

Fr Hugh Writes:

Thursday this week is Ascension Day and is a Holy Day of obligation. I look forward to celebrating the feast with you all at our evening Mass at 6.30pm.

Next Sunday we have the annual mission appeal on behalf of the Columban missions.

Inevitably there will be second collection and Fr Pat O'Bierne will be celebrating Mass and making their appeal, as happens in all parishes in our diocese this year.

We will forgo the World Communications collection which is meant to be next Sunday as listed in the diocesan directory.

On Monday we will offer Mass for the repose of the soul of Tricia Castledine whose funeral is on 20th at noon at Worthing Crematorium. Deacon Seamus will be Celebrant. We continue to pray for Tricia's repose and for her family at this time.

Tuesday 12th is an optional Memoria of the Carthusian Martyrs. With the only Carthusian house just outside of the parish, it gives an opportunity to remember in prayer not only the martyrs but also the priests and brothers who are our neighbours. Some of us can see the steeple of the monastery across the fields from our homes!

The police Chaplains have a full day together, so I cannot be here to celebrate a Mass that morning. The clergy of the deanery also meet that day.

Gift Aid statements are in the narthex for collection this weekend. Please do collect, many of us need them for our tax returns, later on.

Our thanks to Dan for this important job in the life of our parish.

The much anticipated rain last weekend turned out to be very little as does this weekend's too, I've noted that Southern water have sent a message to conserve water which must be high on our agenda. Please don't even think of wasting water on lawns, there is no need and if you are cutting the grass, leave it a bit longer. Grass always recovers from drought.

Mulching heavily also helps to conserve moisture in the ground, adding organic matter to any planting is essential, and have a compost bin in the garden for composting all that is no longer needed, as long as it is not cooked food which always attracts rats. That's what our food waste bins are for. Happy gardening!

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Deacon Paul Writes:

There is a story often told about St Teresa of Avila (forgive me if you remember hearing it from me before) that when a travelling mishap resulted in her being thoroughly wet and/or muddy, and possibly much delayed in her progress, she prayed something like, "Lord, if this is how you treat your friends it's hardly surprising you have so few of them".

At Mass on Friday we heard in John's gospel (15:15) Jesus saying to us, his disciples of today: "No longer do I call you servants.....I have called you friends". As I have seen it put: the difference (between servant and friend) is that as a servant we obey out of duty or obligation, while as a friend we know the Master's heart and we obey out of love for Him. To a friend, we give of ourselves from our hearts, whereas as a servant we do what is asked of us in exchange for being rewarded in some way in return. For each of us: do I behave towards Jesus as I would towards a friend I love, or do I tend to treat Him a bit like an insurance policy, promising me heaven provided I pay my dues of religious and moral observance?

This Sunday we have our monthly Holy Hour after Mass, an opportunity to allow the Lord to draw us closer to Him in love. Will I stay for a while as a friend of Jesus, settling in for

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Deacon Paul writes cont/d...

some quiet time in His company, including praying from my heart for many different needs and thanking Him sincerely for His saving love and many gifts? Or will I be coming as a servant to pay my dues?

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Notices:

A reminder that all weekday Masses at the Towers are at 4.30pm.

Just two of the fortnightly House Groups are meeting this week as follows:

Wednesday 13th afternoon – 3pm at the Convent

Thursday 14th evening – 7.30pm at 'Sunnyside', Upper Station Road

A message from our Diocesan Administrator, Father Jonathan Martin:

My dear brothers and sisters,

It's become a regular Sunday evening 'thing' for me to flick through parish websites and social media platforms to get a glimpse of the life of our communities of faith. How blessed we are to be in such good company with one another in our discipleship of Jesus and in our service of the Gospel. I recently spent a week in Rome with the Bishops of England and Wales, amongst whom there was much talk of, and encouraging interest in our Diocesan Pastoral Plan. I know that, across the Diocese, you are working closely with your priests and deacons to help realise the beautiful vision Bishop (Archbishop) Richard set out for us in 'The Word Who is Life'.

I pray for you all daily. I'm especially mindful of the people of the parishes in which I have been privileged to serve; of the specific needs, sorrows, and joys marking the life of our parish communities in any given week; and of those whose names appear in your newsletters by reason of receiving the Sacraments, or in sickness or bereavement, and the souls of those of our number who have died. All of these prayers I gather together in the Mass I am asked to offer each Sunday 'for all the people of the Diocese'. Please pray for me; and keep praying, each day, for the election of a new Bishop for our Diocese.

God bless you all.

Friday 8th May marked the one year anniversary of the election of Pope Leo XIV as Supreme Pontiff.

To mark the occasion, [Vatican media](#) are releasing a documentary entitled "Leo in Rome", retracing the two decades that the Pope – then Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost – spent in Italy, with detailed recollections from those who know him.

Lord God, on this first anniversary of the election of Pope Leo we thank You for his faithful service as shepherd and pastor of your flock.

May his example inspire courage and steadfast faith in us and our communities.

Our Sunday morning Children's Liturgy is currently postponed whilst the First Holy Communion instruction takes place in church after our Sunday Mass.

For more details contact Andreia Gaio by [email: andry_nunes_18@hotmail.com](mailto:andry_nunes_18@hotmail.com)

We now have the details of the funeral arrangements for Trish Castledine which is on Wednesday 20th May at Worthing Crematorium, Horsham Road, Findon BN14 0RG, in the Kingswood Chapel at 12noon

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Notices cont/d...

On Wednesday 20th May at 7pm, CAFOD, Missio, Aid to the Church in Need UK and Stella Maris – Apostleship of the Sea are joining together to host a unique online opportunity for the Catholic community of England and Wales to pray the Rosary ‘for peace in our world’.

Each participating charity will lead a reflection on one of the Sorrowful Mysteries, giving an insight into their work, with the fifth reflection being led by Rt Rev Bosco MacDonald, the Bishop of Clifton.

Whether you're a volunteer, supporter, or simply someone who believes in the power of prayer, you are welcome to join us as we unite in prayer for peace across England and Wales, and beyond. Go to <https://missio.org.uk/rosaryforpeace> to register.

Sunday 31st May - 10am Thanksgiving Mass for Deacons Seamus and Paul's Ministry and in Celebration of their 80th Birthdays and Deacon Paul's Silver Jubilee.

There are only two places left for the brunch so if you wish to attend please speak to Sally or Margaret to collect your tickets.

Young Adults' Corpus Christi Evening, 3rd June, 7pm to 9pm at Arundel Cathedral.

Hosted by the Diocesan Youth Team, the evening will include Praise and Worship music, a Holy Hour including time for Adoration and personal prayer, and a talk on the history of the Carpet of Flowers. Pub and pizza social to follow for those who wish to join. [Click to find out more & book.](#)

Arundel Cathedral's Corpus Christi Carpet of Flowers is on Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th June. Experience Arundel's beautiful Carpet of Flowers. View the carpet on Wednesday 9.30am to 7pm and also Thursday 9.30am until 5.30pm when Mass begins followed by procession of the Blessed Sacrament from the Cathedral to the courtyard of Arundel Castle, for Benediction.

The Partridge Green Players present “Get Riche”, a play written by our very own choir member Angie Barrett, on Wednesday 10th to Saturday 13th June at the Partridge Green Village Hall. Tickets cost £10 per person and are available via Ticket source. There will be raffles supporting local charities and the players group. An original courtroom comedy – will the dazzling defence dynamo of a defence lawyer see the accused go free or will the powerful prowess of the prosecution have the hapless trio behind bars?? That is for YOU, the jury to decide! How will it end?? Even we don't know!! Everybody is welcome. See the poster in the porch and scan the QR code for full details and tickets.

Pilgrimage of Reparation & Consecration, Saturday 18th July 12pm to 4.15pm, Church of Our Lady of Consolation & St Francis, West Grinstead, RH13 8LT. The day includes Holy Mass, a personal Consecration to Our Lady, the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary, Exposition, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Adoration and Benediction. Tea/coffee provided but please bring a packed lunch. No need to book but more details at: jayne.lock1@gmail.com.

The 2026 Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes is 24th to 30th July (air) or 23rd July to 31st July (coach). Applications for helpers, clinicians and independent pilgrims are open. For more details and to apply: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/lourdes/apply>

Henfield's Repair Cafe runs on the third Saturday of the month so will be at the Haven next Saturday 16th May from 10am to 12noon.

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Notices cont/d...

The Henfield Community Fridge opens at Henfield Leisure Centre at 5pm on Tuesdays and on Fridays and Saturdays at 9am. Once the food is gone they close!

The 'Horsham Matters' Food Bank "Hub on the Move" comes to the Henfield Library Car Park on Thursdays from 11.30am to 12.30pm

Any food donations for the food bank may be left as usual in the basket in the Narthex and our thanks to all who continue to donate items and support the food bank.

If you would like to receive the weekly E-Bulletin from the A&B Diocese with all the news and events then go to their website and click on the link to register.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TODAY Sunday 10th May - Sixth Sunday of Easter - 10am Mass
followed by Holy Hour till 11.45am

Wednesday 13th May - House Group at the Convent, 3pm

Thursday 14th May - The Ascension of the Lord - 6.30pm Mass
Holy Day of Obligation

ALSO

Thursday 14th May - House Group at Sunnyside', Upper Station Road, 7.30pm

Sunday 31st May - The Most Holy Trinity - 10am Thanksgiving Mass
for Deacons Seamus and Paul, followed by brunch in the hall