



St. Patrick's Church

Broad Green/Cowley Drive Woodingdean BN2 6TB

St. Patrick's Newsletter



Our Lady of Lourdes

Whiteway Lane Rottingdean

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Our Lady of Lourdes Church is now open for worship: see <https://www.ololandstp.org/>

MASS is streamed live: 09.30 on Mon (N.B. in St Martha's), Tues, Thurs; Fri. **Wed 8th: 7.30pm Immaculate Conception, Advent Evening Mass preceded by Benediction and Holy Hour;**

Church open for Adoration and Prayer see OLOL newsletter for details;

2nd Sunday of Advent: Vigil Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Saturday 6.30 pm; Sunday Mass: 10.30 am

St Patrick's at 9am – Mass: Sunday 5th December; Sunday 12th December (Gaudete Sunday)

Welcome to the 43rd "apart but together" e-newsletter (5th December 2021)

"Because where two or three have come together in my name, I am there among them." Matt 18

On Being Ready

Barbara Bond

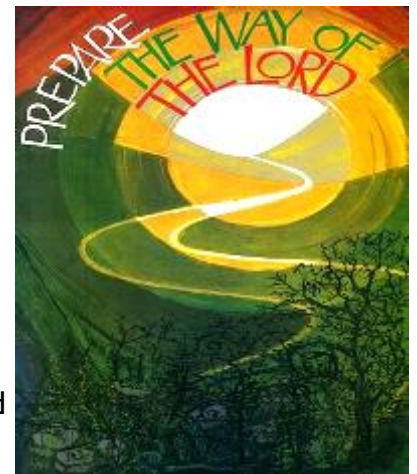
Prepare a way for the Lord (Luke 3)

There is a family story of me as a baby being bundled into a pram and wheeled on a hilly journey to a town nestled in the North Downs; I was being taken to daily Mass in October 1962, during those 13 days of the Cuban Missile Crisis when the world held its breath.

I have heard the tale many times but only came close to understanding, when I reflected on the controlled but palpable fear we felt on the health frontline last Advent – it was clear something bad was going to happen but we had to 'keep on keeping on'.

Even in the wake of COVID and of COP26 it seems the world is focused on a headlong rush to the "things" of Christmas: a busy-ness of doing, decking our halls, chasing down gifts, catching up with folk we haven't

been able to see. And, we could say, why not? These times remind us of the fragility of ourselves, each other and our planet.



**God of hope,
we cling to you,
for you renew the face of the earth.
Through the gift of your Son,
our Lord Jesus,
we follow you on the path of dawn.
Enlightened by your love and wisdom,
help us to lead each other and all creatures
back to your open arms. Amen.**

Rachel McCarthy/CAFOD

I wonder what the voice in the wilderness is saying to me now? In what sense can I follow in the footsteps of John the Baptist, not only making my own path straight but also smoothing it for others. There are plenty of high mountains and deep valleys too.

Perhaps my first step to filling them is to walk through each day in compassion and generosity, with a gladness in my heart for the marvels the Lord has worked for me.

The newsletter appears fortnightly. For the next issue, please send contributions by Friday 17th December to Barbara Bond: bond_barbara@ymail.com

Pope Francis: Fundamental Lack of Human Respect

Pope Francis has issued a message to mark the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the UN *International Organisation for Migration* (IOM). He warns that behind every statistic on migration is the face of a brother or sister that needs to be protected.

Pope Francis described the treatment of thousands of migrants around the world today as "deplorable". He said that migrants across the world are treated as "merchandise", "pawns on the chessboard", and are "victims of political rivalries".

The Pope continued, "How can suffering and despair be exploited to advance or defend political agendas? How can political considerations prevail when the dignity of the human person is at stake?"

"The fundamental lack of human respect across national borders diminishes us all in our 'humanity'".

"Let us not forget that these are not statistics, but real people whose lives are at stake".

With this awareness, "the Catholic Church and its institutions will continue its mission of welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating people on the move".

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-11>



GETTY IMAGES

The Pope's message comes just one day after his remarks at the Sunday Angelus, in which he denounced the treatment of migrants around the globe.

He expressed sorrow for those who recently died crossing the English Channel, those stranded on the border with Belarus, and those lost in the waters of the Mediterranean.

<https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/news>

"Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light" (Laudato Si' 246)



'To a Safer Shore?' The Arundel & Brighton Diocese Justice and Peace Assembly this year focusses on the difficulties and challenges faced by individuals and families of all ages who are compelled to leave their homes and seek safety and longed-for sanctuary, in countries far from their homes. It takes place on **Saturday 15th January 2022, 9.30am - 2pm** at St Francis' School in Crawley. Details and to book your free place: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/news/jp2022>

Speakers include:

- Aidan Cantwell, from the Jesuit Refugee Service who will explore current legislation in the UK and how best we can respond;
- Karen Goldsmith, who has first-hand experience of the refugee crisis, having spent time volunteering at a refugee camp in Chios, Greece;
- Canon Rob Esdaile who will provide insight on Pope Francis' Encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*;
- and John Paul de Quay, from the Ecological Conversion Group, who will examine the links between the plight of refugees and climate crisis.

"We human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage" (LS 92)

"O Lord, plead my cause against my foes; fight those who fight me. Take up your buckler and shield; arise to help me. O Lord, say to my soul: 'I am your salvation.' But my soul shall be joyful in the Lord and rejoice in his salvation." Psalm 35

CHRISTMAS FUND-RAISING EVENT December at St Patrick’s

St Patrick’s will have outside sale tables, in gazebos, on Saturday 11th December 10-12.30; Sunday 12th December 10-12 noon

You can help by donating items to sell and buy, helping sell and take money; taking time to chat to buyers and visitors; coming along to have a warm drink, coffee and cake, sing or listen to carols and buy our wares.

We are selling preserves, home bakes and stocking fillers. There will be a freebee table.

You can donate whatever you like to bake, savoury or sweet items. You can bake and freeze, then thaw items slowly, or if it is a pie or tart – freeze uncooked, then cook just before the event. – Bring items to St Patricks on Friday morning 10th December between 11 and 12 or on Saturday before 10am. We would like unwanted gifts or presents to sell; seasonal wreaths or displays of foliage, berries would be great. There will be houseplants to buy, they will be displayed indoors, and daffodil bulbs to plant now.

Health and safety: we request everyone wears masks all of the time, except when downing food and drink! We will limit indoor numbers and require social distancing. A volunteer will serve warm mulled wine/apple juice in wine glasses.

Next parish ZOOM will be on Thursday 9th at 8pm. We will discuss part two of the Synod questions, on Participation. The topics are: Celebrations in church; Co-responsibility in the mission of the church; and Dialogue between the Church and wider society.

All glasses and crockery will be machine-washed beforehand. There will be no hand washing of used glasses and dishes – we have a dishwashing machine. There is no self service. Volunteers (one) will prepare kitchen drinks, one will serve cakes, removing any sharing of cutlery, jugs, bowls, kettle. Our volunteers will be masked and gloved if possible. Weather forecast looks 9C and a bit wintry.



Parish Advent Reflection

Every Wednesday morning in Advent, St Patrick’s Church will be holding an **Advent Reflection**. It starts at 9.15am for around 30 minutes and will include prayer, meditation and music. All are welcome, coffee afterwards if you have time to stay. Tracy tracy.stickland@gmail.com

Please do not attend Mass or other functions at St Patrick’s if you have been in contact with people with Covid

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2021

Christmas Eve: Our Lady of Lourdes: Friday 24 December - 5:00pm Vigil Mass. First Mass of Christmas - 10:30pm preceded by Carols at 10pm

Christmas Day: Saturday 25 December - 9:00am at St Patrick’s preceded by (recorded!) carols and readings from 8:30. Our Lady of Lourdes: 10:30am

Coffee and cake this Sunday 5th Dec at St Patrick’s! Please stay and chat!

On Sunday 12th December after Mass we will serve mulled wine, mulled apple juice and home cooked mince pies to all

Support Local Refugees

If you want to support local refugees who have arrived with no more than the clothes they are standing up in, you can donate items and bring to St Martin’s church Saltdean between 5.30 and 8pm on Wednesday 8th December. They need clothes, shoes, toiletries, books, phones etc, for Men, Women, Teens and children aged 2-14, see more at <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=care4calais> and there are other similar charities.

“I am the Lord, I speak the truth, I proclaim what is right. Assemble, all of you, draw near, you who have escaped from the nations.” Isaiah 45

Churches in France and UK call for Concerted Action for Refugees

Amid growing tensions between the French and UK governments following the tragic drowning of 27 migrants crossing the Channel, Churches in France and England insist on the need for joint efforts to protect from life-threatening danger, assist refugees, and address the root causes which force people to flee their homeland.

According to the *Secours Catholique*, the French Caritas, the latest tragedy is a direct consequence of the militarization of the French borders and of the crackdown against migrants and refugees living in the makeshift encampments on the northern coast of the country. "These borders kill", the Catholic charity writes in a statement.



Cardinal Vincent Nichols of Westminster said: "Focused international cooperation, safe routes to sanctuary and joint efforts to tackle poverty are all needed in the face of a global flood of desperate humanity."

Bishop Paul McAleenan, Lead Bishop for Migrants and Refugees in England and Wales, has remarked that these tragedies will continue to occur time and time again unless [we] address the underlying causes which force these people to flee their country.

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby has called for a "cross-border" reform of the immigration and asylum system: "We need a better system based on security, compassion, justice and cross-border cooperation. This cannot continue".

Many French humanitarian organizations have repeatedly denounced the inhuman treatment of migrants and refugees gathering in and around the seaside town of Calais while attempting to reach the UK.

Churches and NGOs have repeatedly insisted on the need for humanitarian corridors so as to ensure a safe and legal transfer and integration of asylum seekers. By Lisa Zengarini, Vatican News <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2021-11>

Towards an Ever Wider "We"
*Holy, beloved Father,
your Son Jesus taught us
that there is great rejoicing in heaven
whenever someone lost is found,
whenever someone excluded, rejected
or discarded is gathered into our "we",
which thus becomes ever wider.*
*We ask you to grant the followers of
Jesus, and all people of good will,
the grace to do your will on earth.*
*Bless each act of welcome and
outreach that draws those in exile into
the "we" of community and of the
Church,*
*so that our earth may truly become
what you yourself created it to be: the
common home of all our brothers and
sisters.*
Amen.
*Pope Francis, Message for 107th World
Day of Migrants and Refugees on 26/9/21*

Are Refugees Illegal Immigrants? <https://care4calais.org/the-refugee-crisis/>

Irene Green

From their website: – Refugees are absolutely not illegal immigrants. They don't want to enter the UK illegally – the problem is that they have no choice. If you come from a country that is at war or under oppression, it's unlikely that that country will issue you with a passport or visa, so you have no legal way to travel.

Claiming asylum presents a legal anomaly. Asylum is a legal right, but to claim it you have to be physically present in the country — and there is no legal way to get here. That's why we campaign for 'safe and legal' routes; they don't exist for most refugees.

Lord Kerr an academic, industrialist and diplomat has recently presented some facts in the House of Lords. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Kerr,_Baron_Kerr_of_Kinlochard

The video has gone viral <https://www.facebook.com/JackWVDart/videos/490402328852075/>

More than 70% of the people arriving by boats in the channel are given refugee status in this country (most are Iranians, others come from Iraq, Sudan, Syria). The UK is not the preferred destination of most refugees (I think it is probably Germany which has welcomed over a million in the last 5 years. They contribute to its economy and society).

"My whole being will say: Lord, who is like you, who rescue the weak from the strong, and the poor from the oppressor? ... O Lord, you have seen, do not be silent, do not stand afar off! Awake, stir to my defence, to my cause, O God!," Psalm 35

Floods in Kanji

Tamil Nadu Floods - November 2021

In November 2021, Tamil Nadu was struck by very severe rainfall that lasted for over twenty days and caused massive flooding in Chennai and surrounding areas. Kanji and its satellite villages were badly affected. St Antony's School had to close because it was inaccessible to pupils and staff, and the Rose Sisters' activities were disrupted. However, Maria, Lourdusamy and the Rose Sisters are doing their best to provide support to the most severely affected.

As the rain recedes, stagnant flood water will become a major problem in Kanji, as this can be a breeding ground for Dengue fever and other illnesses. Most of the poorest people in Kanji and the villages are feeling damp and cold and suffering from heavy colds and flu-like symptoms.

Further information about the flooding, with photos, can be found on our website, just click on: <https://thekanjiproject.org.uk/tamil-nadu-floods-2021/>

We have been able to send some extra money to Lourdusamy and the Rose Sisters, and this will be used to provide mats, blankets and medical support. We would like to send more money but our resources won't allow this, so maybe you can help.

Please send donations, however, small.

If you are happy to donate online, simply use the link above. If you prefer to donate with a cheque, then please send it to The Kanji Project, 34 Vicarage Drive, Eastbourne BN20 8AP.

And please, do keep those affected by this disaster in your thoughts. Thank you!

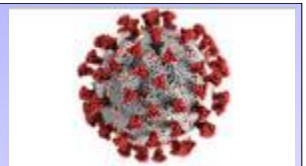


Omicron variant of Coronavirus

This heavily mutated form has rung every alarm bell for vaccine makers, public health officials, NHS staff, even governments, but we have to wait for hard data on it. There are many anecdotal stories in newspapers and online, in the New York Times I read about events in the US & round the world. We in the UK have the delta variant as the norm, ONS data shows that it gave a higher ratio of deaths to confirmed Covid positive cases in 2021 than did its predecessor. Although Covid is with us forever, it is too early and risky to try to buck the system and ignore it, especially in mid winter.

Brighton: Covid levels are rising again in Brighton, 5668 new cases today and there are over 1 million active Covid cases in the UK. Herd immunity is unlikely to work against the new variant and vaccination is only partially protective – but that protection is valuable. Wash Hands Cover Face and Keep Space between humans.

Virus is essentially a parasite, it dies when it cannot find a host quickly enough.



“Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, there is no other; by myself I swear it. It is truth that goes forth from my mouth, a word beyond recall. To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.” Isaiah 45

I am Sussex born and bred and went to school in Brighton. My 1st school was St. Mary Magdalene's RC Primary School right in the centre of Brighton in Spring Street, behind Western Road.

It was an old building and our classrooms were very draughty. We had a large cabin type building for lunches and assembly. Class sizes were large – often up to 40 children. All packed together at old fashioned desks! Mixed of course.

We had to attend mass and benediction regularly – I think most weeks we would troop into Church for something. The Parish Priest was absolutely frightening to us children. Fr. Smith was his name; I think he became Monsignor Smith later. He shouted at us if we took our hats/mantillas off, or even coughed or sneezed. I can only remember his sermons being full of 'hellfire and damnation'!



I liked all my class teachers. They were full of energy and kindness and coped so well with keeping us on our toes! I remember at the end of most days, we had a sleep time – heads on desks! Mrs Camillin taught us for 2 years – she had 9 children so must have had many absences! One daughter was in my class.

Everyone's favourite was Mr Blakely. He had been in the forces and came into teaching on the short training course after the War. He was kind, funny and somehow we all loved him. He seemed to have time for every one of us!!

We did have some frightening teachers who disciplined us – strap for the girls and cane for the boys. Miss 'Goody Goody', that I was, did not get punished that way luckily.

I know we had a small playground which seethed during breaks – we had to go outside! All weathers I suppose. We must have had PE but I remember nothing about that! We had nature studies and all marched down to St. Anne's Wells Gardens to examine the pond there. We really enjoyed escaping the classroom. I think the education was good – centred on English and Maths of course – reading, writing and arithmetic!!

I still keep in touch with friends I met there from the age of 5. My very best friend being one of them!! It was another world of course!

After primary school I was fortunate to pass the 11+ which enabled me to go to the Catholic Girls' Grammar School – Lourdes Convent in London Road. It was run by a French order, the Sisters of Nevers, but even by then many teachers were lay ones.

I was lucky and again loved my school years making more friends, and keeping the ones from St. Mary Mag's. I still meet up with them (Covid permitting) or we Zoom. *(continued on next page...)*



Quotations Trivia Interlude: Who said, or wrote: (– see p.8 for answers)

1. History teaches us that men and nations behave wisely once they have exhausted all other alternatives. 2. *(card carried in her handbag)* Under no circumstances whatsoever do I wish to be visited in hospital by Margaret Thatcher. 3. I try to keep fit. I've got these parallel bars at home. I run at them and try to buy a drink from both of them. 4. The only exercise I take is walking behind the coffins of friends who took exercise. 5. It's no longer a question of staying healthy. It's a question of finding a sickness you like.

"Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing for joy. Know that he, the Lord, is God. He made us, we belong to him, we are his people, the sheep of his flock."

Psalm 100

I think we were quite well behaved but some of the nuns were rather lax and we did play them up! Not Mother Catherine who taught Latin – she was very fierce. I know we locked her in a cupboard one April Fool’s Day and dreaded the outcome but she took it in good spirit. We had some very strict lay teachers but overall it was a good atmosphere. I gather boarders were not so well looked after and had a strict regime. We day girls could go home after school and let off steam!

The Reverend Mother was Mother Agnes – an extremely tall and imposing woman. You did not want to be sent to her!!

Maths was my favourite subject and we were taught in GCE years by Mr. Liddell. He had a glass eye which was very disconcerting as you never quite knew where he was looking!! He encouraged me to continue to do A level Maths but alas he died on a cruise that summer so I never had him for my further studies.

So many teachers were characters and I suppose I remember them for that rather than the teaching. It was good in some subjects but not in others. When we have a ‘Lourdes Get-Together’ we always remember the sewing teacher who walked around with her clothes pinned at the hem and insisted we make pyjamas one year! They took the whole year.

The music teacher who always had a large grey suit which smelled very musty. We got up to all sorts of things behind his back!! The gym teacher who was very tall and strict; we had to wear ghastly black knickers! No showers in those days. In fact we all remember the poor hygiene!

We had to go to Chapel most weeks. If it was a special saint’s day we had doughnuts or cream buns. The food otherwise was very grim apart from the fruit crumbles and rice puddings. I can never touch pilchards in tomato sauce as that was a Friday staple!! The school was merged to become Cardinal Newman later on, and St. Bernadette’s Primary School took over the junior part.



Looking back, I was happy in my school years. The lasting friendships have helped me through difficult times, and I feel blessed to have my friends still around me. And my memories! Many more to relate but another time.....!

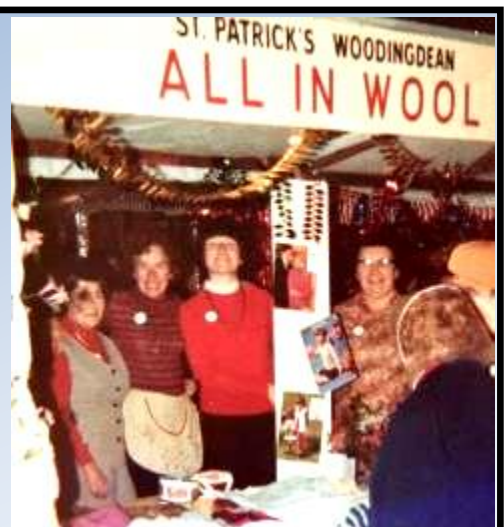


Ann Claridge RIP

Founding St Patrick’s parishioner Ann Claridge sadly passed away on 3rd December.

Ann together with her husband Ken and family contributed in different ways to the church and for many decades.

In her spare time Ann ran the Catholaity Bazaar All in Wool stall. She may be the last of the founding parishioners from the 1960s who attended the Fitzherbert School Mass. The group became a parish, then acquired a church of their own.



“Go within his gates, giving thanks. Enter his courts with songs of praise. Give thanks to him and bless his name. Indeed, how good is the Lord, eternal his merciful love. He is faithful from age to age.” Psalm 48

“That day the deaf will hear the words of the book and, free from shadow and darkness, the eyes of the blind will see” – Isaiah 29: 18 (Mass reading, first Friday of Advent)

The sun in a pale blue sky is low now, despite it being midday, and the stems of the fuchsia cast precise shadows on to the fence right next to it. The few remaining leaves on the cherry and apple trees are yellow, and the sunlight falls horizontally through them too.

The garden birds are fewer now. A small group of goldfinches frequents the sunflower feeder. A larger bird, overhead, cuts suddenly into my line of sight, soaring in a short curving arc which makes the sunlight glance off its wide, fawn wings. The curve is hard and fast, and I recognise instantly that this is a curve with purpose, with intent (as the police might say), a hunting curve: buzzard.

Unusual to see it so low and so close to houses! I jump up and step outside to track where it has gone. It sails out from behind the chimney, and I notice a woodpigeon, startled, making a quick getaway. Two crows sit high in the ash trees on Love Lane, their heads tilted back, motionless, like two black gargoyles.



Mark Schlicht, *Express & Star*, May 2015

The thin screeching of another bird pierces the air, and I notice a second buzzard circling. The call is distinctive, a repeated thin keening which tails off on a falling note every time; hunting buzzards often call insistently to each other.

Then I spot the first buzzard, hotly pursued by a furious crow, which dives at it over and over again, using tight stalling turns and changes of angle in its attacks. The second buzzard comes down to lend assistance and for a few moments all three carve and weave against each other before the wind takes them, across Southover and away to the Snow Drop cliffs.

The two seated crows take off and leg it in the opposite direction, for some reason looking nefarious and guilty – crows often do. Three magpies, trailing their long tails behind them, appear out of nowhere and move with a sort of avian jauntiness, across and away to the north.

The skies are empty, and I return to the humdrum dramas of the great tits, blue tits and dunnocks whose incessant flitting makes even the robin look lumbering and slow. A lone chaffinch hops around beneath the feeders. All is quiet. As is fitting for Advent, I stay on the lookout.

May none of God's wonderful works keep silence, night or morning. Bright stars, high mountains, the depths of the seas, sources of rushing rivers: may all these break into song as we sing to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. May all the angels in the heavens reply: Amen! Amen! Amen! Power, praise, honour, eternal glory to God, the only Giver of grace. Amen! Amen! Amen!
Papyri, 3rd-4th century

Trivia answers (from p.6)

1. Abba Eban (1915-2002) Speech in London, 16 Dec 1970
2. Mary Wesley (1912-2002) *attributed*.
3. Arthur Smith (1954-) *attributed*.
4. Peter O'Toole (1932-2013) *Mail on Sunday* 27/12/98.
5. Jackie Mason (1928-2021) *attributed*.

“For this is the word of the Lord, the creator of heaven, the God who made earth and shaped it, he who made it firm. He did not create it in vain, he made it to be lived in.” Isaiah 45