cannot be reduced to mere lip service; it must come from the heart which loves the truth.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary intercede for us as, especially when we enter together the synodal path. May her maternal care and intercession accompany us. With her, let us say: "Let it be with me according to your word".

With my prayers

Fr. Stanisław

Faith Resources on the website this week:

- Prayers for expectant parents
- The operation of the redeeming Incarnation: St. Irenaeus

Christmas Crib Collection: Catholic Children's Society who provide vital support for disadvantaged children and families.

Christmas offering: The collection at the Christmas Masses is your personal gift to the Parish Priest to say thank you for all he does for the parish.

You can give by:

- Bank Transfer with the reference 'Christmas Offering' (see below for bank details).
- Gift Aid envelope (Blue) if you are a Gift Aider.
- Using the contactless device.
- Placing your offering in one of the collection baskets.

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Church cleaning: We would like to give the church an extra bit of polish and sparkle for Christmas! Please come along on Monday 20th December at 10.00am if you can help - many hands make light work 😊

Christmas at St. John's

Saturday 18th December 10.00am to 12.00noon:

Family Crib Visits

The church will be open for family crib visits and Advent reconciliation. Take a pause during the busy lead up to Christmas and bring your children or grandchildren to visit our crib. A wonderful way to spend a short, prayerful time with them, thinking about the good news the angels bring and the birth of baby Jesus.

Tuesday 21st December 7.00pm: Parish Carol Service:

A candlelight service of readings and carols to celebrate the coming of our Saviour. This year we can all join in the singing 😊. Tea/coffee and mince pies will be served in the hall afterwards. We would be very grateful for donations of mince pies; please add your name to the list in the porch if you can help.

Christmas Eve Friday 24th December:

5.00pm Family Mass

A special Christmas Mass for families with carols and Nativity tableau. We warmly invite the children to come dressed as characters from the Christmas story: angels, shepherds, kings, stars and animals.

8.00pm Christmas "Midnight Mass" preceded by carols at 7.45pm. Join us afterwards for mulled wine and panettone.

Christmas Day Saturday 25th December:

9.30am Parish Mass with carols.

Sunday 26th December Feast of the Holy Family:

8.30am and 10.30am Masses with renewal of marriage vows.

Covid-19: Everyone – other than those who are exempt – must wear a face covering at Mass, including while singing. The Welcomers will give you a mask if you arrive without one. Please

continue to sanitise your hands as you enter and leave the church. There are currently no restrictions on the number of people that may attend Mass and the church will be ventilated regularly. The chairs are available for those who prefer to sit away from other people.

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for

Christmas services: The rotas are on display in the porch; please check which time and day you've been allocated.

Christmas Gifts for the lonely: The Parish Pastoral Outreach Team would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has kindly donated gifts for the packages that will be made up for parishioners who may be on their own at Christmas and/or who are living in care homes.

Delivery is expected to start after Monday of next week. If anyone is aware of someone who they believe would benefit from a gift and card which contains a 'remembering you in our prayers' by the parish of St John's, please email: siobhainy3b@gmail.com

St. John's Christmas Post Box: Is in the lobby of the church hall; Fr. Stanislaw would be very grateful if you could use this instead of leaving cards in the church porch, which can get very cluttered.

Parish Diaries: There is a small supply of free parish diaries in the porch – please help yourself if you would like one.

Synod 2023 - Communion, Participation and Mission: Our engagement in the "Synod Path" is a response to an invitation from the Holy Father, who invites us to prayer, discernment and openness to the Holy Spirit. He asks us to address particular questions, in order to assist him and the bishops who will gather for the Synod in their work for the good of the whole Church. You are strongly encouraged to consider and respond to the questions posed by the Holy Father; please read the separate handout about how you can do this – either by joining a parish group session (see below) or by submitting your responses online.

Session 1: Communion- Wednesday 12th January
Session 2: Participation -Wednesday 19th January
Session 3: Mission - Wednesday 26th January

Our sessions will take place in the church at 7.00pm and will involve scripture, reflection, discussion, listening and prayer.

Confirmation 2022: Applications for next year's Confirmation Preparation Course may now be submitted using the form on the Confirmation page of our website. The course is open to young people in our parish who are currently in Year 10 or above. **Applications must be received by the Parish Office by 20th December 2021.**

Urgent: Parish Safeguarding Representative/s: Fr. Stanislaw urgently needs one or two volunteers to take on this role; ideally you will have some understanding of safeguarding and child protection practices, whether that be in a professional or volunteer capacity. Please speak to Fr. Stanislaw as soon as possible if you are interested in this role.

Local Electrician: and member of our parish community is available for all electrical work – large or small jobs. Call 07500 871164 or 01737 222037 PDE Electrical Ltd.

St Anne's School - Applying to Reception 2022
If you have a child that will be starting school in Reception in September 2022, please note that the closing date for returning your supplementary information form to the school office and for completing the Surrey CC online application form (where you state your school preference) is **15th January 2022**. The admissions policy and supplementary information form 2022-23 is available on St Anne's school website or from the school office. The Surrey CC online application form can be found at: <https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/eAdmissions/app>

CAFOD: is combining efforts with the DEC to launch the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. In Afghanistan, 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict, and COVID. CAFOD is supporting sister Caritas agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water, and fuel. During Advent, when we open ourselves to the needs of others, let's do all that we can to save lives. You can donate on the CAFOD website: cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.

Justice & Peace Assembly Webinar: 'To a Safer Shore? 15th January, from 9.45am for 10.00 am to 1.00pm, will now take place online. More details and to book at To a Safer Shore? contact Tessa Ricketts at Tessa.Ricketts@abdiocese.org.uk

