

## **Fr Hugh Writes:**

This newsletter will cover two weeks taking us into January 2026, the next newsletter will be for Sunday 4th January.

As I write, the winter solstice is this Sunday, the 4th of Advent, Christmas follows and next Sunday will be the feast of the Holy Family. This is followed by the 2nd Sunday of Christmas on 4th January and the Epiphany on 6th, a Holy day of Obligation. Finally the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is on January 11th.

These are the principal days and feasts of the Christmas season with many others in between. We have listed the days and times to be celebrated here in the season.

Mass on Christmas Eve will be celebrated as the Night Mass, whilst on Christmas morning it's the 'Dawn' Mass. Both gospel extracts are from St Luke with the familiar Christmas narrative.

The 4th Sunday of Advent Gospel centres on Joseph who as Matthew tells us, receives God's messages as if in a dream. This may help us to remember that it is in the silences in our lives that we are better placed to hear God's word in our lives.

This it seems to me is particularly important at Christmas in spite of all the bustle that surrounds the day and feast.

Whilst we listen to St Luke on Christmas day, we return to St Matthew for the feast of the Holy Family next Sunday, and the flight into Egypt. Hector Berlioz in his composition, 'L'Enfance du Christ' (the Childhood of Christ) depicts this so beautifully in music, perhaps the most celebrated part of the work is The Shepherds Farewell. Music can help us all meditate on these gospel passages. Finally on 2nd Sunday of Christmas, we read from the prologue to St John's Gospel.

A lot to take in, in a short time, yet the scripture passages do help us to understand how God became Man, to help us to be closely united through his son, to God. I look forward to sharing in these liturgies with you all once again.

The close of the year is always a time of giving thanks to: Mike looking after safeguarding, Jane-Health and Safety, Dan-Gift Aid, Sally & Andrew-Rotas, Claire-Music, Andreia-Children's Liturgy, Margaret-Newsletter, all the Welcomers and Barry with all the Altar Servers. Also our Deacons for their valuable work for so many and our thanks too, to the 'flower team' always providing us with fresh and interesting arrangements.

As previously, the crib offerings will be donated to the A&B Crisis Fund. You may wish to use a gift aid envelope found near the crib during the season. Recently, funds have been used to help a Mum and children set up a new home following domestic abuse.

Christmas offering: Please use a gift aid envelope for offerings (blue) in your boxes or a white envelope found in the narthex.

The order has been placed for the soundboards, with approximately a 6-week time lapse now, so perhaps in February this work will be completed. Again, our thanks for the generous gift.

*Finally: May I wish you all a Happy Christmas.*

## **Stop Press**

It was announced today (19th) that Bishop Richard Moth has been appointed Archbishop of Westminster and will be installed on the feast of Ss Cyril, Monk and Methodius, Bishop, Patrons of Europe which is 14th February. Details will follow in the new year.

## ***Notices:***

**Our Advent Ecumenical Praise and Worship** is today, Sunday 21st December, in church from 6.30pm to 8pm. As we approach the end of Advent and prepare to enter the celebration of Christmas we raise our voices in prayerful song. Please join us and invite neighbours and friends from other churches.

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**A big thank you to our musicians, caterers and to all who came and joined us for carols in the hall last Sunday.** Also a special thank you to Chiara, Seamus and Daisy who gave us a great presentation on their father's charity in Uganda and to Santiago who supported them. Thanks to your generosity £155.70 was raised for Uganda Hands for Hope. If you were unable to attend the carol signing but wish to find out more about the charity or to donate please go to: <https://www.ugandahandsforhope.org>

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**Regretfully we announce the death of Paula Goodwin on 3rd December**, the daughter of Mary Middleton and Stepdaughter of Peter. May She Rest in Peace.

The funeral is this Monday, 22nd December, at Worthing Crematorium, Findon, BN14 0RG at 2pm followed by refreshments at the White Hart PH, Henfield High Street. All are welcome, for more details of the service please contact C & T Radmalls 01273 494577.

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**The Christmas Offering** is your personal gift to Fr Hugh. If you are a tax payer please use the blue gift aid envelope from your box. Alternatively use one of the white envelopes in the narthex, but please, if you pay tax, complete the gift aid details on the front.

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As in past years our **Crib Offerings** will be sent to the Catholic Children's Society A&B Crisis Fund which each year helps hundreds of families facing a crisis in their lives. By providing immediate emergency support via the Crisis Funds, the CCS ensures families can access the practical help they need when they have nowhere else to turn. This has only been possible thanks to the generosity of our supporters and by making a donation you can help us reach many more families in urgent need.

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### **A message from Fr Anthony Chantry – Missio National Director, England & Wales**

"At this special time of the year, and as we come to the end of the year, I would like to just thank you, so much, for what you have done throughout the year to support our work.

Together, through your interest, through your prayers and through your donations, we have achieved many, many good things throughout the world. In such a troubled world, we need to continue to pray for peace, pray for justice and do all we can to alleviate the plight of those who are suffering throughout the world".

There are still some 2026 Calendars from Missio available on the table in the Narthex. Please collect one so they don't end up in the recycling bin!

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**Diocesan Directories for 2026** are on sale at the back of church, £5. Please put your money into the 'Newspapers' box, or pay by card at the machine.

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**House Groups:** There will be no house groups for at least a couple of weeks so please keep an eye out in the newsletter for when they will start again.

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**Celebrate Christmas at Arundel Cathedral:** Christmas Eve Mass at 5pm (children are invited to come dressed as nativity characters) and 11.30pm Midnight Mass celebrated by Bishop Richard (Carols begin at 11pm) and Christmas Day Mass at 11am.

The Cathedral will also be open daily from 10.30am to 4pm for visits to the crib and private prayer. To find out more visit the [cathedral website](#)

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### **Notices cont/d...**

**A message from Roy Peachey: Supporter Engagement Officer (Kent, Surrey, Sussex and South London).** "Mary's Meals is looking for volunteers. Could you spare a few hours during the year to help? We are looking for parish reps, volunteer speakers (training and support provided!) and volunteers who can help at events. We are very much a volunteer-led movement, so any little you can offer will make a huge difference to the children we serve in some of the world's poorest communities".

Please contact Roy Peachey: [roy.peachey@marysmeals.org](mailto:roy.peachey@marysmeals.org) or 07593 447297) if you can help. To find out more about Mary's Meals, please visit [marysmeals.org.uk](http://marysmeals.org.uk). Thank you for your support and with many thanks and best wishes for Christmas

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**A&B Lourdes Pilgrimage 2026:** Next year's pilgrimage takes place 24th to 30th July, with applications opening in early January 2026. Could a contribution towards a Pilgrimage to Lourdes be the perfect Christmas gift for your loved one? The Arundel & Brighton [Lourdes Pilgrimage](#) is offering Gift Cards to the value of your choosing, valid for three years. To find out more please contact the Lourdes team [by email](#) or phone: 01293 651147.

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**Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Word**, 24th January, 11am to 4pm at St Michael's Church, Worthing BN13 3AL. Led by Bishop Richard and Catherine Christmas (the Diocesan Liturgy & Music Adviser) this 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. Register your free place [here](#).

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**The Diocese** sends out a weekly E-Bulletin newsletter which includes Bishop Richard's Weekly Reflection, and details of formation and events taking place across the Diocese and our wider Catholic community. Please click on the following link to sign up – it's a great way to stay in touch! [mailchi.mp/7529e811ae63/joinourlist](http://mailchi.mp/7529e811ae63/joinourlist)

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### ***A Prayer for Expectant Mothers***

*○ Blessed Mother, you received the good news of the  
incarnation of Christ, your Son, with faith and trust.  
Grant your protection to all pregnant mothers.  
Guide us as we strive to make our parish community a place  
of welcome and assistance for all mothers,  
especially those in need, both near and afar.*

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### **Dates for your Diaries – 2025**

***Sunday 21st December – 10am Mass.***

***ALSO Advent Ecumenical Praise and Worship, in church 6.30pm to 8pm***

***Wednesday 24th December – Christmas Eve  
7.30pm First Mass of Christmas***

***Thursday 25th December – The Nativity of the Lord  
10am Mass***

***Friday 26th December – St Stephen, First Martyr. 10am Mass***

***Sunday 28th December – The Holy Family. 10am Mass***

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**Dates for your Diaries – 2026**

***The Year of Our Lord 2026***

***Thursday 1st January – Mary, Mother of God***

**11am Mass**

***Sunday 4th January – Second Sunday of Christmas***

**10am Mass**

***Tuesday 6th January – The Epiphany of the Lord***

**6.30pm Mass**

***Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February – Fund raising Quiz night in our hall.  
More details nearer the time***

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**Parish Website:** [www.corpuschristihenfield.com](http://www.corpuschristihenfield.com)

**Parish Facebook page:** “Corpus Christi Henfield”

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