

Parish of Our Lady and the Saints of Sussex

19th December 4th Sunday of Advent



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Office Opening hours

8-3.30pm Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri (8-12 Tues)

St Richard's of Chichester

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Chichester, PO19 1XB

Our Lady of the Assumption

Fairfield Road, Bosham, PO18 8JH

St Peter

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Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St Wilfrid

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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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During these few days before Christmas we are making sure that everything is prepared for the celebration. Buying the turkey and other ingredients for the Christmas dinner, shopping for gifts for the family and decorating our houses to reflect the joy of the festive season. We are not going to give you advice on those preparations but would like to share some tips that may help us to welcome the new-born Jesus into our hearts.

Let us adorn our hearts with the spiritual works of mercy: instructing the ignorant, counselling the doubtful, admonishing the sinner, bearing wrongs patiently, forgiving offenses willingly, comforting the afflicted, praying for the living and the dead. Let us give the infant Lord praise with the corporal works of mercy: feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, giving shelter to travellers, visiting the sick, visiting the imprisoned, and burying the dead. Above all, let us prepare for him a worthy place in our hearts through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. A humble and contrite heart (Ps 51:17) may be the gift that Jesus would appreciate most.

On Tuesday 21 December at 7pm at St Richard's church there will be an opportunity to let God's mercy remove any unnecessary worry that may hinder our Christmas celebration.

In this examination of conscience, we can reflect on how to make the way straight for the Lord who is to come.

I am the Lord your God: **you shall not have strange Gods before me.** Have I treated people, events, or things as more important than God? **You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.** Have my words, actively or passively, put down God, the Church, or people? **Remember to keep the Lord's Day holy.** Do I go to Mass every Sunday (or Saturday Vigil) and on Holy Days of Obligation (The Epiphany; the Ascension; St Peter and Paul, Aug. 15; Nov. 1; Dec. 25)? There is still a dispensation from this obligation due to the pandemic – so do I watch a streamed service instead? On Sundays, do I avoid, when possible, work that impedes the worship of God, the joy of the Lord's Day, and proper relaxation of mind and body? Do I look for ways to spend time with family or in service on Sunday? **Honour your father and your mother.** Do I show my parents due respect? Do I seek to maintain good communication with my parents where possible? Do I criticise them for lacking skills I think they should have? **You shall not kill.** Have I harmed another through physical, verbal, or emotional means, including gossip or manipulation of any kind? **You shall not commit adultery.** Have I respected the physical and sexual dignity of others and of myself? **You shall not steal.** Have I taken or wasted time or resources that belonged to another? **You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.** Have I gossiped, told lies, or embellished stories at the expense of another? **You shall not covet your neighbour's spouse.** Have I honoured my spouse with my full affection and exclusive love? **You shall not covet your neighbour's goods.** Am I content with my own means and needs, or do I compare myself to others unnecessarily?

Let us all confess our sins, receive absolution and God's blessing and then rejoice, because the Lord is nigh!

Fr Sebastian

Mass Times Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

Christmas Eve

Bosham	5pm	Angels and Shepherds Family Mass
Chichester	6pm	Christmas Eve Mass
Selsey	7pm	Christmas Night Mass
Witterings	8pm	Christmas Night Mass
Chichester	9pm	Christmas Night Mass*

Christmas Day

Chichester	8.30am	Christmas Dawn Mass
Witterings	9am	Christmas Day Mass
Chichester	10am	Christmas Day Mass*
Selsey	10am	Christmas Day Mass
Bosham	11am	Christmas Day Mass

*Masses streamed and available from:
[youtube.com/c/StRichardsChichester](https://www.youtube.com/c/StRichardsChichester)

Christmas Flowers Collection THIS WEEKEND

The second collection this weekend will be for the Christmas flowers in all our churches. Donations can be made after mass in the basket, online, or via the cashless machines at Bosham and Chichester. The clergy would like to take this opportunity to thank all the flower decorators who make our churches look so beautiful, particularly at Christmas. N.B Photos of all the Christmas flowers will be available on Facebook.

Advent Reconciliation Service

Our parish Advent reconciliation service will be held at St Richards at 7pm on Tuesday 21st December. 8 priests in total will be joining us for the sacrament of forgiveness.

Ministries over Christmas

If you are able to offer to serve at the Christmas Masses either as extraordinary minister, or welcomer, reader, sacristan or altar server please let the people who organise the rotas know. This will, obviously, differ in each church. At St Richard's there are a lot of gaps - please offer to help if you can. A sign up sheet is in the sacristy, or preferably if you can, let us know your availability online www.strichardschichester.co.uk/events

Also, as many of us travel at Christmas, if you find you are not able to exercise your ministry on Boxing Day please let the rota organisers know in advance (or even better find a replacement yourself!).

Clergy Donation

Your donation made on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day is your own donation to Fr Tom and Fr Sebastian and at Selsey to Fr Max. It makes up their personal income for the year.

You can give via bank transfer, and if so, can you make sure you use 'Clergy' as the reference. At Chichester and Bosham you can also give via the contactless terminals.

Your gift to the priests can be gift aided using your normal numbers either online or via your envelopes. Adding your surname to the bank transfer or on an envelope can also identify you as a gift aid donor.

Thank you to those who have already given.

Sunday 12th December

4th Sunday of Advent

First Reading Micah 5:1-4

He will stand and fee his flock with the power of the Lord
Resp Psalm 79

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Second reading Hebrews 10: 5-10

God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will

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

Gospel: Luke 1: 39-45

Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

Bidding prayers for the week

www.strichardschichester.co.uk/intercessions

Prayers with Taize Service

Sunday 30th January, 3pm at St Peter's, Wittering. Save the date! More after Christmas.

In the New Year, our parish will be introducing a new Sunday evening mass at 6.30pm at St Richards.

The 6pm Vigil Mass this Saturday evening at St Richard's (18th December) will be a special candlelit mass - you will be offered a candle to carry in as you enter church.

We pray for the repose of the soul of Dennis Chiles, parishioner at St Richard's. We pray too for Eileen and the children at this difficult time.

The funeral of Jean Darby will be held at St Richards on Friday 14th Jan at 11am.

Our Parish Offertory

We are very grateful to all who are able to donate through standing orders, bank transfers and to support the offertory. Restrictions still remain at masses on handing round the offertory baskets and for parishioners who normally donate this way, there are a number of options to continue regular giving:

1. Set up a standing order online
2. Make a single payment by online banking or by cheque

Donations viacheque:

Made payable to: St Richard's Chichester; St Peter's RC Church; Our Lady of Mount Carmel & St Wilfrid Selsey

Donations via bank transfer:

Reference: surname and offertory
Name: RCD A&B St Richard of Chichester
Sort Code: 40-05-20
Account No: 41076582
Name: RCD A&B St Peter's Wittering
Sort Code: 40-05-20
Account No: 71077716
Name: RCD A&B Our Lady of Mount Carmel & St Wilfrid, Selsey
Sort Code: 40-05-20
Account No: 41076590

Bosham Carol Service The Bosham Meeting Point Ecumenical Carol Service will be held at the Holy Trinity Church at 4pm this Sunday 19th December. A traditional carol service, everyone welcome. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the service.

Foodbank There are many collection points for the Foodbank both in the larger supermarkets and in the porch at Selsey Church. Please donate if you possibly can. Selsey Food Bank co-ordinators would be grateful to receive any small, 'Christmassy items', small jars of Coffee etc, and they thank you all very much for all your generous donations.

St Richards School Supplementary School Form Signing If you are applying for your child to attend St Richard's Primary School from September 2022 and you would like Fr Tom to testify that you attend Mass, please come along to the parish office on Thursday 6th January at 3.15. Don't forget to bring a photocopy of the baptism certificate with the form.

Due to staff holidays the parish office at St Richard's will be closed from 27th December until Jan 9th. This will mean there will be a 3 week newsletter to cover the 3 weekends 26 Dec / 2 Dec / 9 Dec. If you would like anything included in this newsletter please send it to: chichester@abdiocese.org.uk

The Table Top Sale at Our Lady, Bosham last Sunday raised over £550 for the work of Fr Joe in Kenya. Congratulations and thanks to Kay and team, and all who contributed.

First Holy Communion

Please apply now for the new First Holy Communion programme at **St Richards and Our Lady of the Assumption**. If your child is in Year 3 or above, has been baptised, then you can now apply for the new programme, with the First Holy Communion Mass in June 2022. There are paper forms at the back of the church or you can apply online at www.strichardschichester.co.uk/fhc-registration. There is an introductory meeting for parents in the parish room at St Richards Church on Monday 10th January at 7pm.

Heating at St Richard's As many of you will be aware, the heating system in the church at St Richards has failed. Our heating engineer has told us that we have no other option but to replace both boilers (serving both the church & parish rooms/presbytery) on safety grounds. In order to find the right solution to resolve our heating needs, we have engaged independent heating consultants. In advising, they will take into account heating sources both current and future and the impact on the structure of the church, which is a listed building. A feasibility report has been prepared by Chartered Service Engineers who recommend the replacement of both boilers with a single new boiler and a new roof top air handling unit. We have established a small team to advise on all aspects of the project, including a detailed breakdown of the costs. Clearly this work needs to be a priority. When further information and the estimated costs are available, we will need your support to help finance the new heating system. For the time being, in order to heat the church, we are using 2 powerful temporary heaters, which are running on diesel, the most economic option.

Now Accepting Contactless Donations

At St Richard's and Our Lady of the Assumption

You will find our new DIGITAL COLLECTION PLATE, contactless terminal in the church. Just use your contactless debit/credit card or smart phone/ device to make a donation.

Simply choose the amount you wish to donate and hold your card onto the reader.

Contactless donations are simple to administer, secure and convenient.



Please pray for our sick parishioners:

Adrian Stringer, Agnes Martin, Cyril Wass, David Mortby, David White, Eamonn Hackett, Frank O'Donnell, Gerald McGregor, Gerry Beurgoyne, Helena Denis, Jan Thorpe, Jenny Edwards, Jill Serna, Joanne Donoghue, John Lord, Kay Howlett, Magda Gallanti, Majella Taylor, Margaret Beazley, Mary Eveleigh, Max Foreshew, Nell Collins, Nell Hassett, Nicola and Anthony Nageon De Lestang, Nicola Coutts, Patrick Hill, Paul Carney, Peter Habgood, Peter Thorpe, Rene Coutts, Rita Rooke, Robin Bowker, Samantha Holloway, Susan Line, Tom Lott, Tony Crist, Tony Whiting, Valerie Davis-White, Walter Hoppe, *Please let the office know of any changes*

Masses and services				
Date	Church	Time	online	Mass Intention
Sat 18 Dec	Chichester	8am		Holy Souls in Purgatory
	Selsey	5pm		Jose and Georgina Rodrigues RIP
	Chichester	6pm	✓	Emmy Roblin RIP (David & Theresa Owgan)
Sun 19 Dec 4th Sunday of Advent	Chichester	8.30am		Oliver Lynch RIP
	Witterings	9am		Lucretia Breeze RIP (Gill & Geoff Breeze)
	Chichester	10am	✓	Pauline White RIP (Julia Janiec)
	Selsey	10am		The People of the Parish
	Bosham	11am		Brendan Walls RIP (Clare Walls)
Mon 20 Dec	Chichester	8am	✓	Dr Giuseppa Scaffidi RIP
	Selsey	10am		
	Chichester	12.15pm		Intentions of the Bullen Families (C&J Hutchings)
Tues 21 Dec	Chichester	8am	✓	Julia Outram Bull RIP
	Selsey	10am		
	Bosham	10am		
	Chichester	7pm	✓	ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE
Wed 22 Dec	Chichester	8am	✓	
	Selsey	10am		
	Chichester	7pm		
Thur 23 Dec	Chichester	8am	✓	
	Selsey	10am		
	Chichester	12.15pm		Jean Lynch RIP (Catherine Buttimer)
Fri 24 Dec Christmas Eve	Chichester	8am	✓	Trafficked and abused adults (C&J Hutchings)
	Bosham	5pm		Angels and Shepherds (Children's Mass)
	Chichester	6pm		Mass of Christmas Eve (Ron Abel RIP)
	Selsey	7pm		Mass of Christmas Night
	Witterings	8pm		Mass of Christmas Night (Steele Family (J&B Lock)
	Chichester	9pm	✓	Mass of Christmas Night
Sat 25 Dec Christmas Day The Nativity of the Lord	Chichester	8.30am		Mass of Christmas Dawn (Intentions of Carmel Dunne)
	Witterings	9am		Mass of Christmas Day (Tony Mornement RIP (J&B Lock)
	Chichester	10am	✓	Mass of Christmas Day (Dr Clement – George & Family)
	Selsey	10am		Mass of Christmas Day
	Bosham	11am		Mass of Christmas Day
Sun 26 Dec The Holy Family	Chichester	8.30am		Kathleen & Thomas Richardson RIP (Sue & Pat Pennicot)
	Witterings	9am		Lock Family (Jayne and Brian Lock)
	Chichester	10am	✓	Jean Darby RIP (Marion and Will Wiles)
	Selsey	10am		The People of the Parish
	Bosham	11am		Howard Wheal RIP (M&B Southward)
Please note that Mass times will change when Fr Maksym moves on from our Parish after Easter 2022.				

	Confessions	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Bosham	Tuesdays 9.25 – 10am	Tuesdays 9.25 – 10am
Chichester	Wednesdays 10-11am; 6-6.45pm & by appointment	Wednesdays 6-6.45pm
Selsey	20 minutes before Mass each day & Wed 10.30-11.30	Wednesdays 10.30-11.30am
Witterings	Fridays 9.25 – 10am	Wednesdays 9-12