



CATHEDRAL DEANERY NEWSLETTER

LENT 2025

My dear friends,

As you will see in this newsletter, there is a great deal going on in our deanery, which is very encouraging. We are learning new ways to work together, and to communicate with one another. It is a joy to see so many good ideas coming to fruition – in many ways the Dean’s job is just to keep out of the way! We are still waiting for news of the appointment of a moderator, but hopefully we will hear something soon, and we hope he might be in place by the summer.

This season of Lent is both a joy and a challenge for us all. We know that it is a chance to put ourselves in the place to encounter renewal in our friendship with God, but it can be difficult to work out how to do this, and how to fit it in with lives that are often busy and complicated. Sometimes we find Lent is already slipping past, and we seem to have done nothing; or we make great plans for what we want to do, but quickly let things slip, and so we give up. My advice (to myself really, but I share it here with you) is this:

It is never too late to start our Lent programme of renewal – it is better to start late than not at all. The real danger is not that we fail in some great task, some great devotions – the real danger is that we try to do too much, fail, and give up altogether; it is much better to succeed at something simple and easy, than to be discouraged by great intentions and give up.

Here is my favourite Lent quotation, from St Josemaria, in *Christ is Passing By* – every year it moves and inspires me:

“I have decided not to let this Lent go by like rain on stones, leaving no trace.
I will let it soak into me, changing me.

I will be converted, I will turn again to the Lord and love him as he wants to be loved.”

Have a fruitful Lent,

Fr Peter Newsam, *Dean*

Regular Opportunities for Confession

Monday		Friday	
10.30am	Bognor	9.30am	East Wittering
11.15am	Chichester	10.30am	Bognor
		6pm	Petworth
Tuesday		Saturday	
9.30am	Bosham	10am	Midhurst
10.30am	Rose Green	10.30am	Arundel
Wednesday		10.30am	Slindon
9.30am	Selsey	5.15pm	Bognor
10.30am	Bognor	Sunday	
6pm	Chichester	8.30am	Bognor
Thursday		10.30am	Bognor
10.30am	Storrington	5pm	Chichester
7.30pm	Bognor		

*Please check newsletters for updates,
especially in Holy Week.*

NEW CATHOLICS ENTERING THE CHURCH IN BOGNOR

Our Lady of Sorrows in Bognor Regis will welcome 18 people into the church this year at the Easter Vigil. Fr David Osborne writes:

"In 2016, our parish made a decision to start on the journey of becoming a parish that intentionally created and supported members to become missionary disciples. A leadership team was formed and in the Autumn of 2016 the first Alpha course took place.

"Since then the Alpha course (a course looking at the basics of the Christian faith) has run twice a year, welcoming guests from the parish, their friends and family: 'Cradle' Catholics who felt they wanted to know a bit more; Christians of other denominations curious about what the Catholic church may have to offer and people right at the start of their journey of faith. The Alpha course has born extraordinary fruit. This includes a team seeking to step out of the boat, trusting more and more in the Holy Spirit, a sense of the abundant and merciful love of God in every aspect of the course, as well as more guests from beyond the church walls, which is important and inspiring.

"The Emmaus course, the perfect name for the place in which enquirers journey with Jesus and church supporters, has been a deeply rooted and long-standing RCIA group in our parish. Usually there are 5-6 participants. This year the number has grown to the 18 mentioned above. What an incredible group they are! This is the perfect programme to follow the Alpha course as it takes people step by step into understanding the practices, sacraments and traditions of the Catholic church. The journey towards full communion in the Catholic church, with a church 'buddy' who walks with each enquirer in the Emmaus course, is just as important and gives us all a foundational understanding of what church really is about.

"We were not created to be alone but to worship and pray together, support each other and celebrate Jesus's victory over death each Sunday, knowing that we are surrounded by loving friends. We thank God that He has blessed us with these programmes and these amazing people, who lead and take part in them."

CORPUS CHRISTI, ARUNDEL

Join 2025's Corpus Christi team at Arundel Cathedral!

Volunteering for the Corpus Christi celebrations in Arundel, with their famed Carpet of Flowers, procession, Mass, and hospitality, offers wonderful opportunities to meet people, with varied rewarding roles, as volunteers from previous years explain:

"It is a brilliant opportunity to be part of a great community event that brings people together from throughout the area. The volunteer team work with a great spirit of camaraderie and support to help make the Corpus Christi celebration a really special and memorable occasion."

"I look forward to Corpus Christi every year. Seeing the completed Carpet of Flowers and joining in the Mass and Procession is wonderful, of course, but the best part for me is the fun and satisfaction I get from volunteering. We serve sandwiches, cakes and drinks for two full days in

Cathedral Centre to cater for the constant flow of visitors, and it's joyful. Everyone is welcome and everyone is made to feel part of a well-run team. I've made friends and had a lot of laughter. 'Give and it will be given to you; a good measure, packed down, shaken together, and overflowing' (Luke 6:38)."

Work on the carpet itself includes "coming along to help with preparation of the greenery on Monday, cutting the flower heads on Tuesday or, if you are able to kneel, laying the floral carpet. It is very rewarding to work with the team and make new friends. The public come in to view the flowers on Wednesday and Thursday which provides all of us who steward the Cathedral and the Cathedral Centre the opportunity to answer the many questions from those interested in learning a little more about our faith."

"Being involved with the Piety Stalls during Corpus Christi I have the opportunity to support the event in a practical way but also meet many of the visitors, explaining the significance of this feast and sharing the joy we have of being able to give thanks for the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist."

To find out more, go along to a Corpus Christi Volunteers' Meeting on 20 March at 7pm in the Cathedral Centre, Arundel.



VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED
Corpus Christi Carpet of Flowers



MIDHURST & PETWORTH: NEW STEWARDSHIP GROUPS

Each of our deanery's five parishes has different structures and ways of working, to manage their community, buildings, resources and to put the gifts and talents of parishioners to best use. Here, Charles Sommer from The Sacred Heart, Petworth, explains the local groups recently created in the Parish of Petworth and Midhurst:

"This parish has three separate Mass communities, who gather for Mass in Midhurst, Petworth and Duncton, and it was decided that it would make sense to create a simple organisational structure around each Mass community, in advance of any proposed changes to the parish format under the diocesan plan.

"Rather than reinvent the wheel, we adopted the terms of reference for 'stewardship groups'; that were being used by the Chichester parish communities (many thanks to the Saints of Sussex Parish). These were circulated, with adaptations to meet the particular needs of our three communities and, after approval, an appeal was made to the three Mass communities for parishioners to join stewardship groups. The appeal encouraged some parishioners, who had not been previously involved in parish matters, to step forward.

"With three new energetic stewardship teams, the day to day running of the Mass centres will strengthen and grow the communities, with greater support for the Parish Priest and assist the further implementation of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan."



Ss Anthony & George, Duncton



The Divine Motherhood & St Francis of Assisi, Midhurst



The Sacred Heart, Petworth

YOUNG ADULTS' MINI RETREAT IN BOSHAM

Young adults from across the local area were invited to gather at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, in Bosham, on 22 February for a Young Adults' Mini Retreat, led by Fr Nick Harden. It was a chance to spend time with God and each other, and to explore this beautiful seaside village together. Participants Rowan and Bella describe the experience:

"We started with the talk from Fr Nick—it was really nice: he introduced what we were going to do and the hymns we were going to sing during our Mass time. He also had a little booklet so he could follow through in the Mass as well. And then because it was the Feast of St Peter's Chair, he talked to us about why we were celebrating that, and about vocations. At Mass, we had the hymns in Latin and one of the group members, France, arranged quite a lot of the Latin hymns. After lunch, we went on a walk around the area and we also visited an old church there, Holy Trinity. It was our first time in Bosham, for quite a few of us. In the afternoon, we had another spiritual conference and then Adoration, with Confessions and prayer time. Then we had Benediction. Some of the group had been to Benediction before, but it was new to others. At the end of the day, someone came in and taught everyone how to do pizzas—a professional chef—and we did it all ourselves, like stretching the dough and putting it in the oven!"



Bella explained "I think the main highlight, at least for me, was going on the walk and the talk, the first talk, about the Chair of St Peter and about how Fr Nick ended up finding his vocation. – And we also prayed for vocations."

Speaking about the main message that she took away from the day, Rowan said "I think it was from the first talk: vocations—when Fr Nick talked about how God finds you."

[cont. overleaf]

[cont. from previous page] Rowan and Bella went on to talk about the Young Adults' Group, which began meeting in Chichester last year: "Numbers do fluctuate: some weeks less, a lot more others; the average is about ten. Some are students, some are working in the area, we have also international students as well. And then other people that have moved to the area or some who have lived here for their whole life. So there's a quite a big mix."

The Young Adults Group has an informal meet-up for university students and other young adults (18+) after the Sunday 5.30pm Mass at St Richard's Church, Chichester, in term time. Friendship and fellowship guaranteed. Visit abcathedral.churchsuite.com/events/kaffkzs to find out more.



SPOTLIGHT ON DEANERY CHURCHES

... A look at the history of one of the 12 churches in our deanery.

Our Lady of England, Storrington

In February 1882, five Norbertine Canons of the Abbey of St Michele de Frigolet, evicted from Republican France, landed at Newhaven and made their way to Storrington, where the Duke of Norfolk had arranged asylum for them. Thus began the long association between the Norbertines and Storrington, which continued until 2012. A gift of land from the Duke allowed for the building first of the priory and eventually the priory church, with its foundation stone laid by the Bishop of Southwark in 1902.

The canons tried various industries to support themselves, including wine-making (unsuccessfully), chocolate making, printing and farming. Numbers of Canons rose and fell, with local circumstances and the needs of other Norbertine houses in other parts of the country and the world, including the return of some to France and for a time, in the later years of World War II, the priory house British Army unit, officially reopening as a religious house in 1952. By the late 1960s, coachloads of pilgrims would visit Storrington, for a day out with spiritual input from the Norbertines. In past years, Storrington had a primary school and Norbertine junior seminary, and later a Dominican-run boarding and day school. From the 1960s to 2005, Storrington was also home to the Bishops of Arundel & Brighton, who resided at St Joseph's Hall.

A particular contribution of the parish to Catholic liturgical life is the musical setting entitled the "Storrington Mass", which is known and used internationally; it was commissioned by Fr Paul MacMahon from composer Marty Haugen, who worked with the parish music group to fine tune it

In 2012, the Norbertines left Storrington for a new home in Yorkshire, and in 2013 the Chemin Neuf community moved into the priory. Its resident team of men and women of various nationalities and Christian communities welcome church, chaplaincy and school groups throughout the year and run many Chemin Neuf missions eg Cana for couples, Spiritual Exercises and Inner Healing Retreats, as well as Quiet Days and Priory Days. The Chemin Neuf community's life is independent of that of the parish but the sharing of the church and other spaces is a blessing for both.

Mass is celebrated in the church on Sundays at 9am; see parish newsletter for weekday Mass times.

The parish is grateful to Simon Mole for compiling a history of Catholic life in Storrington, which can be read in full at storringtonmuseum.com/lady-of-england-by-simon-mole



CATHEDRAL DEANERY PARISH WEBSITES

Community of Arundel & Storrington: arundelcathedral.uk & ourladyofengland.parishportal.net

Bognor with Slindon: bognorcatholicparish.co.uk

Petworth & Midhurst: petworthcatholic.org

Our Lady & the Saints of Sussex: saintsofsussex.com

For the latest news from the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton, sign up to the weekly E-Bulletin on the [diocesan website](http://diocesanwebsite) or at: eepurl.com/gD9riD.



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