



St George's & St Theresa's
*Serving Southwick, Portslade,
Hangleton and West Blatchington*

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Note the change of email address. We are moving over to the diocesan servers and have been designated for this purpose as 'The Parishes of West Hove'! The old email will continue to work for a good while yet, but we ask you to try to use this one from now on.

Website: www.brightondeanerywest.org.uk

Parish Hall: St George's, Court Farm Road,
W. Blatchington, E. Sussex, BN3 7QR

Telephone: 07841 616706

E-mail: hall.enquiries@stgeorges-hove.org.uk

School: St Mary's, Church Road, Portslade
www.stmarys.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Also serving the parish:

Cottesmore: www.cottesmore.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Newman: www.cncs.co.uk

COP26

Delegates from around the world are now in Glasgow for the 26th gathering of 'The Conference of Parties' - more commonly referred to as COP26. Pope Francis has called on the participants to seize this moment. You can hear his 'Thought for the Day' on the BBC website www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0b0wjnk.

While World leaders have a major part to play, we too must play our part. CAFOD have put together a selection of resources on their website: cafod.org.uk/Campaign/COP26-climate-summit.

Above, at this crucial time for our planet, let us pray for all involved in the summit, noting that, in the words of Pope Francis "We can confront these crises by retreating into isolationism, protectionism and exploitation, or we can see in them a real chance for change."

*Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace, Amen.*

7th November, 32nd Sunday
Sunday Year B, Weekdays: Year 1, week 31

Fr Tony Writes

The month of November is the time when we pray in particular for those that have died.

To pray for the dead is a deep human instinct, and Christians have done so since the very beginning, as witnessed by the names carved on the tombs of the saints in the catacombs in Rome. Yet one might ask what this actually achieves? How do our prayers help those who have gone before us?

The answer has to do with the understanding of Purgatory. The idea of Purgatory got somewhat distorted in the medieval period, with emphasis on the sufferings. The Council of Trent, in the 16th century cautioned against this, especially as it was being used to raise funds by persuading people to make offerings for the souls in Purgatory.

Purgatory is the antechamber to heaven, not a cut down version of hell! Pope Benedict, in the Encyclical *Spe Salvi*, which speaks of the virtue of hope, observes that, while there are a few who are so holy at death they are already fully prepared for heaven, and while there may be a few so turned against God at the end of their lives that they cannot enter heaven, the majority of us will be in deed of purification before we are ready for heaven. St John Henry Newman expresses this beautifully in the poem *The Dream of Gerontius* which Elgar set to music. In the poem, the soul, supported by the prayers of those who loved him, comes face to face with God. At that moment he realises his need of purification and says:

Take me away, and in the lowest deep
There let me be
And there in hope the lone night-watches keep,
Told out for me
There, motionless and happy in my pain,
Lone, not forlorn,—
There will I sing my sad perpetual strain,
Until the morn. ...
There will I sing my absent Lord and Love:—
Take me away,
That sooner I may rise, and go above,
And see Him in the truth of everlasting day.

Our prayers support and help the Holy Souls in this process of purification, this painful process of being freed from our earthy faults and attachments. One might liken it to being beside the bed of someone who is going through a painful but necessary curative medical procedure. The prayer of loved ones can reduce and, we understand, even eliminate that 'pain'. For ultimately that pain is our realisation of our failure to love. And only love can conquer that pain.

Please pray for

Patricia Weatherseed, a former parishioner, who died peacefully at Villa Adastra, Hassocks on 28 October 2021 aged 93. Requiem at St Edwards RC Church, Lodge Lane, Hassocks at 2pm on Thursday 18th November.

Also who are sick in the parish, and for those who have died recently, especially Pat Rodway, those who have been recently bereaved, and those anniversaries occur around this time.

Are you struggling with bereavement or loss?

Would it help to have someone to talk to?

Our Deanery has a team of trained Catholic Bereavement Supporters available to listen and support people experiencing bereavement and loss. Please contact your Parish Priest if you would like to speak to one of the team.

To find out more about Bereavement Support please contact Simon South

simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk 01293 651155

Young Adults' (18-30's) Advent Retreat: 3rd-5th December

It is a Christian tradition to use the four weeks leading up to Christmas to prepare oneself for the celebration of Jesus' birth. This weekend retreat will provide an opportunity to start your preparations for the Advent season, including talks, small group discussions, opportunities for reflection and prayer. All this revolving around the rhythm of prayer of the Benedictine community of Worth Abbey. This retreat is offered by The Open Cloister, Worth Abbey in collaboration with The Wellspring Community, Brighton.

For more information visit www.worth.co.uk/retreats or contact our youth adviser lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk



Weekly Timetable

Sat 6th November	Confessions 4:45-5:15 5:30pm Mass <i>St Theresa's</i>	
Sun 7th 32nd Sunday	9am Mass, <i>St Theresa's</i> 11am Mass, <i>St George's</i>	All Parishioner Bereaved fam. of Cora & Brian Owen
Tue 9th <i>Dedication of the Lateran Basilica</i>	10am Mass, <i>St George's</i> <i>Followed by Tea and Chat</i>	Paul Jaconelli RIP
Wed 10th <i>Pope St Leo the Great</i>	6:30pm Adoration 7:30pm Mass <i>St Theresa's</i>	Rae McQuarrie RIP
Thu 11th <i>St Martin of Tours</i>	10am Mass, <i>St George's</i>	Dolores Brooks RIP
Friday 12th <i>St Josaphat</i>	10am Mass, <i>St Theresa's</i>	Amelia Lowndes RIP
Sat 13th	Confessions 4:45-5:15 5:30pm Mass <i>St Theresa's</i>	All parishioners
Sun 14th 33rd Sunday Remembrance Sunday	9am Mass, <i>St Theresa's</i> 11am Mass, <i>St George's</i>	Margaret & David Wells RIP Angelo Gisonni RIP

From this Sunday, November 7th the 9:30am Mass at St Theresa's is at 9:00am. This is so Fr. Tony can stay around after Mass to meet people, because he won't have to dash off to St George's too quickly.

Upcoming events

Sunday 7th & 21st November 2:30 pm: Blessing of graves.

On Sunday 7th November Fr. Tony will be blessing graves at Portslade. Canon Colin and Fr Alexander will be blessing graves at Hove cemetery. Other graveyards in the deanery will also have grave blessing at that time. Fr. Tony will bless graves at Southwick cemetery the following Sunday, 21st November, from 2:30 pm. NB This is a change from the date originally advertised.

Monday 8th November 7pm Sacred Heart, Hove: Mass for the deceased of the deanery, celebrated by Bishop Richard. *All Welcome!*



Synod
2021
2023

Pope Francis has called for a period of reflection and consultation in preparation for the Synod of Bishops in 2023.

As part of that process, our diocese is preparing material for use this Advent, and is recommending it to any groups that meet in the diocese. Accordingly we will have at least two groups in the parish. The **Thursday evening online prayer group** will be using the reflection material in December. Contact the parish office for a link. There will also be a **Wednesday Evening 'in person' group** at St Theresa's after 7:30pm Mass from 1st December. If anybody wishes to organise a group at another time, feel free to do so. Let the office know and we will provide the material and publicise the group.