

# Cathedral Deanery Newsletter

Autumn 2023



In June, representatives from every community in our deanery met in Arundel, with the deanery clergy, to continue discussing the future of the church in this area, and everyone's role in shaping it. The meeting opened in prayer and reflection and the Dean, Canon Peter Newsam, then introduced the context of where we are in the church locally. He noted that we need to co-operate more fully and share experience, and that we can look at the losses and feel sad, but we need to move forward: there are more Christian communities now than clergy, so they become places where the community is looking after itself and one another, share experience and share expertise. Canon Peter acknowledged that Mass times and finances are not the place to start: they will need addressing but they must not be our starting points.

Canon Peter suggested that discussions start from the question 'What do vibrant apostolic communities look like?' because if we deal with that question, then the number of clergy serving them is not defining. The group broke into discussion groups of two or three, mixing up the parishes, to discuss three questions. Here they are, with the thoughts that were fed back to the whole group:

## What do vibrant lively Christian communities look like? What are their characteristics? What is happening in them?

Mass & the Eucharist

- the foundation on which we build

Welcoming

- vibrant communities are welcoming, to everyone
- they welcome people who are outside the church
- initial welcomes are followed up on - Alpha can be useful
- there they must be some knowledge about people, and curiosity

Good models

- communities think about what they have done well recently & share
- they learn from others, e.g. our twin diocese in Peru, where churches might have one Mass a year, so people lead the community

Joyful, communicative,  
inclusive & kind

- they ensure people and priests do not burn out
- they have dialogue, not just agreeing with Father.
- they ensure everyone is brought along in the process of change, e.g. that people who will struggle with the change away from a parish shepherd/flock structure are not isolated

Gifts, talents &  
structures

- people's charisms and how to use them are identified
- roles and tasks to fill in parishes are identified
- people are empowered in new roles
- expectations are clear, e.g. in a community-led parish, what is the expectation with the priests and who checks in?

The second part of the discussion, in larger groups, was on the topic:

**What do we need to do to make this happen:  
a church community confident, alive and able to cope with or without a priest?**



After the discussion and feedback, there were a couple of questions from the group, in particular:

Is there a timeline for the coming changes in numbers of priests?

Canon Peter replied that there is not, 'but we need to keep moving.'

The meeting concluded with prayer and a request to encourage all present to talk about the meeting and the questions it raised, and with the reading of a paragraph from the Pastoral Plan:

*May [our parishes] be communities where the Lord is known and loved; where the liturgy is experienced as an encounter with the wonder of heaven; where daily prayer is a natural part of life; where all are welcomed and their dignity as children of God always recognized; where young people grow in deep love for the Gospel, for the sacramental life of the Church and for prayer; where all know the riches of the faith and seek to share it with others.*

*Pastoral Plan 2022, 1.3*



If you wish to read the full minutes from the meeting, click [here](#) or contact your parish office.

## The Cathedral Deanery & the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2023



Many pilgrims from our deanery joined the annual diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes this year, for a week of prayer, renewal and fellowship, in answer to Our Lady's call. This year's meditation for all pilgrimages to Lourdes is, in Our Lady's words, 'Go and tell the priests to build a chapel here' and pilgrims are invited to consider what it means, for us and in our time, to 'build a chapel.' From the youngest children (using Duplo!), to the Year 10-11 Redshirts, to the most mature pilgrims, everyone thought about their role as living bricks, building up the Church. Some of our deanery's pilgrims, who had various roles on the pilgrimage, share their thoughts on the week, here:

My first time attending Lourdes was such an eye opening experience. I was a Young Helper (Purple Shirt) while in Lourdes and this meant I was helping all our pilgrims getting to and from the Domain and also spending our free time with them as well. Honestly, by the end of that week I felt like I had a second family, everyone is so caring and is on the same journey as you. I highly recommend anyone going even if you're not sure about it, the Lord is there to guide you. **Matthew, St Richard's, Chichester. Young Helper.**

This is our 6th Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Each time, we have made many like-minded friends, we are always amazed by the joy, cheer and love of so many young people. We all become totally immersed, in our spiritual journey. Led by the wonderful Bishop, Clergy, Chaplains and fellow pilgrims. The liturgy is beautiful. The week is busy, sometimes tiring, but always filled with joy and love. **Karen & Charles, Sacred Heart, Petworth. Pilgrimage Hotel Leaders.**

It was a real privilege to join the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage as an Assistant Chaplain again. I was in a hotel with members of the Diocesan Deaf Service, along with the Communicators who enabled the people who were deaf or hard of hearing to access all that was happening. It was a privilege to accompany people as we were walking to events and to be able to encourage people in what they also had to offer. At Briefing Day before going to Lourdes, I noticed a teenager who looked quite distressed. I went over to him and asked if he was ok. He responded to me, and I asked if he would like me to pray with him about it. His response was 'Yes'! While we were in Lourdes, I was able to speak with him again and to tell him what a change I noticed in him being in Lourdes – his face was joyful, and he was a valued member of our hotel group. I give thanks for being asked to be an Assistant Chaplain – and know that when I am in this role, I am using the gifts God has given – with His grace working in me. **Margaret, Our Lady of Sorrows, Bognor Regis. Pilgrimage Assistant Chaplain.**



People talk of their Lourdes family and one really feels it. There are so many layers, from the Family Group, through to Young Helpers and then the Helpers themselves, who are assigned each day to a pilgrim from their hotel who needs extra support. Lourdes is fun! A lot of people find this hard to comprehend but it's true. Yes, it can be hard work but people are so friendly and helpful, meeting for coffee, ice creams, drinks or just general chitchat. I first went on pilgrimage in 1996 as a Helper and wondered what on earth I was letting myself in for but the support and friendship is second to none. Some of the friends I made then are still part of the pilgrimage, some are married and are bringing their own children along, some are like me and too old to be a helper but come as an 'ordinary' pilgrim. These days the pilgrimage has a slightly different perspective for me as my sister died two years ago at the end of July so her anniversary falls within the pilgrimage dates. What a wonderful place to be able to remember her, pray for her and light a candle at the candle bank opposite the Grotto. **Margaret, Arundel Cathedral. Prayer Pilgrim.**

This year was my first time returning to Lourdes since before the start of the pandemic and it was like a breath of fresh air. Throughout the week I stayed in the Irelande Hotel, helping different people each day to attend Mass, meet their friends, and spend time with God. It was such a privilege to help these people and learn from them. I also had the honour of being asked to sing the psalm at the Mass of the Anointing, a daunting task given the importance of the occasion, but ultimately a very special moment. **Anna, Our Lady of England, Storrington. Helper & Choir Member.**

The **2024 Pilgrimage** will be a great celebration, as it marks the 50th anniversary of Arundel & Brighton's Pilgrimages to Lourdes. It will take place from 26 July to 1 August 2024 and bookings will open after Christmas. **Could Our Lady be calling you to Lourdes in 2024?**



## Arundel Cathedral - 150th Anniversary Celebrations

On Sunday 2 July, after the glorious diocesan celebrations of the cathedral's 150th anniversary, came the parish's own celebration, with sunshine, jazz, cake and a giant, human '150' in the cathedral gardens!

The Cathedral was originally constructed as the parish church for Arundel. When it opened on 1st July 1873 it was dedicated to St Philip Neri. It became a cathedral at the creation of the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton in 1965.



## Message from the New Headteacher of our Deanery Secondary School

I am writing to introduce myself as the new Headteacher of St Philip Howard Catholic School. Having worked at SPH for the past eight years, it's my honour to serve the students and staff entrusted to our care. Teaching is far more than a job, it's a vocation. St John Bosco reminds us that it is about winning the hearts and minds of young people. There is no greater privilege, and at SPH I could not be prouder of all our staff, we are a truly child and Christ centred community, something that sets us apart from others. SPH is the Catholic secondary school for the deanery and is here to ensure that our children receive the very best possible education; where they are known, loved, nurtured, and challenged to fulfil their God-given potential. SPH is in the Top 15% of schools nationally and has twice been rated as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. Whilst we are proud of these achievements, we are a school where children are known and loved. Our aspirations are to create kind, happy children and provide a better education than they could obtain from any other school. Your prayers for our community are always welcomed, and we give thanks for the support we get from our Catholic community. SPH is a truly dynamic, energetic, and happy place to be, we are ferociously ambitious for our students in every aspect of their lives. To do this we rely on a fantastic governing body to support and challenge us in equal measure. I would welcome anybody, who is seeking the opportunity to give back and serve others, to come and visit us.

God Bless, Tim Hulse



### Cathedral Deanery Parish Websites

Arundel: [arundelcathedral.uk](http://arundelcathedral.uk)

Bognor with Slindon: [bognorcatholicparish.co.uk](http://bognorcatholicparish.co.uk)

Chichester, Selsey, Bosham & Witterings:  
[saintsofsussex.com](http://saintsofsussex.com)

Petworth & Midhurst: [petworthcatholic.org](http://petworthcatholic.org)

Storrington: [ourladyofengland.parishportal.net](http://ourladyofengland.parishportal.net)

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via the

[Diocesan website.](#)

