

Deacon Paul Writes:

Holy Hour:

The other day I overheard priests discussing together why so few people seem attracted to stay for Adoration, that is for a period of time spent in silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Quite commonly, the priests were saying, people ask 'but what am I supposed to do?', the question suggesting that people may not see value in just 'being' together with the Lord.

Jesus calls each of us his "friend" (John 15:15), but how close is our friendship with him? If we have a special friend, do we not essentially want to spend time with them? When we 'do' things together with a friend, is it not the 'being' together that really matters in the friendship, any particular 'doing' being of secondary importance to us? 'Believing/trusting' in Jesus in true friendship needs to come ahead of 'doing' things for him. God's first call on us is not to 'do' but to love, believe, trust in him; once that is in place, all the doing that is on God's agenda (rather than our preferred selection) will follow. And only time in prayer can open us up to the experience of deepening belief and friendship with Jesus, that what we do may then be what he wants rather than our choice.

So, let us abide quietly with him for a while, wasting time with him for a while, turning to him for the grace of lovingly believing in him whom the Father has sent. He is truly with us, he is listening, he wants to help us, and he so much wants our undivided company for a while, if only this once a month.

Legacies in support of the Diocese/Church: There are some new leaflets at the back of church about 'Supporting the work of the Church in your Will'. Please take one if it might be of interest to you.

Two Autumn courses:

We are still intending to set up sessions on Pope Leo's recent 'AI encyclical' (Magnifica Humanitas) and also (especially but not exclusively for non-Catholics) some sessions for would-be explorers of the Catholic faith (a separate course!).

Do please let Dominic or Paul know ASAP should you, or perhaps a family member or friend, be at all interested in either, so that we can shape the courses to people's needs.

Our new bishop: Fr Stephen Wang is to be installed as our new bishop (A&B Diocese) at Arundel Cathedral on 19th October. Sadly attendance is by invitation only, for the cathedral is just far too small for all who would like to be there, but we can all remember him in our prayer. He must, I would think, be just a bit apprehensive!

The service can be live streamed at [Visit Arundel Cathedral's Livestream](#)

Feasts next week: Monday is 'Exaltation of the Holy Cross'. This feast reminds us that Christianity is not a philosophical, abstract, religion. *It springs from God's direct involvement in the affairs of the world, a real historical event involving real people and, in the end, a real execution on a real cross* (from a Universalis commentary).

The following day, Tuesday, is 'Our Lady of Sorrows', it being no coincidence that it comes immediately; the hurt and grief that Our Lady would have suffered throughout the passion and death of her son must have been appalling.

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Notices:

Today (13th) there is a voluntary retiring collection for Education Sunday if you wish to support the Catholic Education Service. (Not Gift Aid). Established 178 years ago in 1848, the day provides an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks.....Cont/d...

Notices cont/d...

Education Sunday cont/d...

.....to all those involved in Catholic education and to look forward in anticipation to the academic year ahead. Catholic education is an essential part of the Church's mission to make the person of Jesus known and loved, and to place Him and the teaching of the Catholic Church at the centre of people's lives.

More than 37,000 children and young people are educated across 73 primary and secondary schools in our Diocese, supported by 4,400 teachers and support staff, 721 governors, and many more volunteers, parents, and carers. We give thanks to the Lord for the vocations of all who work within the Catholic sector, the teaching and support staff, chaplains, school leaders and governors.

Pope Leo XIV released the "Pray with the Pope" video accompanying his prayer intention for this month (September 2026) which was "For the Care of Water."

In the video produced by the [Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network](#), the Pope prays that water may be a "source of fruitfulness, freshness, and hope," and recognises that water is "a right without borders."

All weekday Masses at the Towers are at 4.30pm.

During Fr Hugh's holiday, weekday Masses can also usually be found at:

Christ the King, Steyning on Tuesdays at 10am

and Our Lady of Consolation and St Francis, West Grinstead on Wednesdays at 12noon.

There Is one House Group meeting this week on

Thursday (17th) afternoon at 2.30pm at 'Poplars', Upper Station Road.

Please note change of time.

There is a memorial service for Nick and Margaret (Maggie) Clark on Thursday 24th September at 2pm. Nick died in July this year and Margaret in 2020 during covid. After the service here, tea will be served at Abbeylands.

For anyone without transport but wishing to go to Abbeylands after the service then please speak to Jill Daniels who may be able to offer you a lift.

The next gathering of Group Together will be on Tuesday 29th September at 12.30pm in the hall. Very much hoping to see lots of you there but please let MarieAnne know if you are able to make it so that we can cater accordingly and avoid wastage. MarieAnne's phone number is 0748071420.

If you haven't been before but would like to come please speak with Marie-Anne or Brigid.

Back by very popular demand - Corpus Christi QUIZ NIGHT

Our next Parish fundraising activity is on **Friday 2nd October, 7pm to 10pm**. As previously, tickets are priced at £10 each which will include a delicious homemade Ploughman's Supper, which we plan to serve at the start of the Quiz.

Watch this space... tickets will be available soon from Audrey Shaw and Brigid Hilton.

There is a retiring collection next Sunday (19th) for Evangelii Gaudium Sunday, previously called Home Mission Sunday. (not Gift Aid).

To subscribe to the weekly A&B Diocese E-Bulletin and keep up to date with news and events taking place across our community of faith: [Click here to sign up](#)

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Notices cont/d...

Missio Red Box Holders: The Autumn edition of Mission Today is now available for collection from the narthex. It reflects on this year's theme of World Mission Sunday which is 'One in Christ, United in Mission' and is on 18th October.

Missio is proud to be Pope Leo's world mission charity which this year is in its 100th year and 90th year for the red box collections. He urges the faithful to continue the Church's missionary journey with 'Joy and Zeal in the Holy Spirit'.

There are also prayer cards in the narthex written by Pope Leo to mark the 100th anniversary of World Mission Sunday. Please take one.

Marriage Anniversaries Mass, Saturday 3rd October, 11.30am, Arundel Cathedral. Mass for couples marking a special anniversary or simply giving thanks for their marriage. Followed by a drinks reception. [Reserve your free place.](#)

For any parishioners unable to get to a church there are many churches in the Crawley Deanery that live stream Holy Mass. Go to <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/livestream> where you will find over 30 churches plus Arundel Cathedral to choose from.

Bishop-elect Stephen Wang's Mass of Episcopal Ordination will take place on Monday 19th October, the Feast of St Philip Howard, at Arundel Cathedral at 12noon and will be followed on Saturday 24th October at 11.30am, by a special Mass of Welcome at Worth Abbey near Crawley on Saturday 24th October. Details to follow.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TODAY Sunday 13th September – Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

10am Mass with Fr John Inglis, followed by Holy Hour till 11.45am

Thursday 17th September

Afternoon House Group at 2.30pm at 'Poplars', Upper Station Road.

Please note change of time

Thursday 24th September

Memorial Service for Nick and Margaret Clark at 2pm

Followed by refreshments at Abbeylands

Monday 28th September

A Memorial Liturgy of the Word for Peter Middleton with Deacon Dominic at 11.30am followed by interment of ashes

Tuesday 29th September

Group Together lunch 12.30pm

Friday 2nd October - Save the Date

Parish Quiz evening, 7pm to 10pm