



St Joseph's & St John the Baptist

PART OF THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF BRIGHTON & HOVE

www.eastbrightoncatholic.org.uk



Loving Jesus, living and sharing our Faith, welcoming all.

Third Sunday of Advent (A) 14th December 2025

Psalter week 3

WELCOME

Welcome to St Joseph's and St John the Baptist! We are a vibrant and welcoming Catholic community in Brighton, with a vision to form disciples of Jesus Christ, to love others, and to serve our city.

Everyone is welcome, and there are many ways you can get involved!
See our website www.eastbrightoncatholic.org.uk for more opportunities.

Message from Fr Aidan



Next to the ambo in both our churches you will have noticed the Advent wreath, four candles, three purple and one pink, arranged in a circular holly wreath with a white candle in the centre. The circular shape represents God's eternity and the evergreen signifies everlasting life, while the white candle represents the light coming into the world with Jesus' birth.

This Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, we will light the pink candle and our liturgy will have a more joyful tone, rose vestment rather than purple, can be worn. We name this Sunday **Gaudete Sunday** from the first word of the traditional Entrance Antiphon: *Gaudete in Domino semper Rejoice in the Lord Always*, words taken from St Paul's letter to the Philippians, 4:4. "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice"

In the gospel John sends a messenger to ask Jesus if he is the Messiah who is to come. Jesus answers *"Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them."*

Imagine the joy with which the blind man, the lame, the leper and the deaf man receive their healing. We rejoice at the thought that Jesus is going to be reborn in our lives, deepening in us his gifts of love, mercy, forgiveness and a spirit of service especially at this Christmas season. Can we too joyfully share Jesus' mission, his welcome and acceptance and his desire to heal? What Jesus asked of John's disciples, he asks of us also: *"Go and tell others what you hear and see."* We are called to share with others our experience of the rebirth of Jesus, the joy of his life within us. Let us do that this in this season of grace and bring joy to others.

Christmas Party - This Thursday!

Our Parish Christmas Party is on **Thursday 18th December at 7pm** at the **Fitzherbert Community Hub**. Please bring a plate of finger food to share (savoury if possible) and your dancing shoes... DJ David Miller will bring the music!
We look forward to seeing you there!

CHRISTMAS MASSES

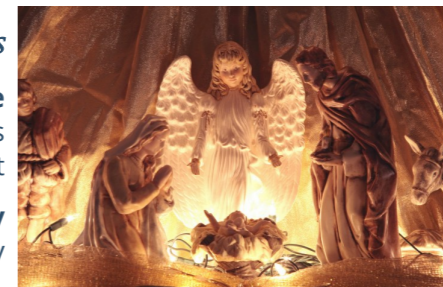
St Joseph's

Christmas Eve

6:00pm Family Mass
10:30pm Mass of Christmas Night

Christmas Day

11:00am Mass of Christmas Day



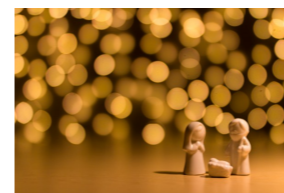
St John the Baptist

Christmas Eve

10:30pm Mass of Christmas Night

Christmas Day

9:00am Mass of Christmas Day
11:00am Mass of Christmas Day



Christmas Eve Family Mass with carols and a crib.

The children are invited to dress up as angels or shepherds.
6pm on 24th December at St Joseph's church.

Our Priests at Christmas

You may be aware that Christmas and Easter are the only times when the offertory collection goes directly to our priests. At all other times of the year, offertory donations are used to meet the everyday costs of parish life - heating our churches, maintaining buildings, and covering essential office and household expenses.

A priest's personal income comes solely from the offerings given at Christmas, Easter, and at special services such as weddings and funerals. We therefore invite you to show your appreciation for our priests and their ministry through your generosity at Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses.

If you would prefer to donate by bank transfer, please include "Christmas" or "Priests" in the payment reference. Thank you for your continued support of our parish and our priests.



Crib Collection—the Catholic Children's Society's A&B Crisis Fund

The Catholic Children's Society (CCS) is helping local disadvantaged families facing severe hardship due to the cost-of-living crisis. Through their A&B Crisis Fund, CCS is providing immediate practical support to families in need. Every penny donated will be given out via CCS's A&B Crisis Fund to support local families in need - in the past, our parish has requested assistance for several families and have received support each time. **You can donate at the Crib, the contactless or www.cathchild.org.uk/crib**



International Lunch, Sun 28 Dec at St John the Baptist after the 11am Mass.

All are very Welcome. This will be an opportunity to say farewell to Br Anthony and Fr Gabriel as they return to Worth Abbey. Please bring some food to share if you can.

Our New Parish Hub—Redevelopment of St Josephs Hall.

Work has started at St Joseph's Hall! More details next week.... A fuller project update is available [online here](#), and a few printed copies are available in the back of the churches.

Parish Foodbank – Donations Needed - Thank you for your support!

The foodbank is open **Mondays, 10:30–11:30am** at the SJB presbytery (front office). Please bring donations to Sunday Mass: Eggs, fresh fruit & veg, tins, dry goods, strong bags. **Please remember! We can't store refrigerated food—please don't bring anything that needs a fridge!** To donate to the **Foodbank Fund**, [click here](#).

Supporting Voices in Exile this Winter

Voices in Exile have launched a new crowdfunding appeal to raise **£1,200** to support individuals and families using the food bank this winter. The funds raised will provide **hot meal vouchers** at the Real Junk Food Project café, offering warmth, nourishment, and dignity during the colder months. If you are able to support this appeal or share it with others, please visit: crowdfunder.co.uk/p/hot-meals-and-support-for-refugees
Thank you for helping bring comfort and practical support to our community this winter.



The Parish Office Christmas Hours

The Parish Office is open on Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 December until 1pm and then closes until Friday 2nd January. We would like to thank everyone for their support, and wish everyone a very Happy Christmas! AnnMarie Maryanne & Jackie

YOUNG ADULTS/STUDENTS

We have a vibrant Student/Young Adults group in the parish called Deep Waters that gets together on Wednesday evenings 6:45pm next door in the basement of 6 Wellington Road. We share a meal, listen to a talk, have a time of prayer and then a social with drinks. On Sundays after the 11am Mass we also share lunch, and have some input, usually a personal faith story. This also takes place in 6 Wellington Rd. If you come to the back of church after Mass someone will find you and show you were to come!

For more info you can join our WhatsApp chat - for details email Claire on claireosullivan@brighton.ac.uk. Or follow our Instagram @brightonsussexatholic. We look forward to meeting you!

GROUPS / MEETINGS

Mothers Prayers We are a group of mothers meeting on Monday's at 5pm on zoom. For info contact the parish office.

Tuesday Evenings Join us online at 7:30 on <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84005968178>

Praise and Worship Group TUESDAY evenings, 7-8pm. 6 Wellington Rd- all welcome! Contact 07833 614205

Wednesday Evening Perpetual Novena and Divine Mercy Chaplet Every Wednesday at 4:00pm at SJB Church (if Church is closed - please ring the doorbell to the Presbytery)

Thursday Morning Group meets on the 2nd and the last Thursdays of each month at 10:15 - in person in the parish meeting room at St Joseph's, and also accessible online.

Padre Pio Group Join us at 6:30pm, Thursday evenings at St Joseph's for Rosary & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Catenians - a monthly meeting of Catholic men at The Hove Club. For more info see <https://cateniansprovince18.org.uk>



MONKS
IN THE CITY

PRAY WITH US
Morning Prayer at 9am: Monday - Saturday
Evening Prayer at 6pm: Monday - Thursday & 5pm on Saturday & Sunday
Advance notice: The Monastic community will be away on retreat from 15 - 19 December, so there will be no morning or evening prayer that week.

LECTIO DIVINA every Wed, 8-9 pm [Join online here](#) or see our website.

St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, Whitehawk Hill Road, BN2 0AH

We have had a wonderful start to Advent, watching the reception and the year 1 and 2 Nativities. We were all very impressed with their singing, acting and sharing of the true meaning of Christmas. If there are any parents who have a child starting school next September, who would like a tour of our wonderful school, please contact the office and we can arrange this. Contact 01273 607924 or admin@stjohn.brighton-hove.sch.uk for more information.

Every blessing, Carly Carden, Headteacher

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Parents & Toddlers We meet at St Joseph's (side door entrance) on alternate Monday mornings from 10 am to 12 pm

Monday 14 December , join us for fellowship, tea and coffee, play-time and an opportunity for adoration with or without children in the church. All welcome. Email Julia to join the WhatsApp group.



Family of Faith - Saturday 13th December

What is Family of Faith? Family of Faith is a parish group for families who wish to grow in their faith. Children and their parents will learn about the mass, how to pray, the liturgical calendar of the Church, and the teachings of the Catholic faith in the YouCat (youth catechism) for Kids, covering the entire catechism over a three-year cycle. The programme is suitable for all families with children of primary-school age.

Also suitable for families who are preparing for the sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion & First Reconciliation, as well as those who have already received these sacraments and are preparing for Confirmation in the future.

Meetings take place on Saturdays once a month at the Fitzherbert Community Hub, there is still availability at the 11am - 12:30pm session. Contact Julia for more details / to register.

Messy Christmas! St Josephs Church 12.45 - 2.15 pm Sunday 14 December

Messy Church is a Christ-centred family event for our community to come together to eat, make friends, get creative in activities that don't involve a screen, and learn more about Jesus in a relaxed, messy environment. *Invite your grandparents, friends & neighbours to "come & see"!*



Proclaim youth group - next meeting is at 6.30pm on Mon 8 Dec at the Fitzherbert Community Hub (for ages 12-17)

Contact Julia at families.eastbrighton@abdiocese.org.uk for details on any of the above

CONTACT DETAILS

The Presbytery & Parish Office: 2 Bristol Road, Brighton, BN2 1AP Tel 01273 087839

Canon Kieron O'Brien kieron.obrien@abdiocese.org.uk	Fr Aidan Murray amurray@worth.org.uk	Fr Gabriel Dobson gdobson@worth.org.uk	Br Anthony Brockman abrockman@worth.org.uk
Julia Wingfield - Families Ministry <i>All enquiries about Baptism, First Holy Communion, Messy Church etc</i> families.eastbrighton@abdiocese.org.uk			Parish Office (Mon, Wed & Fri, 9:30 -13:00) Email: eastbrighton@abdiocese.org.uk

MASS TIMES

Saturday 13th December		
St John the Baptist	6:00pm First Mass of Sunday	People of the Parish
Sunday 14th December	Third 'Gaudete' Sunday of Advent	
St John the Baptist	11:00am Mass	Johnrasa, Pragasi, Anthony, Alex RIP (Vinogi Arulgnanaseelan)
St Joseph's	11:00am Mass with Children's Liturgy	Lee Wright RIP (Miriam)
St Joseph's	5:30pm Mass	Mary Coone & family
Monday 15th December		
St John the Baptist	9:30am Mass	John Keating RIP (Foundation)
Tuesday 16th December		
St John the Baptist	No Mass	
St Joseph's	6:00pm Mass	Guillermo Sainz RIP (MC Cabanas)
Wednesday 17th December	In Greater Advent, 'O Sapientia'	
St John the Baptist	9:30am Mass	Diwata Diokno RIP
St Joseph's	No Mass	
St John the Baptist	6:00pm St John the Baptist School Carol Service	
Thursday 18th December	In Greater Advent, 'O Adonai'	
St John the Baptist	No Mass	
St Joseph's	6:00pm Mass	Lawrence Magennis RIP (Foundation)
Friday 19th December	In Greater Advent, 'O Radix Jesse'	
St John the Baptist	9:30am Mass	Sr MC Heatherington RIP (Foundation)
St Joseph's	6:00pm Mass	Margaret McEvoy RIP
Saturday 20th December	In Greater Advent 'O Claris David'	
St John the Baptist	9:30am Mass followed by Confessions	In thanksgiving Divine Mercy (Kathy)
St John the Baptist	10:00am Adoration for the Diocesan Plan	
St Joseph's	11:00am - 11:45am Confessions	
St John the Baptist	6:00pm First Mass of Sunday	People of the Parish
Sunday 21st December	Fourth Sunday of Advent 'O Oriens'	
St John the Baptist	11:00am Mass	Joseph Joseph RIP (Sheena Anthony)
St Joseph's	11:00am Mass with Children's Liturgy	Trevor Dawes RIP (Miriam)
St Joseph's	5:30pm Mass	Lee Wright RIP (Miriam)

Are you struggling with bereavement or loss? Would it help to have someone to talk to?

Our Deanery has a team of trained Catholic Bereavement Supporters available to listen and support people experiencing bereavement and loss. Please contact Fr Kieron if you would like to speak to one of our team.

Please pray for the sick of our parish:

Moira Hall, Agnes Manyingwa, Jean Small, Yenna VanHannover, Ann Callaghan, Tommy Maher, Claire Ashenden, Mary Howes Ewa Knebloch-Kozlowska, Barbara Garlington, Mary Howes, Phil McGrandles, Gordon Murray, Ian Tinlin, Marie Clare, Sue Bonner, Maria Rigby, Chris Pedroza, Shannon Grewal, Janet Alan, Jayveer Grewal, Anthony Price, Pete Weston, Gerald Grace, Michael Warner, José Luis Cabanas, Laurie Garlington, Helen Symmons, Anthony Warner, Maureen Croake, Ann Peyton, and Ian Brockwell. And all parishioners who need our prayers.

Those who have died recently especially Lee Wright and those whose anniversaries occur around this time. *To be added to the sick list contact the Parish Office. Please contact Fr Kieron if you are going into hospital.*