

## Church Christmas Newsletter

For the weekends:

27th December 2020 - Holy Family

3rd January 2021 - 2nd Sunday Christmas

10th January 2021 - Baptism of the Lord



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

Parish Priest: 01243 782343 ext4

**Canon Tom Treherne**

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Deacon:

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#### **St Richard's Church**

The Presbytery, Cawley Road,  
Chichester, PO19 1XB

#### **Our Lady of the Assumption**

Fairfield Road, Bosham, PO18 8JH

#### **St Peter's Church**

13 Church Road, East Wittering,

PO20 8PS

stpeterswittering@gmail.com

#### **All latest info**

[www.strichardschichester.co.uk](http://www.strichardschichester.co.uk)

#### **Online Masses**

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

#### **Regular news and insight:**

<http://www.facebook.com/strichards.parish>

[https://instagram.com/](https://instagram.com/st.richard.church.chichester)

[st.richard.church.chichester](https://st.richard.church.chichester)

**Urgent safeguarding issues:** 01273859708

[angela.mcgrory@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:angela.mcgrory@abdiocese.org.uk)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
One of the most enduring, and often endearing, memories of school nativity plays is the role of the innkeeper. Often the character must bide his time during the opening scenes, unless he subs as a donkey, tree or star, and then, when his time finally draws near, he may have a line or two, generally something like, 'Round the back!!' Then the actor may fade into the scenery, with nothing left to contribute.

I would suggest that the innkeeper is one of the characters of the nativity with which we might identify. The sombre truth of Christmas is that Jesus was born in impoverished conditions 'because there was no room in the inn.' Actually, the fact is, we gave and continue to give him no room. We open our doors just a crack and fail to recognise him.

Even though we try to prepare every Advent, the reality may be that we are never really ready for Christmas. But, fortunately, God is always being born anew into our lives. In the deepest, darkest, corners of our worlds - in our stable places - God is determined to be born again and again.

This year then, in a year that will be different in so many ways, we might take time to consider how we act the innkeeper's role: do we invite Jesus into our lives and welcome him as a constant guest, or do we send him around the back of our consciousness, only to be recalled on Sundays or when we feel a bit guilty?

Jesus' coming at Christmas is the most amazing gift humanity has ever been offered, what a privilege it is to receive this free and undeserved gift. The reality is that many people in the world have never heard of this gift or even realise that it is for them. This year may we resolve to enable others to open this precious gift of a relationship with Jesus Christ and share the Good News with all.

With prayers and best wishes for Christmas,

Deacon Jon.

#### **Please pray for our sick parishioners:**

John and Mary Eveleigh, 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*

### 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. 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.

### 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](http://www.cathchild.org.uk/crib) where you can make a donation.

### Our Parish Offertory

Thankfully our churches have not been affected by tier 4 restrictions, and can remain open. Long may this last. 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 4) The details for our bank accounts and JustGiving are shown below. Thank you very much for your continued support.

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

### Altar Servers: St Richard's, Our Lady and St Peter's

Fr Sebastian and Fr Tom would like to take this opportunity to thank our altar servers from each of our churches. It has been a difficult year in so many ways, and we have not been able to meet together as much as we would have liked, or to be able to ask you to serve at Mass as we would have liked (live streaming, restricted numbers at Mass, and social distancing have made this all quite difficult).

We hope to be able to get back to our normal rotas as soon as is safe in the New Year. We would like to invite you to celebrate the patronal feast day of St Stephen on 26<sup>th</sup> December at 10am at St Richard's church. You can come along and serve or watch us on the parish YouTube channel. If you cannot make it, there will be a small gift for you ready for collection from the office. We would like to wish you a merry Christmas and the abundance of God's blessings. May He whom we serve guide and protect you in this coming year.

### Info session with Bishop Richard

Bishop Richard will be holding an info session at each of our churches about changes to the structure of our parishes moving forward. If we are not in lockdown then these will take place on:  
Thursday 14th Jan in St Richard's at 7pm  
Friday 15th Jan in Our Lady at 7pm  
Monday 18th Jan at St Peter's 7pm  
Social distancing rules will be observed.

### 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.

### Parish Community Fund Christmas Appeal

Many families within our extended Parish Community continue to suffer 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.

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'

The parish office will be closed from 25/12/20 until Monday 11/1/21.

	Time	Church	Public	online	Mass intention
<b>Thurs 24th Dec Christmas Eve</b>	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)
<b>Friday 25th Dec Christmas Day</b>	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)
<b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> Dec St Stephen</b>	10am	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	For the people of Royston (Slawek)
	12 noon	St Richard's	Yes	No	Polish Mass
	6pm	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	In Thanksgiving (M. Dembinski)
<b>Sunday 27th Dec The Holy Family</b>	8.30am	St Richard's	Yes	No	Intentions of Carmel Dunne (E.Tracey)
	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
<b>Monday 28th Dec The Holy Innocents</b>	8am	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	
	12noon	St Richard's	Yes	No	
<b>Tuesday 29th Dec St Thomas Becket</b>	8am	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	
	10am	Our Lady	Yes	Yes	
<b>Wed 30th Dec</b>	8am	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	Intentions of Margaret and Tom Dempsey
	8-7pm	St Richard's	Yes	No	All day Adoration
	7pm	St Richard's	Yes	No	
<b>Thurs 31<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>	8am	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	
	12noon	St Richard's	Yes	No	Mona Culliton RIP (Mary Noble)
<b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Jan Mary Mother of God</b>	10am	St Peter's	Yes	No	Ann-Marie Mclean RIP (M. McNearney)
	12noon	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	Anurika Fernando RIP (Anushka and Family)
<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan</b>	8am	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	
	6pm	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas</b>	8.30am	St Richard's	Yes	No	Kathleen and Thomas Richardson RIP (Pat's intention)
	9am	St Peter's	Yes	No	Frank and Barbara Gallagher RIP (S.Connick)
	10am	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	
	11am	Our Lady	Yes	No	Brendan Walls RIP (Walls Family)

### Christmas Greetings from our Clergy .....

Well, Christmas has finally arrived, and what a year it has been! Rather than attempt to thank all the different groups which deserve our thanks, may we simply offer a broad 'thank you' to you ALL. In very challenging times you have tried to be faithful to the Lord and to care for his people. Thank you for your patience, your cheerfulness, your generosity and encouragement. In many ways the lockdown and social distancing seem to have brought us closer together as a community. This unexpected gift from the Pandemic we must build on in 2021.

Meanwhile, make sure you have a good rest, keep well and enjoy the festive season. And may that PEACE which Christ brought to our world by our Saviour's birth, enter your hearts and stay with you throughout the coming year.

God bless you

Fr Tom

	Time	Church	Public?	Online?	Mass intention
<b>Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	8am	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	Andrew Brearley-Smith RIP
	12 noon	St Richard's	Yes	No	
<b>Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	8am	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	Flo Neal RIP (Jan Edwards and Family)
	9.25-10am	Our Lady	Adoration and confessions		
	10am	Our Lady	Yes	No	
<b>Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Jan The Epiphany of the Lord</b>	8am	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	
	8am-7pm	St Richard's	All day Adoration		
	9-12noon	St Peter's	Adoration		
	10-11am	St Richard's	Confessions		
	6-6.45pm	St Richard's	Confessions		
	7pm	St Richard's	Yes	No	
<b>Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	8am	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	Souls of the unborn babies
	10am	St Peter's	No	No	
	12 noon	St Richard's	Yes	No	Deceased Friends and relatives of Kate and John Siebert
<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	8am	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	
	9.30	St Peter's	Confessions		
	10am	St Peter's	Yes	No	Pam and Michael Dunne RIP
<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	8am	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	
	6pm	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Jan The Baptism of the Lord</b>	8.30am	St Richard's	Yes	No	People of the Parish
	9am	St Peter's	Yes	No	Harold Breeze RIP (Gill and Geoff)
	10am	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	
	11am	Our Lady	Yes	No	Deceased members of the Hill Family (P.Hill)
<b>Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	8am	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	Souls of the unborn babies
	12 noon	St Richard's	Yes	No	
<b>Tues 12<sup>th</sup> Jan St Aelred of Rievaulx</b>	8am	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	
	9.25-10am	Our Lady	Adoration and confessions		
	10am	Our Lady	Yes	No	
<b>Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	8am	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	Ben Wong RIP on his birthday (E.Wong)
	8am-7pm	St Richard's	All day Adoration		
	9-12noon	St Peter's	Adoration		
	10-11am	St Richard's	Confessions		
	6-6.45pm	St Richard's	Confessions		
	7pm	St Richard's	Yes	No	Daphne Edwards RIP (Jan Edwards and Family)
<b>Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	8am	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	Janet Rosemary Theodore RIP (Madonna and Rachel)
	10am	St Peter's	No	No	
	12 noon	St Richard's	Yes	No	
<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	8am	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	Intentions of the Chitty Family
	9.30	St Peter's	Confessions		
	10am	St Peter's	Yes	No	Brian Lynch RIP (Pat Lynch)
<b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	8am	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	
	6pm	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	8.30am	St Richard's	Yes	No	
	9am	St Peter's	Yes	No	
	10am	St Richard's	Yes	Yes	People of the Parish
	11am	Our Lady	Yes	No	