

20th December 2020
Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year B)

St Richard of Chichester
St Peter's East Wittering
Our Lady of the Assumption,

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All latest info
www.strichardschichester.co.uk

Online Masses
[youtube.com/c/StRichardsChichester](https://www.youtube.com/c/StRichardsChichester)

Regular news and insight:
<http://www.facebook.com/strichards.parish>
<https://www.instagram.com/st.richard.church.chichester>

Urgent safeguarding issues: 01273859708
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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

Our preparation for the imminent celebration of Christmas coincides with the announcement by Pope Francis of The Year of St Joseph in the Church. We have had the prophet Isaiah, St. John the Baptist, Elizabeth and most of all Our Lady, highlighted as the closest and the most inspiring companions for Advent, but St Joseph used to remain somewhere in the shadows. In his announcement of the Year of St. Joseph, Pope Francis released a letter, "*Patris corde*" ("With a father's heart"), explaining that he wanted to share some "personal reflections" on the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

"My desire to do so increased during these months of pandemic," he said, noting that many people had made hidden sacrifices during the crisis in order to protect others.

"Each of us can discover in Joseph -- the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence -- an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble," he wrote.

"St. Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation."

There are several aspects of St Joseph's role and calling which could be accentuated and so enrich our faith experience during Christmas and the coming months.

"For St. Joseph, life with Jesus was a continuous discovery of his own vocation as a father," wrote St. John Paul II in his 2004 book "Rise, Let Us Be On Our Way."

He continued: "Jesus Himself, as a man, experienced the fatherhood of God through his father-son relationship with St. Joseph. This filial encounter with St. Joseph then fed into Our Lord's revelation of the paternal name of God. What a profound mystery!"

The institution of the memorial of St Joseph originated in the XIX century, a period during which the working class was exploited. It was St Joseph's social profile that prompted the popes to set him as an example for the underprivileged and hard-working labourers and protected them from the false promises of "seditious men" promoting communism. "He belongs to the working-class, and he bore the burdens of poverty for himself and the Holy Family, whose tender and vigilant head he was. To him was entrusted the Divine Child when Herod loosed his assassins against Him," Pope XI wrote in 1937. "He won for himself the title of 'The Just,' serving thus as a living model of that Christian justice which should reign in social life.

"This third millennium has been providentially reserved for St. Joseph," one Catholic commentator said. "The first was Christocentric via the Councils, the second was Marian-focused on her devotions, apparitions and dogmas. That means that the third person of the Earthly Trinity, St. Joseph, would naturally follow."

As St. Teresa of Ávila said, "To other saints it seems that God has granted them to help us in this or that need, while I have experienced that the glorious St. Joseph extends his patronage on all."

This year St. Joseph wants us to believe that and act upon that belief.

Fr Sebastian

Second Collection for Christmas Flowers

We will be holding a second collection this weekend for the Christmas flower decorations at each of our Churches. You can pay by cheque (made payable to St Richard's Church, or St Peter's Church), bank transfers too using the details below with the reference: FLOWERS.

Your offering to Fr Tom and Fr Sebastian

Your donation made at the Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day is your own donation to the priests for their personal use throughout the year. Your offering can also be made by cheque (made payable to St Richard's Church, please write on the envelope or the back of the cheque that it is for our priests) or by bank transfer ref: FR T & FR S
Many thanks.

Misc

- Next weekend there will be a newsletter to cover 3 weekends.
- The Parish Office will be closed from 25/12 until 11/1/21.
- When contacting the parish office please make sure you are using the current email address chichester@abdiocese.org.uk. (messages using the old email address are not getting through.)

Christmas Crib Collection

The Christmas Crib Collection will be for the Catholic Children's Society Crisis Fund, which has provided emergency food and essentials as well as mental health services for over 5000 children and their parents and carers since March. Every penny donated will be given out via CSS's Arundel & Brighton Crisis Fund to support local families in need. Due to covid a special page has been set up at www.cathchild.org.uk/crib where you can make a donation.

Our Parish Offertory

Thankfully our churches are now open for those able to attend Mass. We are very grateful to all who have responded generously through standing orders, bank transfers and other donations to support the offertory while unable to donate using their gift aid envelopes or the collection plate. For parishioners who normally donate this way, and are not yet able to do so, we are offering several options to continue regular giving:

1. Set up a standing order online
2. Make a single payment by online banking or by cheque
3. Make a donation through the Diocese JustGiving page

The details for our bank accounts and JustGiving are shown below.

Thank you very much for your continued support of our parish.

St Richard's, Chichester & Our Lady, Bosham	St Peter's, East Wittering
Via credit / debit card https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ChichesterwiththeWitterings	Via credit / debit card https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ChichesterwiththeWitterings
Via bank transfer Name: RCD A&B St Richard of Chichester Sort Code: 40-05-20 Account No: 41076582 Reference: surname and offertory	Via bank transfer Name: RCD A&B St Peter's Wittering Sort Code: 40-05-20 Account No: 71077716 Reference: surname and offertory
Cheques to: 'St Richard's Chichester' Parish office, St Richard's Church	Cheques to : 'St Peter's RC Church' Sent to: 103 Stocks Lane, East Wittering PO20 8NU

Parish Community Fund Christmas Appeal

Many families within our extended Parish Community have recently suffered financial hardship. Thanks to your generosity we have been able to offer some support to approximately 20 of the most needy families. All the requests for help have come from our Catholic schools. Christmas this year is likely to be a very difficult time for many and we aim to reach out with help in the form of hampers or food vouchers. These will go to families who find themselves unable to fulfil their most basic needs. We received a thank you from a recent recipient:

Thank you very, very much. Without the additional support St Richard's Parish are offering, I don't know how I would have managed to feed my family during the last couple of months.

If you are able to support this appeal please donate via bank transfer or cheque.

Via Bank Transfer: Name: RCD A&B St Richard of Chichester
Sort Code: 40-05-20, Account No: 41076582 ref PCF
Please add your name if your donation is eligible for Gift Aid.
Please make cheques payable to 'St Richards Chichester'

Act now and ask your MP to oppose introducing assisted suicide

The assisted suicide lobby have launched a large campaign to put pressure on the Government to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide. It is vital that it is clear to the Government that the public want them to continue to resist this pressure from assisted suicide campaigners and reject their demands.

Right To Life UK have set up an easy to use tool which will enable you to email your MP asking them to make it clear to the Government that it should not give into demands from the assisted suicide lobby to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide. It only takes 30 seconds to email your MP by visiting the link below:

<https://righttolife.org.uk/StopAssistedSuicide>

Bosham Meeting Point Christmas Vigil

Although we are unable to invite you to our usual Ecumenical Carol Service this year, we would like to invite you to a 'Zoom Christmas Vigil', at **4pm on Sunday 20th December**. Join us for a service of readings, reflections and carols led by Holy Trinity. Use the link below with the Meeting ID and password to access the service, which will give us a sense of community and fellowship.

<https://zoom.us/j/96877500177?pwd=Rk1TVmtPRUM4S2hxeDRoZ3NXZyZVZz09>
Meeting ID 968 7750 0177
Passcode Xmas Vigil

Sunday 20th December - Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me

Responsorial Psalm 88

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord

Second reading Romans 16:25-27

The mystery is revealed that was kept secret for endless ages.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

I am the handmaid of the Lord.

Masses for Christmas

Thank you to all those who have booked their Mass for Christmas. All masses are now full, so, please do let us know if you have a space but can't now make it.

You should have had your place confirmed and rotas have been sent out.

There are masses throughout the week after Christmas no booking required

Christmas Eve

5.30pm - Mass at Our Lady FULL

6.00pm - Mass at St Richard's FULL

8.00pm - Mass at St Peter's FULL

9.00pm - Mass at St Richard's FULL

Christmas Day

8.30am - Mass at St Richard's FULL

9.00am - Mass at St Peter's FULL

10.00am - Mass at St Richard's FULL

11.00am - Mass at Our Lady FULL



Children's Liturgy for this weekend

[Worksheets and colouring can be downloaded from our website, and you can find a video for you to go through with your children.](#)

Or it can be found at:

www.strichardschichester.co.uk/social-children-families

In your charity, please remember to pray for the following and their grieving families:

Nicholas Hall RIP, whose funeral will be held at St Peter's on Monday 21st December.

William 'Billy' Walker RIP, whose funeral will be held at Our Lady of the Assumption on Tuesday 22nd December.

Rani Beardmore-Gray RIP. Her funeral will be held at St Richard's on Wednesday 23rd December.

Please pray for our sick parishioners:

Susan Line, Sheila Brown, Paula Barrett, Ellie Butler, Jan Thorpe, Frank O'Donnell, Jo Scholes, Dennis Chiles, Kay Howlett, Peter Robson, Rene Coutts, Michael O'Neil, Patrick Hill, Rita & Eddie Rooke, Jenny Edwards, Walter Hoppe, Christopher Emerson, Peter Habgood, Agnes Martin, Majella Taylor, David White, Nicola and Anthony Nageon De Lestang, Gerald McGregor, Jill Serna, Robin Bowker, Helena Denis, Tony Whiting, Irene Ray-Crosby

Please let the office know of any changes to be made

Just to remind you

There is no need to book in advance for mid-week masses, or the 6pm Saturday Vigil Mass at St Richard's, or the 8.30am Sunday Mass at St Richard's. Please still book in advance for the: 9am St Peter's, 10am St Richard's and 11am Our Lady Sunday morning masses.

We are very pleased to be able to worship together once again

At St Richard's there are just a few changes we would like you to note:

When you arrive at church if you can then please use the track and trace app on your smartphone, if not, then we need to ask you to give your name and phone number to the stewards, each time you attend.



Obviously, we are unable to hand around the collection baskets during Mass, so we need to collect your weekly donation some other way. Your Church needs your donation. The collection baskets and new card machine will be in the porch as you enter.



Please could you fill up the benches in the main body of the church first before sitting in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, which we would like to keep as an overflow.

Masses and Mass Intentions this week

	Time	Church	Public	online	Mass intention
Saturday 19th Dec	8am	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	
	6pm	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	Birthday Blessings for Sheila Brown (Jean French)
Sunday 20th Dec Fourth Sunday of Advent	8.30am	St Richard's	Yes	No	Hay, Watson and Neil Families RIP (Kate Jackson)
	9am	St Peter's	Yes	No	Hannah O'Sullivan RIP (Daphne & Joe)
	10am	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	Eileen Robson RIP (Clare Apel)
	11am	Our Lady	Yes	No	Joan le Morvan RIP (M&B Southward)
Mon 21st Dec	8am	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	Holy Souls in Purgatory
	12 noon	St Richard's	Yes	No	Blessings on David Owgan on his Birthday
	1.30pm	St Peter's	No	No	Funeral of Nicholas Hall RIP
Tues 22nd Dec	8am	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	Anne O'Connor RIP
	9.25-10am	Our Lady	Adoration and confessions		
	10am	Our Lady	Yes	No	Funeral of William 'Billy' Walker RIP
Wed 23rd Dec	8am	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	
	8am-11am 2pm-7pm	St Richard's	Adoration		
	9-12 noon	St Peter's	Adoration		
	12 noon	St Richard's	no	no	Funeral of Rani Beardmore-Gray RIP
	6-6.45pm	St Richard's	Confessions		
	7pm	St Richard's	Yes	no	
Thurs 24th Dec Christmas Eve	8am	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	
	5.30pm	Our Lady	Yes	No	
	6pm	St Richard's	Yes	No	People of the Parish
	8pm	St Peter's	Yes	No	Priest's Intention
	9pm	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	Gerry and Martin Farrell RIP, Beryl Cooper RIP (Farrell Family)
Friday 25th Dec Christmas Day	8.30am	St Richard's	Yes	No	Deceased members of the Eisinger family (Clare Apel)
	9am	St Peter's	Yes	No	Priest's Intention
	10am	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	Anurika Fernando RIP (Anushka and Family)
	11am	Our Lady	Yes	No	Blessings on the marriage of Matthew Furnell and Amy Lou (Furnell Family)
Saturday 26th Dec St Stephen	10am	St Richard's	Yes	No	
	12 noon	St Richard's	Yes	No	Polish Mass
	6pm	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	Birthday Blessings for Sheila Brown (Jean French)
Sunday 27th Dec The Holy Family	8.30am	St Richard's	Yes	No	Intentions of Carmel Dunne
	9am	St Peter's	Yes	No	Nick Hall RIP (Gill and Geoff Breeze)
	10am	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	People of the Parish
	11am	Our Lady	Yes	No	Mrs Pat Griffin RIP

Can you spare a few hours a month on a Monday morning to help count the offertory collection? If so, we would be very grateful if you could volunteer your services. Please contact the parish office on chichester@abdiocese.org.uk to learn more.

Private Prayer

At St Richard's the Blessed Sacrament Chapel will be open each day during the week from 8.30am—4pm for private prayer. You are very welcome to come in. At St Peter's, the church will be open on Monday from 10-11am for private prayer, and Adoration on Wednesday from 9-12noon.