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Seeking God in Prayer, Growing Together in Faith, Reaching Out in Love.

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) 12th July 2026

Psalter week 3

WELCOME

Message from Fr Kieron

The parable of the sower, which forms the Gospel for this Sunday is familiar to most of us and the longer version even comes with its own explanation. So, rather than giving a commentary on the parable, it might be more helpful to look at its applications for our situation, as we all still need to centre our lives on living the Word of God, indeed our whole Pastoral Plan is entitled *The Word who is Life*.

The path, the rocky ground, the thin roots and the thorns represent the barriers to our full embracing of the Word of God. The first is the danger of a lack of understanding. In a culture of sound bites and very limited attention spans, we need to apply a different set of values to God's Word. It deserves to be given time and attention with the mind and the heart - only then does understanding follow. So the practice of *Lectio Divina*, available in the Parish, is highly recommended.

The rocky ground speaks to us of a resilience that is often lacking in our modern culture. Initial enthusiasms can easily evaporate when challenges present themselves, so we need to work on our staying power, to remain faithful even when - or especially when we realise that living by the Word of God is often inconvenient, unfashionable and counter-cultural.

The final barrier is an easy trap for most of us; we simply get distracted by trying to make a living or worse still, succumb to the consumerist demand to acquire more and more. This leaves no space for the Word to flourish.

Although such an agricultural metaphor has limitations for us city dwellers, the timeless quality of the parable can still speak to us. We all have the ability to receive understand and celebrate God's Word and this needs to be front and centre in our lives and not relegated to the margins.

"Wasting time" with the Word of God is never wasted time - it is time well spent and invested in the Kingdom.



This Sunday - short talk from "Prison Advice & Care Trust" after 11am Mass as St Joseph's.

After 11am Mass, bring your coffee through to the parish meeting room 12:30-1pm, where Jane Hughes from PACT - a pioneering national charity that supports prisoners, people with convictions and their families - will share her personal experience of volunteering, and how you can get involved at Lewes Prison.

Sea Sunday—Second Collection this weekend.



STELLA MARIS

Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all of our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. Sea Sunday is Sunday 12th July.

It is when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Your support will make a big difference to seafarers and fishers in need. You can donate in church, by visiting www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate, or by texting 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5.

This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris to continue its important work, so please give generously. Thank you.



CAFOD's Jubilee Debt Campaign – Sign the Petition

Many of the world's poorest countries are spending more on debt repayments than on essential services like healthcare and education. As the UK prepares to host the G20 in 2027, there is an opportunity to press for a fairer global debt system. [Click here to sign the petition and add your voice to the campaign.](#)

There will also be a physical petition in both churches next weekend.

Lunchtime Concert Series – St Mary Magdalen

Our popular Lunchtime Concert Series continues this summer at St Mary Magdalen Church, with a wonderful programme of talented musicians. Concerts are free to attend, and everyone is warmly welcome.

Upcoming concerts:

- **18 July, 1.00pm** – Ventus Duo (Horn, Tuba & Organ)
- **8 August, 4.00pm** – Matilde Freiria (Guitar)
- **22 August, 1.00pm** – Kairos Winds (Woodwind Trio)
- **5 September, 1.00pm** – Cathy Tsang & Bethany Caswell (Flute & Harp)

We hope you can join us.



CAFOD-DEC Venezuela Earthquake Appeal

You can help our neighbours affected by the 24 June earthquakes in Venezuela with emergency shelter, water and food. CAFOD is already working with local Church partners to support people who have lost their homes, but we need your support to help more survivors. Your donation will provide essential supplies and help families rebuild their lives.

Donate to the CAFOD-DEC Venezuela Earthquake Appeal today: cafod.org.uk/Venezuela or call 0300 999 0030 or scan the QR code. There will also be a second collection in church, or give via the Dona machine. (*Please note: if you want your donations to be Gift Aided you should donate directly to CAFOD using the link or QR code*)

Please keep our neighbours in Venezuela in your prayers.



From the Care Group

If you know someone who is housebound, please let us know so we can arrange to visit and take Holy Communion to them. Contact the Parish Office and they will pass your details to the Care Team.

Parish Foodbank The foodbank is open **Mondays, 10:30–11:30am** (Including Easter Monday) at the SJB presbytery (front office). Please bring donations to Sunday Mass: Eggs, fresh fruit & veg, tins, dry goods, strong bags. **Remember We can't store refrigerated food! [Click here](#) to donate to the fund Thanks!**

Parish Safeguarding for the Young or Vulnerable

If you have concerns for someone you know or need advice or help yourself, please call the Diocesan Safeguarding Co-ordinator, Angela McGrory in confidence on 01293651148 or email one of the Parish Safeguarding Rep's: Linda Evans, St Josephs sg1.eastbrighton@abdiocese.org.uk & Julia Murray Logue, SJB sg2.eastbrighton@abdiocese.org.uk

YOUNG ADULTS/STUDENTS

Deep Waters is the parish student/young adults group. We get together:

- ♦ **Wednesdays:** 6:45pm next door, in the basement of 6 Wellington Road, for a meal, a talk, prayer & social with drinks.
- ♦ **Sundays:** after the 11am Mass for lunch + input/activity, also in 6 Wellington Road.

Come to the back of St Joseph's church after Mass and someone will find you and show you where to come! For more info you can join our WhatsApp chat - email Claire at claireosullivan@brighton.ac.uk for the link.
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 prayer group- 7:00pm-8:30pm. 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>



PRAY WITH US

Morning Prayer at 9am: Monday - Saturday

Evening Prayer at 6pm: Monday - Thursday & 4:45pm on Saturday & Sunday

Midday Stillness every Friday until 24 July

Lectio Divina every Wednesday 8-9 pm [Join online here](#) or see our website.

St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, Whitehawk Hill Road, BN2 0AH | 01273 607924

It's been a busy week with children enjoying a lovely variety of activities. Our year 6s joined the Synodal listening morning with Canon Kieron and Canon David on Monday, year 5s performed their poem Jackdaw brilliantly at Sussex University and the girls' football team won a huge trophy at the Good Cup.

Many Blessings, Carly Carden, Headteacher

CHILDREN & FAMILIES



Summer Break

Family of Faith will have its final gathering of the term on **Saturday 11 July**. Following this, both Family of Faith and Proclaim will take a break for the summer.

Thank you to all our families and volunteers for making this such a wonderful year.

We wish you all a joyful and restful summer break, and we look forward to gathering together again in the autumn.

Dates for the new programme will be announced soon in the newsletter and through our parish

Parents & Toddlers – Next gathering: 27 July

We meet at **St Joseph's** (side door entrance) on alternate Monday mornings from **10.00am–12.00pm**. Join us for fellowship, tea and coffee, playtime, and an opportunity for adoration in the church—with or without children.

All are warmly welcome.

We're also delighted to share that a new Parents & Toddlers group will be launching at St John the Baptist on Thursday mornings after Mass in the coming **weeks**. Keep an eye on the newsletter and parish communications for the start date and further details.



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 Peter Williams

pwilliams@worth.org.uk

Fr Patrick Fludder OSB

pfludder@worth.org.uk

Julia Wingfield - Families Ministry

All enquiries about Baptism, First Holy Communion, Messy Church etc
families.eastbrighton@abdiocese.org.uk

Parish Office (Mon, Wed & Fri, 9:30 -13:00)

Email: eastbrighton@abdiocese.org.uk

MASS TIMES

Saturday 11th July		
St John the Baptist	6:00pm First Mass of Sunday	Fr Foley's Intentions
Sunday 12th July	Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Sea Sunday	
St John the Baptist	11:00am Mass with Children's Liturgy	Shiju Antony Birthday (<i>S Antony</i>)
St Joseph's	11:00am Mass with Children's Liturgy	Anna Goudy's Intentions
St Joseph's	5:30pm Mass	People of the Parish
Monday 13th July		
St John the Baptist	9:30am Mass	Sudden death of Jimmy Ward (27yrs) RIP and for his family's intentions (<i>Martina Ross</i>)
Tuesday 14th July		
St John the Baptist	9:30am Mass	Holy Souls
St Joseph's	6:00pm Mass	J Tierney RIP (<i>Foundation</i>)
Wednesday 15th July	St Bonaventure	
St John the Baptist	9:30am Mass	Patrick Ellis RIP (<i>Martina Ross</i>)
St Joseph's	11:00am Requiem Mass	Jose Luis Cabanas RIP
St Joseph's	6:00pm Mass	Laura & John Morris RIP (<i>Foundation</i>)
Thursday 16th July		
St John the Baptist	9:30am Mass	Darryl Neal (<i>Kim Kaur</i>)
St Joseph's	6:00pm Mass	Agnes Desiree Donovan
Friday 17th July		
St John the Baptist	9:30am Mass	Darryl Neal (<i>Kim Kaur</i>)
St Joseph's	6:00pm Mass	Celebrant's Intentions
Saturday 18th July		
St John the Baptist	9:30am Mass followed by Confessions	Darryl Neal (<i>Kim Kaur</i>)
St John the Baptist	10:00am Adoration for the Diocesan Plan	
St Joseph's	No Confessions	
St John the Baptist	6:00pm First Mass of Sunday	People of the Parish
Sunday 19th July	Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
St John the Baptist	11:00am Mass	Ewa Szwedowska RIP (
St Joseph's	11:00am Mass with Children's Liturgy	On the 45th Ordination Anniversary of Fr John Inglis (<i>Celia</i>)
St Joseph's	5:30pm Mass	Brendan Gately RIP

Please pray for the sick of our parish:

Moirra Hall, Agnes Manyingwa, Jean Small, Yenna VanHannover, Ann Callaghan, Tommy Maher, Claire Ashenden, Mary Howes Ewa Knebloch-Kozlowska, Barbara Garlington, Phil McGrandles, Gordon Murray, Ian Tinlin, Marie Clare, Sue Bonner, Maria Rigby, Shannon Grewal, Janet Alan, Jayveer Grewal, Anthony Price, Pete Weston, Gerald Grace, Michael Warner, Laurie Garlington, Helen Symmons, Anthony Warner, Maureen Croke, Ian Brockwell, Roger Paine, Alexis Paine, Scott Pearson, Gifford Moody, Michael Petek, Brendan O'Sullivan and Fr Foley. And all parishioners who need our prayers.

Those who have died recently, especially José Luis Cabanas 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.