



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, Tues, Thurs; 09.15 Fri; Church open for Adoration from 08.55 Mon and from 08.30 Tues, Thurs, 08.15 Fri; for Adoration or Divine Mercy/Private Prayer Tues 10-10.30, Fri 9.45-10.15.

(OLOL weekday times to be confirmed)

**Sunday 21st November Christ the King: Vigil Mass OLOL Saturday 6.30 pm ; Sunday Mass: 10.30 am**

**St Patrick's – Mass on Sunday 21st November at 9 am**

Welcome to the 42nd “apart but together” e-newsletter (21st November 2021)

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

## On Looking Back — and Forward

Barbara Bond

*Mine is not a kingdom of this world* (John 18)

I spend a great deal of my working life on my own, often driving from one stressful situation to the next without having the chance to “de-brief” in between. I deal with this by playing very loud music in the car and singing along...

I used to have some version of Monty Python blaring out. I am very surprised I was not in deep trouble – their satire is offensive to many people – but the frivolity made me chuckle. Now, my music of choice is Handel's *Messiah*. My singing may be equally bad, but that weaving of words from the Old and New Testaments has become a rich source of inspiration, and comfort too.

I always understood the feast of Christ the King to be the culmination of the year – a point to take stock and to celebrate the journey before beginning our Advent preparation. The second reading reminds us that we have been made a line of kings – we have been anointed as such at our Baptism. I wonder how I live that?



**So let us learn how to serve  
And in our lives enthrone Him;  
Each other's needs to prefer,  
For it is Christ we're serving.  
This is our God, the Servant King,  
He calls us now to follow Him,  
To bring our lives as a daily offering  
Of worship to the Servant King.**

Imagery of kings and being crowned is common in our culture. In a worldly sense I would rather try to live up to the example of our Queen, who seems to serve us all with great dignity and selflessness, than try to be “King of the Jungle” in *I am a Celebrity* style.

It seems we are called to both responsibility and service, just as Christ is both ruler of all and servant of all.

The newsletter appears fortnightly. For the next issue, please send contributions by Friday 3rd December to Barbara Bond: [bond\\_barbara@ymail.com](mailto:bond_barbara@ymail.com)

## His Holiness Pope Francis on *Thought for the Day*, BBC R4 29th October 2021 “Challenge the Unprecedented Threat of Climate Change”

*“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)*

Dear BBC listeners, good morning!

Climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic have exposed our deep vulnerability and raised numerous doubts and concerns about our economic systems and the way we organize our societies.

We have lost our sense of security, and are experiencing a sense of powerlessness and loss of control over our lives. We find ourselves increasingly frail and even fearful, caught up in a succession of “crises” in the areas of health care, the environment, food supplies and the economy, to say nothing of social, humanitarian and ethical crises.

All these crises are profoundly interconnected. They also forecast a “perfect storm” that could rupture the bonds holding our society together within the greater gift of God’s creation. Every crisis calls for vision, the ability to formulate plans and put them rapidly into action, to rethink the future of the world, our common home, and to reassess our common purpose. These crises present us with the need to take decisions, radical decisions that are not always easy.

At the same time, moments of difficulty like these also present opportunities, opportunities that we must not waste. We can confront these crises by retreating into isolationism, protectionism and exploitation. Or we can see in them a real chance for change, a genuine moment of conversion, and not simply in a spiritual sense. This last approach alone can guide us towards a brighter horizon.

Yet it can only be pursued through a renewed sense of shared responsibility for our world, and an effective solidarity based on justice, a sense of our common destiny and a recognition of the unity of our human family in God’s plan for the world.

All this represents an immense cultural challenge. It means giving priority to the common good, and it calls for a change in perspective, a new outlook, in which the dignity of every human being, now and in the future, will guide our ways of thinking and acting. The most important lesson we can take from these crises is our need to build together, so that there will no longer be any borders, barriers or political walls for us to hide behind.

... It is essential that each of us be committed to this urgent change of direction, sustained by our own faith and spirituality. In the Joint Appeal, we spoke of the need to work responsibly towards a “culture of care” for our common home, but also for ourselves, and the need to work tirelessly to eliminate “the seeds of conflicts: greed, indifference, ignorance, fear, injustice, insecurity and violence”. Humanity has never before had at its disposal so many means for achieving this goal.

**...It is worth repeating that each of us – whoever and wherever we may be – can play our own part in changing our collective response to the unprecedented threat of climate change and the degradation of our common home.**



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

*“Have mercy on me, God, have mercy, for in you my soul has taken refuge. In the shadow of your wings I take refuge till the storms of destruction pass by. I call to God the Most High, to God who has always been my help.” Psalm 57*



Cup Cakes — Virginia Macebo

**FUND-RAISING on Sat 11th–Sun 12<sup>th</sup> December at St Patrick’s**

St Patrick’s will serve mulled drinks, coffee, mince pies and cakes on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December. There will also be some carol singing **outside!**

We will be there from 10am until 1pm on Saturday and 10 until 12 on Sunday. Hoping for



Chocolate tray bake – gluten free – with chocolate ganache and white chocolate feathered icing – Irene Green

dry weather and to have stalls outside – we did last year on the first weekend in December.

Our sale tables will have sweet and savoury food – think festive, seasonal, comfort food too! There is a clipboard in the porch to identify your food and other

**Next parish ZOOM will be on Thursday 25th November at 8pm. Irene will email the link by Thursday morning**

donations – this is so we can list our wares in adverts on social media well in advance.

We have garden preserves – jams, jelly, chutney, elderflower cordial, lavender bags, unused gifts and

Christmas stocking fillers. We are working on gift bags.

**Please come and socialise.** Indoors, numbers will be restricted. We are very pleased with lack of spread of Covid in the church.

There are loads of Christmas-themed events occurring from now on, it is impossible not to clash with several at the weekends.

You can help by: offering to cook, giving us sale items, helping beforehand to price things, selling on the day, being host/hostess serving food and drinks.

**Coffee and cake this Sunday (21st) at St Patrick’s**

**CHRISTMAS MASSES 2021**

**Christmas Eve:** Our Lady of Lourdes: Friday 24 December - 5:00pm Vigil Mass

1st Mass of Christmas - 10:30pm preceded by Carols at 10pm

**Christmas Day:** Saturday 25 December - 9:00am at St Patrick’s 10:30am at Our Lady of Lourdes

**Parish Advent Reflection**

The season of Advent starts on 28th November. For each of the 4 Wednesdays in Advent starting on 1st December, 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](mailto:tracy.stickland@gmail.com)



**Come and See Bible Series** The first of five one-hour discussions of the Advent Sunday Gospel readings will be on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> Nov at 7pm. You can see it at that time, or see the recording, but register now: <https://comeandsee.org/advent> it’s free and open to anyone.

*“My heart is ready, O God, my heart is ready. I will sing, I will sing your praise. Awake my soul, awake lyre and harp, I will awake the dawn.” Psalm 57*



## Christmas Gift Ideas

Virtual charity gifts to delight your loved ones and support destitute refugees in the UK at the same time.



**Creative Community**  
£11.00



**Home is a feeling not a place**  
£10.00



**Baby Essentials**  
£25.00



**Phone credit**  
£10.00



**A trip to the JRS Shop**  
£20.00



**Hardship Grant**  
£50.00



**An Hour of Translation**  
£45.00



**Welcome a Refugee to JRS**  
£34.00



**Essential Toiletries Bag**  
£15.00



**Written Legal Advice**  
£100.00



**Post-Detention support**  
£47.00



**Phone call to a refugee in detention**  
£5.00

See

<https://www.jrsuk.net/refugeegifts/>

*“They will come and shout for joy on Mount Zion, they will stream to the blessings of the Lord, to the corn, the new wine and the oil, to the flocks of sheep and the herds. Their life will be like a watered garden. They will never be weary again.” Jer 31: 10-14*

## The St Patrick's team - What does it take to run St Patrick's?

On Sunday you see rotas for duties (someone has to create and print the sheets), you see our *meet and greet* people, some stewards, altar servers, sacristans, special ministers.

For the diocese and its insurer we have to use a church account with Safety Toolbox, dozens of items to keep up to date by professional checking - electrical installations, gas boiler and central heating, emergency lighting, portable appliances, fire extinguishers, smoke alarms, then we keep free access to fire exits and discuss fire drill.

There are usual duties eg buying supplies for kitchen and toilets, changing light bulbs, clocks, providing gas and electricity meter readings; and fund raising involving cooking, gardening, craft, jam making, banking weekly collection money, getting quotes for jobs, meeting the workmen.

To hire our space we need risk assessment for each group using the church and signed agreement with them, after we have acquired permission from diocesan office. We have a gardener who mows the lawn and keeps boundary hedges pruned; we look after fruit trees.

**Rented house:** we are pleased to have a letting agent, we liaise at times over certificates for gas installation, electrical safety, smoke alarms, cleaning gutters. We had major work done in 2020 on roof and brickwork and in 2021 on the interior of the house and we had a pricey soakaway as it kept flooding after rain, outside the front door.

Our biggest expenditure in the last year has been on two items – the **air conditioning & air filtration system** in the church; and **rented house soakaway**. Costs were covered by a generous legacy from the Young family. Most recent expenditure was on having the guttering, fascia boards and soffits of the church and house professionally cleaned (by *Soapsters*) – necessary item for Safety Toolbox.

**Next expenditures** will be on flat roof examination by a builder / architect and replacing slightly rotten sealed window, up high at the back of the church. We have been discussing this area for many months because we want some controllable outside air. Wish it were as straightforward as a window that opened. We can't go up a ladder to open and close windows.

**Why do we keep a rented house?** Without it we could not pay our bills and our regular payments to OLOL (£650 per month). The financial arrangement was imposed from the deanery or diocese when the churches in Woodingdean and Rottingdean were merged into one parish in 2002. When we had a married priest there was an extra monthly payment towards the priest's stipend - an additional £700 per month.

At St Patrick's we have a high percentage of Mass goers who arrange these maintenance duties and help in every way with fund raising. We spend money very carefully knowing it isn't ours, and how much effort it takes to generate.

The church needs and greatly appreciates everyone's input. **THANK YOU.** If anyone else would like to be involved, we are recruiting!!

**Parish Mass for Deceased Parishioners:** Saturday 27th November at Our Lady of Lourdes, 11 am.

### What's On in three local churches:

Woodingdean Holy Cross, especially Friday food hub and Friday morning drop in for all

- <https://www.woodingdeanholycross.org.uk/events>

Woodingdean Methodist Church, Tuesday men's club

- <https://woodingdeanmethodistchurch.co.uk/>

Downs Baptist Church, Thursday fellowship group at 2pm (hosted at the Holy Cross Church)

- <https://downsbaptistchurch.org/community/>

*"Then the young girls will rejoice and will dance, the men, young and old, will be glad. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will console them, give gladness for grief." Jer 31: 10-14*

**Divine Renovation** say they have helped thousands of priests and their parishes find new hope, reverse decline, and through them, thousands of people have come to know Jesus.

I listened to the Zoom webinar run by Divine Renovation on Thursday 7-8pm. You will find a recording here on YouTube <https://youtu.be/SZSTNWWtSjFw> The participants were not only from the UK but also Europe, Canada and the U.S.

Speakers were Matt Regitz (Leadership Coach, in Texas), Fr. Jim Duggan (Parish Priest at St Charles Borromeo, Paisley Scotland) and Anne Marie Milwain (St Bernadette's, Erskine, Scotland)

The topic was how having less going on in our parishes may actually help us achieve more. In practice, this is good "housekeeping" anywhere.

"Priority" used to be singular. If you have priorities, there may be too many – they aren't priorities. What can you give up? I would like to do less!

**"Divine Renovation** exists to inspire, connect, and equip priests and their parishes to go from maintenance to mission – for every Catholic parish to be a place where people can come and have their lives transformed by entering into relationship with Jesus.

Our vision for the UK is to inspire, connect and create community among a network of parishes intentionally pursuing mission, through the best of leadership principles, in the power of the Holy Spirit." (from the website)

<https://www.divinerenovation.org/>

**Headings could be: –**

- Liturgy
- Weekly Mass
- Safety Toolbox (Jane and Irene access it)
- Prayer meetings, Advent courses
- Synod, Cafod
- Maintenance of church and garden
- Maintenance of rented house (both these feed into Safety Toolbox)
- Fundraising (types, helpers) and social media presence
- Charities we support
- Hiring the premises
- Interaction with the community – offering outreach, fellowship sessions, knit and natter, coffee
- Churches Together
- Gift aid (Fiona) and Finance Committee (Fiona and Irene)
- Post Covid, we will have more social events

**Applying Divine Renovation to St Patrick's – Ideas & Suggestions to debate**

Listening to the webinar and thinking of our small group at St Patrick's and the good percentage of parishioners involved, I thought about our regular meetings which were attended by 6-8 people. Since March 2020 we have conducted business on Zoom and email and have solicited opinions from others who would not normally attend meetings – if you want to be on the email list where we solicit opinions, let us know.

Bernadette is Chairperson of St Patrick's. Jane is Secretary.

**How to move things forward**

We could devolve some parish Agenda Items (see left for headings) – each item to two people, who could think ahead, plan and bring ideas forward.

Some of the committee are *a certain age* and we could do with any extra pair of hands, we also need your views. If you want to help, you can specify and limit what you offer, so that you aren't sucked into doing more than you wish.

Let Bernadette [berskin@hotmail.com](mailto:berskin@hotmail.com) or Irene [icgreen@ntlworld.com](mailto:icgreen@ntlworld.com) know which aspects you could contribute to.

*"The Lord is great and worthy to be praised in the city of our God. His holy mountain rises in beauty, the joy of all the earth. Mount Zion, true pole of the earth, the Great King's city! God, in the midst of its citadels, has shown himself its stronghold." Psalm 48*

## Important Resources from Arundel & Brighton Diocese

Our *Invited Mission* earlier this year brought people across the Diocese (and far beyond) together in faith, online. A second series of *Invited*, with online groups, will happen during Eastertide 2022. In the meantime our Formation Team have devised a series of five deep dive films, (<https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited>) conceived in response to feedback from *Invited Season One: Lent*. The first three films explore the themes of that season in greater depth.

**Film 1, God's Love As Revealed Through The Old Testament:** Rev. Dr Anthony Milner is a parish priest and former theology tutor at the Venerable English College in Rome. Fr Tony guides us through the Old Testament as he explores God's eternal love for us.

**Film 2, Theology Of Human Brokenness:** Dr Pia Matthews is a senior lecturer at St Mary's University in Twickenham, and was appointed an expert to the XIV Ordinary General Assembly Synod of Bishops in 2015. Pia explores how, in a Christian context, human brokenness is always spoken of in the same breath as hope.

**Film 3, Salvation – How Jesus Saves Us Through His Cross:** Fr Stephen Dingley is a parish priest and former Professor of Theology at St John's Seminary in Wonersh. Fr Stephen explores different theories of salvation, helping us to understand more fully what Jesus has done for us.

**Film 4, Prayer:** Rt Rev. Dom Fr Stephen Ortiger OSB is a monk of Worth Abbey, Episcopal Vicar for Religious in the Diocese, and a parish priest. Film 4 sees Fr Stephen gently instruct and encourage us in how to establish a routine of prayer in our lives of faith.

**Film 5, Scripture:** Fleur Dorrell is Catholic Scripture Engagement Manager for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and Bible Society. She's the national co-ordinator of the 'God who Speaks Campaign', a writer and an applied theologian. Fleur explores how we can develop a way of accessing scripture, and grow in love for the Word of God.

Note also the following, which can be downloaded from <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/news>

- **Refugee Crisis Newsletter 2021**
- **Fighting Modern Newsletter November 2021**
- **Climate Change Leaflet from the Environment Group**

### Kanji Project

<https://thekanjiproject.org.uk/>

The Autumn 2021 edition of the Newsletter is now available. Please send me (Patrick) a request and I will send the file by email.

patrickgbond@yahoo.co.uk

Telephone 07425-011341



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

1. Working in Hollywood does give one a certain expertise in the field of prostitution. 2. I like to have exciting evenings on holiday, because after you've spent 8 hours reading on the beach you don't feel like turning in early with a good book. 3. There's sand in the porridge and sand in the bed, And if this is pleasure we'd rather be dead. 4. History started badly and has been getting steadily worse. 5. Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe.

*“O God, we ponder your love within your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth. With justice your right hand is filled. Mount Sion rejoices.” Psalm 48*

*"He loves us, and has washed away our sins with his blood"*

Revelations 1:5

Beech leaves appear in layers like embers in swirls, a russet glow of orange remembering yellow, ochre, gold; the colours are dynamic and restless on the tree.

Ash leaves are vertically scattered on the trees, or arranged, they have a pallor today, green leached out, hints of grey and yellow, a drapery on skeletal raised branches.

Hawthorn bushes show a burst of pale greens and burnished yellows in spots and spurts, black branches snaking through a tingling cascade of colour.

Sycamore looks half-bereft, the bare twigs festooned with pasted crumples of wet cardboard brown against the sky, each branch dangling empty leaflet stems like wisps of hair.

Field maple, high up on the railway embankment, lifts a cloud of orange-yellows like a rocket star-burst on Bonfire night, puffed out around a heart of emerald green.

Hazel hunkers down, its hairy, large leaves all curling over as if soaking wet, some in milky green but others in custard yellow dolloped across the compact globe of the bush.

Apple tree stands thickly covered, showing a dark summer green even now but everywhere studded with yellow-blonde leaves hanging, poised to drop in the stillest air, silently.

Buddleia with its defiant star-openings of slender silver-grey leaflets grows back in dense in-fills wherever it can find a gap and light in the surrounding bushes.

Cherry tree is a mass of buds on bare branches, but the few remaining leaves cluster at the outermost ends, each leaf a spectrum dangling down, pillar-box red shading to wine through hot yellow and pooling to pale green at the earth-facing tips.

Privet, grown too tall, shows a scrambled dish or mess of greens, greys and yellows with a black-pepper sprinkle of small dark berry clusters.



Finally, the street-side Silver Birch lifts slender stems all loaded with a bright, translucent yellow gauze or film of light, shining in the November gloom, a beacon lit, a lighthouse of colour.



**Most exalted Trinity, divinity  
above all knowledge, whose  
goodness passes  
understanding, who guides  
Christians to divine wisdom;  
direct our way to the summit  
of your mystical oracles, most  
incomprehensible, most lucid  
and most exalted, where the  
simple and pure and  
unchangeable mysteries of  
theology are revealed in the  
darkness, clearer than light;  
a darkness that shines brighter  
than light, that invisibly and  
intangibly illuminates with  
splendours of inconceivable  
beauty the soul that sees not.  
Let this be my prayer.  
Dionysius the pseudo-  
Areopagite c. 500**

## Trivia answers (from p.7)

1. **Jane Fonda** (1937-) J R Colombo *Wit & Wisdom of the Moviemakers*, 1979.
2. **Arthur Smith** (1954-) *The Live Bed Show* 1995.
3. **Noel Coward** (1899-1973) *'The English Lido'* 1928.
4. **Geoffrey Willans** (1911-58) & **Ronald Searle** (1920-2011) *Down With Skool!* 1953.
5. **H.G.Wells** (1866-1946) *Outline of History* 1920.

**"All of this was made by my hand, and all of this is mine — it is the Lord who speaks." Isaiah 66: 1-2**