

Our Lady & the Saints of Sussex Newsletter for: 12th January 2025 Baptism of the Lord

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East Wittering, PO20 8PS

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

& St Wilfrid

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website www.saintsofsussex.com

Regular news and insight:

[instagram.com/saints.of.sussex](https://www.instagram.com/saints.of.sussex)

[facebook.com/saints.of.sussex](https://www.facebook.com/saints.of.sussex)

Online Masses

[youtube.com/c/SaintsofSussexParish](https://www.youtube.com/c/SaintsofSussexParish)

Safeguarding

Parish checks and training

Sg.chichester@abdiocese.org.uk

Safeguarding concerns:

01273 859708

angela.mcgrory@abdiocese.org.uk

Parish bereavement support

Request a callback via the Office

Hall & church availability

[www.saintsofsussex.com/](http://www.saintsofsussex.com/church-and-hall-availability)

church-and-hall-availability

Please pray for our sick parishioners:

Agnes Martin, Annabel Cottrell, Anthony Nageon De Lestang, Barry Buck, Brendan Martin, David Mortby, Denise Turner, Gerald McGregor, Jean Thorpe, Jill Serna, Joaquim Fernandes, Josh England, Kinga Buckley, Kitty Hall, Lois Bleasdale, Magda Gallanti, Maria Aldred, Margaret Beazley, Mary Eveleigh, Max Foreshew, Nell Hassett; Nuala O'Callaghan, Nuria Capote Rivera, Paul Carney, Ruiyang Xu, Rita Rooke, Roger Cluff, Roger Surrage, Sandra Bushell, Simon Buckley, Stephanie Parnell, Susan Line, Tony Morris, Trish Evans, Valerie Davis-White, *Please let the office know of any changes*

Baptism of the Lord on 12th January

On the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord all those families of the baptised in 2024 are invited to an afternoon called Life after Baptism in the lower parish room at St Richards Church. At 2.30pm we will be serving drinks and light refreshments, and the whole family are invited.

The Monthly EVENT - Thursday

January 16th 2025 Bosham. 12.15 Mass followed by lunch and a 20minute PowerPoint presentation led by Maria Whitehouse and Roger Hagon entitled St Cuthman's "virtual pilgrimage." If you need transport to the Event, please contact Tony on 07941949760 by Tuesday 14th January.

Friday Faith Cafe at St Peter's

resumes again next Friday 17th January with *Seeking Jesus in his own Land* a Scriptural Pilgrimage with Fr Stephen Doyle. Tea and coffee will be available and everyone is very welcome, so do come along.

Thursday Lectio Divina small

group will resume the group in the New Year, meeting every week, from Thursday 16th Jan at 7pm.



A Year of Hope: Jubilee Year with CAFOD

2025 is a Jubilee year, but what does that mean? How will the Church be celebrating it? What can I do? Join us for an introduction to the Jubilee with our special guests including Fr Jan Nowotnik, Director of Mission for the Catholic Bishop's Conference, Christine Allen, CAFOD Director, and Kayode Akintola, CAFOD's Head of Africa. Hear highlights of how we're celebrating as a church and see how we can be tangible signs of hope and build a better world together throughout this holy year. Saturday 18 Jan, 10:30am-midday, online. [Register here for free.](#)

Bible Study follows 7pm Mass).

Join us for 'From Genesis to Jesus' and God's covenant with David, Wednesday 15th January, 7.30pm in the Lower Parish Room. All most welcome.

The Baptism of the Lord

1st Reading Isaiah 40:1-5, Prepare the way of the Lord
Resp Psalm 104 Bless the Lord, O my soul! My God, how great you are!

2nd Reading Titus 2:11-14 'He saved us by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.'

Gospel Accl Alleluia, Alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, he has sent me to proclaim the good news to the poor. Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 3:10-18 'And we, what shall we do?'

Bidding Prayers www.saintsofsussex.com/intercessions

Mrs Mop and the Holy Dusters – Wednesday 15th January, 3pm at Our Lady of the Assumption. Join us to make our church sparkle! All welcome for an hour's sweeping and cleaning, followed by refreshments.

New Baptism Programme for Spring 2025 +

Dates The Spring baptism preparation course will start with an informal info session on Sunday afternoon 19th Jan 2.30-3.30pm in the lower parish room at St Richards (for all members of families, babies and siblings; drinks and cake will be served). 1st online session 7.30-8.30pm 3rd Feb In person prep session 16th Feb lower parish room St Richards 2nd online prep session 7.30-8.30pm 3rd March

Parish Pilgrimage to Knock and County Mayo.

Following on from Fr David's very successful pilgrimages over the past few years. Next year he will be leading a Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, 3rd March 2025– 7th March. The cost will be £749.00 pps which includes the flight, 10kg hold luggage, 4 nights' in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Ballintubber Abbey, Quiet Man Museum. Single supplement on Enquiry. To Book contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email on knockpilgrimages@gmail.com. You can see an expanded programme on the noticeboards at church, or enquire at the parish office to send you a copy. **We now have 42 signed up. This means we have gone up into a larger coach, with a final 2 spaces available. If you would like to go, please enquire soon. A coach has been organised from St Richards to and from Heathrow (which will require a small additional cost).**

Day of Reflection Ministers of the Word

Saturday 25 Jan 11 - 4pm at St Wilfrid's Parish Centre, Burgess Hill Led by Bishop Richard. The day will include talks on the Scriptures, the Lectionary and its use in the Liturgy, the Liturgy of the Word, and preparing to minister as a reader. There will be a time of Lectio Divina, finishing with Mass. [Book via the Diocese website.](#)

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Lesley King, whose Requiem Mass takes place this Tuesday, January 14th, at 2 pm at Our Lady Mary Sutherland, whose Requiem Mass takes place on Friday, January 24th at 11 at St Peter's Claudette Giraud, East Marden, who passed away during the week To their families and loved ones, our sincere sympathy Fr David, Fr Nick, Deacon Jon and our Bereavement Group are always happy to accompany people in their grief.

Thank you to everyone who wished Fr Nick, Deacon Jon and I well, and sent us cards, gifts and messages for Christmas. So generous has been your outpouring that it is not possible to thank everyone individually, so please take this as an expression of our gratitude. Words are inadequate indeed to express how amazed and humbled I am at the involvement of people in so many ways, not just here but in all the churches that make up our parish family. The love you show and your commitment to your faith is both humbling and inspiring. You already live the theme of our jubilee year as pilgrims of hope. I wish you all peace, joy and abundant blessings throughout the coming year. Very sincerely. Fr David

St Wilfrid's Church Selsey will be hosting the popular **Quiz and Fish and Chip Supper** on Friday-24th January at 7pm. Tickets will be £12 and include the quiz and the supper. Any allergies/intolerances please advise. There will be soft drinks available and if people want to bring alcohol then they can bring along. We will be running a raffle. Teams of 6 people can be booked in advance. Please contact Karen Pirks by email KPIrky@outlook.com or mobile 07824 376 760 to book.

Tuesday Group Bosham

There will be no discussion this week as the Requiem Mass at 2pm replaces the morning Mass. All welcome at 2pm - refreshments afterwards.

Young Adults - Join us

Every Sunday after the evening Mass in the Upper Parish Room at St Richard's. All Young Adults aged 18-30 are welcome. Friendship and fellowship guaranteed.

	Confessions	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Bosham	Tues 9.30 – 10am;	Tues 9.30 – 10am,
Chichester	Mon 11.15-12. Wed 6-7 Sunday 5-5.30	Wed from 8.30am -1pm & 6– 7pm
Selsey	Wed 9.30-10am	Mon 9.30-10.30 & Wed 9.30-10am
Witterings	Fri 9.30-10am	Wed 9.00-12noon

Date	Church	Time	online	Mass Intention
Sat 11 th January	Chichester	8am	✓	Mgr Nick France RIP
	Chichester	4.15pm		<i>Ordinariate Rite</i>
	Chichester	6pm	✓	Jean Lynch RIP
Sun 12th January Baptism of the Lord	Witterings	9am		Deceased Members of the Steele Family
	Chichester	9.30am	✓	A Mass of Thanksgiving
	Selsey	11am		People of the Parish
	Bosham	11.30am		John McGlynn RIP (Mary Wickens)
	Chichester	12noon		<i>Polish Mass</i>
	Chichester	5.30pm		Intentions of Fr David (John Partridge)
Mon 13 th January	Chichester	8am	✓	Morning Prayer, rosary and Adoration (no Mass)
	Chichester	12.15pm		Intentions of the Kelly children
Tues 14 th January	Chichester	8am		Philip Lloyd RIP
	Bosham	2pm		Funeral Mass – Lesley King RIP
Wed 15 th January	Chichester	8am	✓	Morning Prayer, rosary and Adoration (no Mass)
	Selsey	10am		
	Chichester	7pm		In Thanksgiving (Da Silva family)
Thur 16 th January	Chichester	8am		In Thanksgiving to St Anthony (Rozario Family)
Fri 17 th January <i>St Anthony</i>	Chichester	8am		Jean-Marc RIP
	Witterings	10am		Margaret Bingham RIP
Sat 18 th January	Chichester	8am	✓	In Thanksgiving (21st Wedding Anniversary) Siby Family
	Chichester	4.15pm		<i>Ordinariate Rite</i>
	Chichester	6pm	✓	Robert Ely RIP
Sun 19th January 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Witterings	9am		Private Intention (Brian and Jayne Lock)
	Chichester	9.30am	✓	Deceased friends and relatives of Kate and John Siebert
	Selsey	11am		People of the Parish
	Bosham	11.30am		John McGlynn RIP
	Chichester	12noon		Mass in Polish
	Chichester	5.30pm		Health and wellbeing of Nuala O'Callaghan

Our Parish Offertory

via bank transfer:

Name: Saints of Sussex

Sort Code: 40-05-20

Account No: 41076582

Reference: offertory

Via cheque made payable to:

Saints of Sussex



Our Lady and the Saints of Sussex Offertory collections and other fund raising

Offertory	November 2024
Cash/Cheques/Envelopes	£4,483
Bankers Orders	£6683
Credit and debit card transactions	£807
Total	£11793
Gift Aid Rebate	£573

For details on current income and expenditure go to: www.saintsofsussex.com/reports

Donations by Credit or Debit card

Can be made in person via the terminals in all our churches, or by scanning the QR code above to donate online.

For regular giving by bank standing order and for information on gift aid visit:

www.saintsofsussex.com/regular-giving.html

In additions generous donations totalled £617 for Parish Family Support Fund. Donations for Ukraine are still very welcome. Please also note the gift aid sum, which was achieved simply by eligible parishioners gift aiding their offertory and other contributions. Thank you all for your continuing generosity. It is greatly appreciated.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Preface of today's Mass offers us a clear reminder that the Lord Jesus has been sent by the Father to bring good news to the poor. Jesus, the Word made Flesh, God-with-us, was born among us so that all may have life. The good news of Salvation is, therefore, the message that the Church is tasked to bring to the whole world. Just as the Holy Spirit was present at Jesus' baptism by John, "declaring Him" the Son of the Father, so the Holy Spirit dwells in those who are baptised, guiding the mission that is given to us all through our baptism – our sharing in the mission of the whole Church.

We are called to nothing less than living every moment of life caught up, as it were, in the love that exists between Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Baptism brings us to life lived in the love of the Blessed Trinity. It opens for us the way to a relationship with God, in and through Christ, so close that nothing, as St. Paul reminds us in his letter to the Romans, can separate us from this love. Just as Isaiah states in the first reading today, the Lord gathers us in His arms, carries us close to Him and cares for us with the greatest gentleness.

Baptism opens for us the way to the other Sacraments, most especially the Eucharist. Let us not forget that there is nothing more wonderful in this life than our meeting with the Lord in the Eucharist, as he nourishes us with Himself – He who is the Bread of Life.

All is gift: life in the love of the Blessed Trinity, closeness to the person of Jesus, the abiding presence in our lives of the Holy Spirit who prompts our actions and prays within us when we cannot find the words. So much is given that we cannot fully describe its wonder. As Jesus reminds us, to those who are given much, much is expected.

How, then, are we called to respond to God's gift? As Christ offered Himself, must we not offer ourselves to be the Lord's instruments in bringing good news to the poor?

As the Church we must witness to the good news in an ever-changing world and each and every living stone in the spiritual house that is the Church must take their place in this mission.

In this Jubilee Year, the Holy Father has called us to be Pilgrims of Hope. Our Hope is the Kingdom to which we look forward and it is this Hope, grounded in Faith and expressed also in Love, that is the Christian's Mission – our gift to the world. It is nothing less than the proclamation of the Kingdom of Christ Himself.

This year is also the 60th Anniversary of our Diocese – surely a favourable time for us all to pray for increased openness to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in our commitment to share the Good News of the Kingdom.

This call to mission is at the very heart of our Diocesan Pastoral Plan. Since Easter last year, conversations have been taking place in each of our present deaneries, setting our communities on the path to new expression, to a renewed journey of prayer, formation and mission that we may truly live as communities of saints – living in Hope, Faith and Love in proclamation of Christ Who is our Way.

There is much in these conversations, it is true, that is about structure. While this is necessary, we must not allow ourselves to be absorbed solely in these matters. The renewal of our parish structures is for the very purpose of enabling us all – lay faithful, religious, deacons, priests and bishop – to take our proper place in the great mission that the Lord has given to us.

Ever-deeper conversation and sharing across our communities, together with a sharing of resources will, in time, open the way to renewed mission as our focus shifts to greater cooperation and effectiveness in the proclamation of the Good News.

The new model of parish will enable us to live as "communities of communities" – bringing strength and renewed life as communities join together in prayer, in formation and in the mission that will develop from these foundations.

These initial steps may not always be easy. We must learn to work together in new ways and I take this opportunity to thank those priests who have accepted the leadership role of moderator. I ask everyone to allow them the time and give them and the clergy teams the support they will need for these early stages in this new way of living out our mission.

There will be much work ahead, especially for moderators and the clergy and lay faithful who will be called to serve on leadership teams. Let us all come together in our "communities of communities" for prayer, formation and the renewed mission for the world the Lord calls us to serve.

With every Blessing, Bishop Richard