

OUR LADY OF LOURDES, ROTTINGDEAN and ST. PATRICK'S, WOODINGDEAN

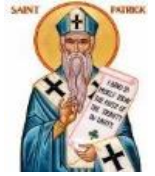


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Priest: Mgr. Benny O'Shea 07884 171710

Deacons: Rev. Neil Mercer 07801 706167 and Rev. Bernard Hill 07505460888

Also resident in the Parish:- Canon Oliver Heaney and Canon Daithi Foley

The Parish is part of the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 252878

Please continue to observe the rules/regulations/advice from Government and Bishops' Conference

Live Streaming of Masses continues from Our Lady of Lourdes Church

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc4VXBr3EOa43nCxxzB-Edw>

Service & Intentions

THE WORD WHO IS LIFE

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| SUNDAY 19th Dec.  4th Sunday of Advent | 6.30pm (Sat) OLOL 9.00am St. Patrick's 10.30am OLOL | ** Vigil Mass ** Mass ** Mass | Frank & Catherine Kanik, Jan and Stanislav People of the Parish Welfare of Mevel, Trisha and Jasmine |
| Monday 20 December | 9.30am Convent 11.30am | Mass ** FUNERAL MASS (St. Patrick's) | Garrett Turner R.I.P. (A) Ann Claridge R.I.P. |
| Tuesday 21 Dec | 8.30-9.25am 9.30am 10.00am-10.30am | Adoration Mass Time of Adoration/Private Prayer | Welfare of Adriana Rocha Faria |
| Wednesday 22 Dec | 8.30-9.25am 7.30pm | Adoration ADVENT EVENING MASS | Pat Whelan R.I.P (A) |
| Thursday 23 Dec | 8.30-9.25am 9.30am | Adoration | Lauren White R.I.P. (R) |
| FRIDAY 24 Dec CHRISTMAS EVE  | ** 5.00pm ** 7.00pm ** 10.00pm ** 10.30pm | Vigil Mass of Christmas with Blessing of Crib (Children are invited to dress as one of the Nativity characters) Mass Carols followed by First Mass of Christmas | For the Sick and Housebound Celebrant's Intention People of the Parish |
| SATURDAY NATIVITY OF THE LORD <i>Gloria in Excelsis Deo</i> | ** 8.30am ** 9.00am ** 10.30am | Carols followed by Mass (St. Patrick's) Sung Mass of Christmas | Community at St. Patrick's Community at Our Lady of Lourdes |
| Sunday 26 th December  THE HOLY FAMILY | 9.00am St. Patrick's 10.30am OLOL | ** Mass ** Mass | Celebrant's Intention Deceased Priests of the Diocese |



CRIB COLLECTION All offerings this year are given in aid of the Catholic Children's Society Crisis Fund to provide one-off emergency grants to support children and their families

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE - Our Lady of Lourdes - Sunday 19th December - 5.00pm
 (followed by mince pies and mulled wine)



Each person has a unique calling.

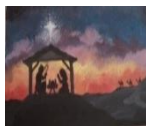
On Christmas Eve we shall be placing the child Jesus in the manger of our Christmas cribs. The figure of that tiny baby reminds us that God has not only blessed us by creating us but also chose to become one with us. God can work through human lives and make them extraordinary. Mary and Elizabeth had faith to believe God's promises, they were prepared to trust God's word. The Visitation is more than a nice story. It's an invitation to deepen our faith and trust in God's love. It is a call to recognise the presence of Christ in the people we meet and to allow Christ to shine through our often fragile human lives. Mary and Elizabeth were unique in what God asked of them. We too have a unique calling. As someone once said, *we are all meant to be mothers of God, because Jesus needs to be continually born in our lives.* Peter Edwards

YOUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING is your personal gift to the priest. If you have not already got one, please take a Gift Aid Envelope as you leave the church this weekend and use it for your Christmas Offering if you are a tax payer. Thank you.

PLEASE PRAY for all our sick parishioners who are in nursing homes or housebound - especially for Alison Stainthorpe, Sami Ghazal, Sophie Reilly, Ann Chapman, John Heal, Sandra Waugh, Eileen Cross, Eileen Noakes, Veronica Westbury, Colin Allen, Cherie Pay, Anne Gisele Cesar, Maureen Garson, Jane Purdham, Geraldine Lewis, Peter Hogan, Dorothy Benson, Teresa Ford, Peggy Cruickshank, Sr. Pauline, Arthur Silver, Michael Lee, Sr. Angela, Rosemary Gill, Asahi Religa, Huguette Vincent, Jean Thomas and Elizabeth and David Difford. Please let Fr. Benny OR the Parish Office know if you would like a name added.



The Breakfast Club will be closed during the Christmas period and will re-open on Thursday 6th January 2022. Thank you for your support.



CHRISTMAS CARD Instead of sending cards to your parish friends, you may like to use this card, designed by an artistic parishioner, and use the money saved to benefit a charity of your choice. Please add your name & message to the Christmas Card which is on display in the porch.

Advent Reflection on Wednesdays at St Patrick's Church, Broad Green, Woodingdea Next one on **Wednesday 22 Dec** at 9.15am. All are welcome, coffee afterwards [Contact tracy.stickland@gmail.com](mailto:tracy.stickland@gmail.com)

St Anne's Day Centre This is your last chance to give single wrapped presents to the homeless. Your donations will be collected from the church porch this weekend. Thank you. Patrick Elliott



Facebook We have a Facebook page with 127 members. If you want to join us just search for "Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Rottingdean" on Facebook and we will let you in. If you are already a member, why not invite your friends to join too.



Whitehawk Foodbank Many thanks for generous cash and food donations received. During these last few days before Christmas they would be grateful for items such as biscuits/chocolate boxes. Desserts, tinned fruit, chocolate selections and cakes. Pet treats, food & treats, for our four-legged friends. All donations are collected from the Parish porch or cash donations to Maureen Buni.



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES Bishop Richard will be at Arundel Cathedral on Christmas Eve to celebrate Mass at 11.30pm with Carols from 11pm. Booking is essential for all Christmas Masses at Arundel at www.arundelcathedral.uk or call the parish office on Tel. 01903 882297.

PLEASE BE AWARE Due to the to the current situation with the Omicron variant it is important to ensure the points below are followed in our churches:

- 1. It will now be compulsory for those who attend mass to wear a face covering (both nose and mouth)**
- 2. People displaying any symptoms of Covid-19 should stay at home and not travel to church or participate in person.**
- 3. Hand sanitiser must be used when entering the church.**
- 4. At Holy Communion – please wait for the steward to guide you.**

It is very important that those who are medically exempt from wearing masks, feel welcome in our community celebrations. Thank you for your understanding.

Guidance for Churches – December 2021

Following the statement by the Prime Minister on Wednesday 9th December, there has been a Government directive that further restrictions to mitigate against viral transmission, especially in the light of the new Omicron variant, will be imposed.

Summarising the Government directives:

- From Friday 10 December, **face coverings** will be required by law in most indoor settings.
- From Monday 13 December office workers who can work from home should do so.
- From Wednesday 15 December, certain venues and events will be required by law to check that all visitors aged 18 years or over are fully vaccinated, have proof of a negative test in the last 48 hours, or have an exemption.

The requirements for NHS Covid passes will not apply to places of worship and the acts of worship associated with them. However, any social gatherings linked to events in churches will need to comply with new requirements but **only when 500 or more people are involved**.

Face Coverings

HM Government has made the wearing of face covering mandatory in Places of Worship from Friday 10th December 2021 (see here). However, there will be exemptions for those leading worship, public proclamation of scriptural readings or prayers, and those who are unable to wear face coverings and are exempt (the guidance for this can be found on the same page as above).

Singing

HM Government guidance states that “There is a reasonable excuse for someone to remove a face covering when it is reasonably necessary for them to sing, for example, if they are singing as part of a choir, or during a service, rehearsal or for a performance.”

The current Church guidance states that congregational singing should take place with face coverings in place and choirs and soloists may sing without such coverings.

As the Church moves towards Christmas celebrations which often involves carol services and other singing events, it is strongly recommended that congregational singing within church buildings continues with the applied face coverings.

Practical Guidance for Churches

With respect to the current situation with the Omicron variant it is important to ensure the following points are followed in our churches:

- That people displaying any symptoms of Covid-19 should stay at home and not travel to church or participate in person.
- That hand sanitiser is available to those attending the Church.
- Face coverings must be worn by those attending public acts of worship unless there is a genuine exemption or the person is leading worship or participating in a role that requires the mask to be removed for a period of time.
- That there is good ventilation and air throughput in the building; in this case, because of climatic conditions, it would be important to remind people to wrap up well in church.
- There is now very strong evidence to support that the main mode of this variant's viral transmission is through aerosols, and that the risk from surface and touch transmission is very small indeed. As such, the strict regimes of church cleaning that were recommended at the beginning of the opening of churches for public worship are no longer necessary. General church cleaning is sufficient.
- That people who are engaged in a form of pastoral ministry which involves ministry to the housebound, sick and vulnerable, should take regular lateral flow tests to ensure they are safe to do so. These are free from the NHS.

CAFOD Emergency Afghanistan Crisis Appeal

CAFOD has joined forces with DEC, the Disasters Emergency Committee and launched the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal on Wednesday 15th December, to provide help to people in Afghanistan.

As winter approaches, the people of Afghanistan face extreme hunger and poverty. They are in urgent need of food, water and shelter. The humanitarian situation has deteriorated since mid-August when the Taliban took over the capital Kabul and took control of Afghanistan. Afghan families are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance: food, water and shelter.

Over half the country's population – around 22.8 million people – are facing acute hunger this winter, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) has warned. More than eight million people are on the brink of famine, with a million children under the age of five at risk of dying over the next three months.

The situation in Afghanistan is highly complex with decades of conflict that have taken a terrible toll on Afghan people, resulting in deaths, injuries and pushing families further into poverty. Drought and coronavirus have added even greater problems for vulnerable families struggling with hunger and healthcare. We will come together to keep the people of Afghanistan in our prayers.

The DEC, Disasters Emergency Committee, is a membership of 15 charities which work to provide aid to communities overseas when a crisis hits and CAFOD is one of these members. By working together and with broadcasters, we can raise awareness of disasters that put people's lives at risk and quickly raise significant funds to help those in need.

[Donate now - DETAILS ON-LINE - Afghansistan Crisis Appeal CAFOD](#)

On its own, the appeal will not solve the hunger crisis in Afghanistan, but it can help to relieve the extreme suffering of many more people who are in desperate need.

CAFOD fully intend to continue working with their local partners in the long term and are now preparing to provide food packages and cash assistance to vulnerable families. They are also working with communities to help them improve the productivity of their farming and generate greater household income which will contribute to finding longer term solutions to the crisis. We work with trusted partners who are close to the communities they serve and are therefore able to ensure your donation securely reaches those who need it most.

Our local humanitarian experts are continuing to do rapid assessments ensuring that the most vulnerable families are reached. They have already started providing short-term cash assistance to more than 8,000 small-scale farming families - approximately 56,000 people - in over 50 of the most drought-affected villages in the country to allow them to **buy basic food for their families and plant their crops for next season.**

Donations to CAFOD's Afghanistan Appeal are enabling them to expand to support even more vulnerable families- [SEE DETAILS ON-LINE - Afghanistan Crisis Appeal CAFOD](#)

Pope Francis has expressed his "unanimous concern for the situation in Afghanistan". He called for prayers "so that the clamour of weapons may cease, and solutions may be found at the negotiating table".

The leader of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, has called on the UK government to allow more refugees to come to the UK in light of the situation in Afghanistan.

[Ask your MP to support refugees fleeing Afghanistan](#)

In a joint letter to the Guardian newspaper on 26 August, Bishop Paul McAleenan, lead bishop for migrants and refugees of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, urged the British government "to go further in helping at-risk Afghans, human rights defenders and women activists, and create safe passages so that people can find sanctuary without resorting to dangerous journeys."

How can I help?

[Donate to our DEC Afghanistan Crisis Appeal](#)

[Email your MP](#)

[Pray with us](#)