



Picture courtesy of Pixabay

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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,

One of the most enduring, and often endearing, memories of school nativity plays is the character of the innkeeper. Often, they must bide their time during the opening scenes, unless they sub as a donkey, tree or star, and then, when their time finally draws near, they may have a line or two, 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.' In reality the fact is we gave him, 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 ready for Christmas. But fortunately, God is always being born anew into our lives. In the deepest, darkest, corners of our worlds - in our stables - God is determined to be born again and again. This year then, in a year that will be different in so many ways, we can 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 or desperate?

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.

A Reflection on our Troubled Times

Strange as it may seem, one of the fruits of Covid 19 and the lockdown has been for me, and hope for many of us, 'a greater sense of community'. Undoubtedly streaming has played a part in this, but I believe it goes deeper. I think it has a lot to do with 'having been on the same journey together', whatever our background or circumstances we have been sharing the same recent past; trying to cope with the lockdown restrictions and now with the Omicron variant, we face once more an unknown future. How will the coming year pan out? Where will we be this time next year? We simply do not know. This uncertainty with its hopes and anxieties; along with a greater awareness of our own vulnerability and dependence, has made us more compassionate and more committed to praying for one another. Whatever the storms and turbulence which lie ahead, lets pray that this fruit of prayer will be with us to stay and will continue to ripen.

May God bless us all.

Fr Tom

Our Deep Gratitude

Following on from my message above. I must point out that we would not be where we are today if it were not for the generosity of so many of you who have faithfully carried out your duties in spite of the hurdles and challenges of covid 19.

Our community is truly blessed to have so many volunteers covering every aspect of parish life: administration, catechesis, liturgy, pastoral care, finance, and the maintenance of our buildings. In addition, we have had extra duties, necessitated by covid, to ensure safety and the provision of live streaming for our liturgies.

In these hard times your financial contribution to the parish and to our different appeals, not least to our parish community fund for our needy families, have been greatly appreciated.

Last but by no means least (as mentioned in my above message). We would like to thank you for your ongoing prayers, both for us clergy and for our parish family. It is this after all which must lie at the heart of everything we do, keeping us focussed on the Gospel and the call to mission and holiness.

May God bless and reward you all.

Fr Tom

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.

Prayers with Taize Service

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

Crib Collection for the Catholic Children's Society

This year the crib collection in all our churches is for the Catholic Children's Society (CCS) which supports disadvantaged children and families across London, and the South East. They work with people of all faiths and none; with their sole aim to help those in greatest need.

Baptism of the Lord

On the 9th January we welcome all the families of those baptised over the previous year to attend a special blessing on the occasion of the Baptism of the Lord. We hope also to be able to provide refreshments afterwards in

Change to Mass times in Bognor From the beginning of January, the parish of Bognor Regis and Slindon will be following a new Mass schedule. Please check the parish website www.bognorcatholicparish.org.uk for more details.

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. His funeral will be held at St Richards Chichester at 12.15 on Monday 10th January, with refreshments afterwards in the parish hall (covid regulations permitting)

The funeral of Jean Darby will be held at St Richards on Friday 14th Jan at 11am with refreshments afterwards in the parish hall (covid regulations permitting)

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 via cheque:

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

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.

The Diocesan annual Justice & Peace Assembly

online on Saturday 15 January 2022, 9.30am to 2pm. This year's event 'To A Safer Shore?' focusses on the considerable difficulties and challenges faced by individuals and families of all ages who are compelled to leave their homes and seek safety - and longed for sanctuary - in countries that can be considerable distances from their homes. Speakers include Aidan Cantwell, from the Jesuit Refugee Service who will explore current legislation in the UK and how best we can respond, Karen Goldsmith, who has first-hand experience of the refugee crisis, having spent time volunteering at a refugee camp in Chios, Greece, Canon Rob Esdaile who will provide insight on Pope Francis' Encyclical Fratelli Tutti and John Paul de Quay, from the Ecological Conversion Group, who will examine the links between the plight of refugees and climate crisis. [Click here to book your place](#)

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, and 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.

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.

Long standing Regular Church Events in Our Lady and the Saints of Sussex

Event	Location	Day	details
Toddler Group	Chichester Parish-Rm	Mon (term time)	Monday 8am in term time
Coffee and Chat	Bosham Narthex	Wed 4th of mth	10-12 Ecumenical local group meet socially
Together Time Thursdays	Selsey Hall	Thu	1:30-3pm. Transport can be arranged
Coffee after Mass	Witterings Parish HI	Fri	10.45 - 11.30 Meet other parishioners for a chat
Friends' Cafe	Chichester Parish-Rm	Fri (term time)	Nursery & school parents coffee and a chat from 8.45-10
Needlecraft group	Bosham Narthex	Sat 1st of Mth	10-12 noon. Bring along project to work on.
Coffee after Mass	Witterings Parish HI	Sun	9.45-10.30 approx Meet other parishioners for a chat
Coffee after Mass	Chichester Parish-Rm	Sun	10.45-11.30 approx Meet other parishioners for a chat
Coffee after Mass	Bosham Narthex	Sun	12 -12.30 approx Meet other parishioners for a chat
Rosary Group	Witterings - Church	Mon	10-10.30 come and say a decade of the Rosary
Tuesday Group	Bosham Narthex	Tue	10.45-12.15 Focussed discussion over coffee
Rosary Group	Chichester Parish-Rm	Fri (term time)	9am come and pray the Rosary together
Choir practice	Chichester - Church	Thu	7pm. Please contact Amy at the office
Choir practice	Bosham - Church	Fri	6.30-7.45pm Please turn up or enquire on Sunday

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 Foreshe, 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*

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.



Masses and services				
Date	Church	Time	online	Mass Intention
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 (Pat Griffin RIP – Peter Griffin)
Sun 26 Dec 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)
Mon 27 Dec St John the Apostle	Chichester	10am		
	Selsey	10am		
Tues 28 Dec The Holy Innocents	Chichester	8am	✓	Julia Outram Bull RIP
	Selsey	10am		
	Bosham	10am		
Wed 29 Dec St Thomas Becket	Chichester	8am	✓	Wellbeing of Michael and family
	Selsey	10am		John Brannigan RIP
	Chichester	7pm		Jean Darby RIP (Jean French)
Thur 30 Dec	Chichester	8am	✓	
	Selsey	10am		Mary Halpin RIP
	Chichester	12.15pm		
Fri 31 Dec	Chichester	8am	✓	
	Selsey	10am		Eddie Scicluna RIP
	Witterings	10am		
Sat 1 Jan Solemnity of Mary Mother of God	Chichester	8am		
	Selsey	10am		Ken Wass RIP
	Selsey	5pm		David Kennedy RIP
	Chichester	6pm	✓	
Sun 2 Jan 2nd Sunday of Christmas	Chichester	8.30am		
	Witterings	9am		Barbara Gallagher RIP (Clare Walton)
	Chichester	10am	✓	Health and wellbeing of Gerard Courtney
	Selsey	10am		For the people of the parish
	Bosham	11am		Deceased friends of M&B Southward
	Chichester	6.30pm		
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

Masses and services				
Date	Church	Time	online	Mass Intention
Mon 3 Jan Most Holy Name of Jesus	Chichester	10am		
	Selsey	10am		For Nell and Bill Collins
Tues 4 Jan	Chichester	8am	✓	
	Selsey	10am		
	Bosham	10am		
Wed 5 Jan Vigil of Epiphany (7pm only)	Chichester	8am	✓	
	Selsey	10am		
	Chichester	7pm		
Thur 6 January Solemnity Epiphany	Chichester	8am	✓	
	Chichester	9.05am		(School Mass)
	Witterings	10am		
	Selsey	10am		For the people of the parish
	Chichester	12.15pm		
	Bosham	7.30pm		
Fri 7 Dec	Chichester	8am	✓	
	Selsey	10am		
	Witterings	10am		
Sat 8 Dec	Chichester	8am		
	Selsey	5pm		
	Chichester	6pm	✓	
Sun 9 Dec Baptism of the Lord	Chichester	8.30am		
	Witterings	9am		
	Chichester	10am	✓	
	Selsey	10am		The People of the Parish
	Bosham	11am		
	Chichester	6.30pm		
Mon 10 Jan	Chichester	8am	✓	
	Selsey	10am		
	Chichester	12.15pm		Requiem Mass Dennis Chiles RIP
Tues 11 Jan	Chichester	8am	✓	
	Selsey	10am		
	Bosham	10am		
Wed 12 Jan	Chichester	8am	✓	
	Selsey	10am		
	Chichester	7pm		
Thur 13 January	Chichester	8am	✓	
	Selsey	10am		For the people of the parish
	Chichester	12.15pm		
Fri 14 Dec	Chichester	8am	✓	
	Selsey	10am		
	Witterings	10am		
	Chichester	11am		Requiem Mass Jean Darby RIP