

Fr Hugh Writes:

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins today (18th) and concludes next Sunday, 25th. It is an important week in the calendar and though we have no formal time of prayer within the village, the week of special prayer is significant.

At this time, we can also remember Archbishop elect Dame Sarah Mullally as she prepares for the office of Archbishop of Canterbury and also Bishop Richard as Archbishop of Westminster.

The theme running through the week is 'One body, one spirit'. Taken from the letter to the Ephesians; Something that we can pray about at home or in one of our churches in the village. You may also wish to look up the week of prayer for Christian unity on your computers and so follow the daily prayer that way.

Fr Joe and I spoke briefly about having a time of prayer at Pentecost, which may help to bring the 3 churches together in late spring, Further news will follow as plans evolve.

2nd Sunday of the year which co-incides this year with Christian unity week is designated as Peace Sunday by our bishops. The theme this year is taken from Pope Leo's message which is 'Peace be with you all', the words of greeting from the Lord, and used by our bishops at the beginning of a liturgy; He continues, towards an 'unarmed and disarming' peace. Certainly, something for us all to focus our prayer this Sunday.

It perhaps teaches us that this is an exciting if challenging goal; peace should not rely on fear, threats, or weapons. Peace should have the capacity to resolve conflicts and open hearts through mutual understanding and hope.

Bishop John Arnold is president of Pax Christi and there is an opportunity for a retiring collection today for the work of Pax Christi.

The recent newsletter from Pax Christi is on the noticeboard in the narthex for you to read. I note that they are currently looking for a treasurer.

John Newman's requiem is tomorrow (Monday) at 11am.

Quiz night: The February date is quite close and for varying reasons we're not ready to put it together, so March 20th has been chosen as a later date, when winter is giving way to Spring.

On Tuesday, the deanery clergy meet principally to discuss and feed into the plans being established for a new bishop for our diocese. (I'm not sure how much influence we or anyone else has though, and I suspect inclusion of the wider community is not being invited!).

Tuesday is also a special day for Paul as he celebrates the anniversary of his birth in those post war years, the same year as my parents got married!

Snowdrops are beginning to flower in the garden and in Pinch Nose Green, we are halfway through the month, which means that winter is moving on.

Rain will have stopped any gardening activities for now.

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Notices:

House Groups: The groups meeting this coming week are as follows:

Wednesday 21st - 3pm at the convent

Thursday 22nd - 3pm at 7 Barn End

Thursday 22nd - 7.30pm at Sunnyside, Upper Station Road

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Notices cont/d...

The following is the web address for the 2026 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity mentioned by Fr Hugh. <https://ctbi.org.uk/resources/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2026/>

Coffee Volunteers needed: We are getting rather short on volunteers for serving coffee on Sunday. Please could you tell MarieAnne if you feel able to help.

Gift Aid: The work of our Parish would not be possible without the support of our donors. An important part of this is Gift Aid as it means our parish can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give at no extra cost to you! There are new posters in the narthex with information for anyone paying income tax or Capital Gains Tax and are not already part of the Parish gift aid scheme.

Please contact either our gift aid co-ordinator, Dan Valovin at ga.henfield@abdiocese.org.uk, phone 07792 554406 or speak to Father Hugh and we will talk you through what it means to Gift aid and, if you wish, help set you up on our Gift Aid System. Every year we re-claim about £6,000 in Tax paid on Donations through our Gift Aid scheme so this really does make a huge difference in the running of our Parish.

Also, for ease of banking completing a standing order with the parish saves having to count and bank cash. A safer way these days for all. Forms for this are available, please ask.

A&B Lourdes Pilgrimage 2026:

Applications for the Arundel & Brighton Lourdes Pilgrimage this July are now open! The Diocese takes more than 700 pilgrims to visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes each year, including young people, families, and those who are sick, disabled, frail or elderly and need our help to make the journey.

Is Our Lady calling you to Lourdes this summer? To find out more about our pilgrimage week in France [click here](#) and visit the diocesan website.

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, 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](#).

There will be a [Mass of Thanksgiving](#) for Bishop Richard's Ministry in Arundel & Brighton at Arundel Cathedral on Friday 30th January at 6.30pm. The Mass, which will be celebrated by Archbishop-Elect Richard, will be followed by a reception in the Baron's Hall at Arundel Castle, by kind permission of His Grace, the Duke of Norfolk.

There is no need to register to attend the Mass, all are very welcome.

CAFOD in your parish in 2026: Lent Appeal and beyond: There will be an online information session on Tuesday 27th January, 7pm-8.30pm. Find out about raising funds for CAFOD's Family Fast Day Lent Appeal, and the Catholic charity's work rooted in Jesus' call to love our neighbours. [Click here](#) to register through the A&B diocese.

Mental Health Awareness Training: Saturday 7th February, 10am-3pm at The St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley, RH10 6RP (£40). The number of people experiencing poor mental health is rising. This course will help attendees understand the impact and reality of poor mental health, enabling them to identify the early signs and symptoms and signpost people effectively. Book your place [here](#).

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Notices cont/d...

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Today – Sunday 18th January – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – 10am Mass

Monday 19th January

11am Requiem Mass for John Newman

Wednesday 21st January

House Group, 3pm at the convent

Thursday 22nd January – House Groups

3pm at 7 Barn End

and

7.30pm at Sunnyside, Upper Station Road

Friday 30th January – Farewell to Bishop Richard

6.30pm Mass in Arundel Cathedral and reception in Arundel Castle

The Season of Lent Ash Wednesday 18th February

Distribution of Ashes – time to be confirmed

Friday 20th March – Fund raising Quiz night in our hall

(please note date change – details nearer the time)

Thursday 2nd April to Sunday 5th April

The Sacred Paschal Triduum

Sunday 31st May

Following Mass celebration lunch for Deacons Paul and Seamus