

# Cathedral Deanery Newsletter

Advent 2022



Dear Friends in Christ across the Cathedral Deanery,

Welcome to another edition of the Deanery Newsletter. As I am sure you are aware, Bishop Richard has produced a new version of the Pastoral Plan for our Diocese - you can read the original version, and the updated edition, at [abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/pastoral-plan](http://abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/pastoral-plan).

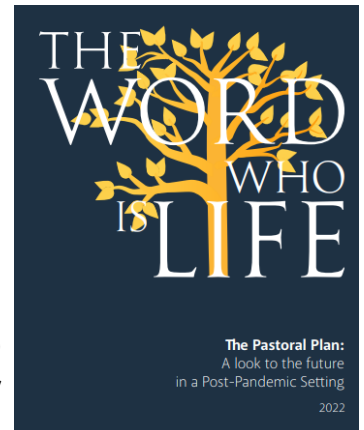
In this plan our Bishop invites us to join him in

‘forging our parishes into communities of saints’

– that is,

‘strong, lively and welcoming schools of discipleship’ (para 1.3).

This is an exciting and challenging vision for us all. But it does come to us in a difficult context, and we will be trying to make this vision reality at a time when the number of priests is declining, and there will be further substantial structural change for our deanery and across the diocese.



We will be talking about exactly what this might look like over the coming months, and there will be some difficult times ahead – but we must not let that distract us from the joy of the overall vision, and more important still, the joy of The Gospel. We will certainly need to work together more, and share resources and expertise more. We will also have to take to heart the fact that making God’s loving presence known in this deanery is a job for every one of us – we cannot leave it to someone else. At the end of St Matthew’s Gospel we read the instruction of Jesus: ‘Go, make disciples of all nations’ (Mt 28.19) – there is a long way still to go!

Have a very holy Advent, and in due course a joyful and peaceful Christmas,

Fr Peter Newsam  
Dean

*May [our parishes] be communities where the Lord is known and loved; where the liturgy is experienced as an encounter with the wonder of heaven; where daily prayer is a natural part of life; where all are welcomed and their dignity as children of God always recognized; where young people grow in deep love for the Gospel, for the sacramental life of the Church and for prayer; where all know the riches of the faith and seek to share it with others.*

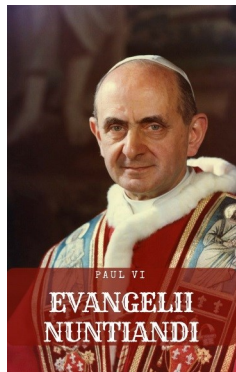
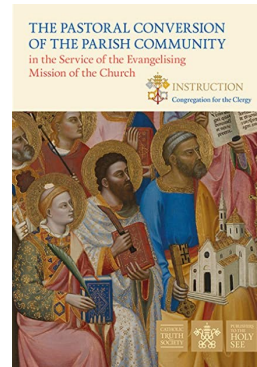
*Pastoral Plan 2022, 1.3*



## ABC – Bognor Regis and Slindon *Advent Book Club!*

Over the last year, we in the parish of Bognor Regis and Slindon have had difficult and challenging conversations as we move into a new Mass schedule. This, in part, reflects the pain and sense of loss that accompanies any change. At the same time, we are hopeful for the future – not simply optimistic, but we move forward with a confidence that comes from knowing Jesus is with us always. From the beginning of Advent, the three Sunday Masses in the parish will be celebrated at Our Lady of Sorrows at 6pm (Saturday), 9am and 11am.

At the heart of our reflections has been the conviction expressed by every Pope since the Second Vatican Council (and present in the life of the Church from the time of the apostles!) that evangelisation must be at the forefront of all our activities. The recent document [The Pastoral Conversion of the Parish Community \(In the Service of the Evangelising Mission of the Church\)](#) says, evangelisation is the cornerstone of all pastoral action, the demands of which are primary, pre-eminent and preferential (#12).



In Advent, we prepare to greet the Lord. It's also, then, an opportune time to think about evangelisation as we reflect on the ways in which we help others see the presence of Jesus in their lives, and grow in their relationship with him. In 1975, Pope Saint Paul VI wrote [Evangelii Nuntiandi \(On Evangelisation\)](#) and so to renew and deepen our understanding of what evangelisation is, and what it calls us to as individuals and as communities, we're having an Advent Book Club.

Over four weeks, we'll read, reflect, discuss, and pray with the help of Paul VI's encyclical. There will be four meetings in the Parish Centre, (Hislop Walk, Bognor Regis, [PO21 1LP](#)) on Monday 28th November, Monday 5th December, Tuesday 13th December and Tuesday 20th December, 7.30pm, where we'll come together to share our thoughts, and to which all are very welcome. For anyone who doesn't have a copy of Pope Saint Paul VI's document, we can provide you with one, together with a suggested reading guide and questions for reflection. Please contact the Parish Office on 01243 823619.

*Fr Chris Bergin*

## Arrivals, departures and Mass changes in the Parish of Our Lady and the Saints of Sussex

In the **Parish of Our Lady and the Saints of Sussex** (Chichester, Witterings, Bosham, Selsey), the process of merging three parishes (and four churches) into a single parish, which began with Bishop Richard's creation of the new parish on the Feast of All Saints 2021, has continued in 2022 and is moving towards its completion.

This autumn, the parish has bade farewell to Fr Sebastian Paul, who has become Parish Priest of



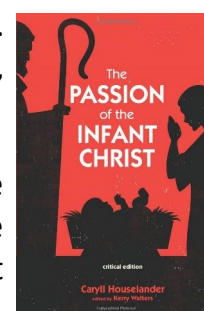
Thames Ditton and Esher. As the new Assistant Priest in the parish, it has welcomed Fr David Murphy who is originally from Galway and moved to Chichester from Holy Cross Hospital in Haslemere, where he served as chaplain. Finally, November has seen the move of Fr Max Krat, who was Parish Priest of Selsey, to his new parish in Rottingdean.

Following these moves, from the beginning of Advent, Mass times and numbers across the parish have changed. In Selsey and in Chichester, there have been both changes of Mass time and a reduction in the frequency of Masses, and in Bosham the Sunday Mass time has changed. Such changes are never easy but the parish moves forward with thanks for all that we still have, and the understanding that the process of change, here and across the diocese, will continue.

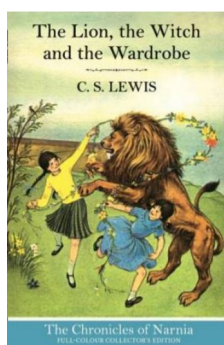
## Looking for Christmas present inspiration?

Here are some book recommendations from Lizzie Wakeling, Diocesan Youth Advisor.

For young adults (18-35), [The Passion of the Infant Christ](#) by Caryll Houselander. Caryll Houselander was a British lay Roman Catholic ecclesiastical artist, mystic, popular religious writer and poet.



The book is rich in imagery, revealing truths that will both amaze and inspire the reader. The perfect accompaniment for Advent, this book will help you to prepare for the coming of our Lord at Christmas in a deep and profound way. To be honest – it's a great book for all ages!



For teenagers, you can't beat [The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe](#) by C.S. Lewis.

This classic explores themes of snow and cold, light and dark, meals and gifts, temptation and sin, forgiveness and hope. There is even an appearance from Father Christmas! But closer exploration of the text reveals that this is not just a fantasy novel, in the character of Aslan, we are able to learn more about Jesus.

## Advent Reconciliation Opportunities in the Cathedral Deanery

*'I ask you: have you ever thought that every time we go to the confessional, there is joy and celebration in heaven? It is beautiful ... and fills us with great hope, because there is no sin to which we have stooped from which, by the grace of God, we cannot rise up again.'* (Pope Francis, 2016)



Petworth	Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Noon	Holy Hour & Confessions
Bognor	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	7pm	Reconciliation Service
Storrington	Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	4pm	Reconciliation Service <i>(joint celebration with Arundel)</i>
Midhurst	Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	10am	Holy Hour & Confessions
Chichester	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	7pm	Reconciliation Service

### Cathedral Deanery Parish Websites

Arundel: [arundelcathedral.uk](http://arundelcathedral.uk)

Bognor & Slindon: [bognorcatholicparish.co.uk](http://bognorcatholicparish.co.uk)

Chichester, Selsey, Bosham & Witterings: [saintsofsussex.com](http://saintsofsussex.com)

Petworth & Midhurst: [petworthcatholic.org](http://petworthcatholic.org)

Storrington: [ourladyofengland.parishportal.net](http://ourladyofengland.parishportal.net)

## The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies

The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) is a nationally accredited course in Catholic theology that supports and enhances the teaching of Religious Education in schools and parishes.

Catholic Certificate  
in Religious Studies

*From a former student:*

It was summer 2019 when I was invited to do the CCRS Course. I found I had a few hours to spare in the autumn so I signed up. I had always been interested in learning more about the Catholic Church and what I believe. I hadn't used the studying brain cells for a few years but thought it worth a try. I enjoyed meeting with other people in the Diocese and exploring ideas together.

I found the Course fascinating, providing me with a background of Scripture, the role of Christ, the history of the Church up to current issues of morality and culture. Of course there is always more to learn; research for essays was done from books and internet searches. 60 years ago this autumn, the Second Vatican Council was opened by Pope John XXIII. I remember the great change when some new ideas were implemented. One of the most important, was and is the recognition that all those who are baptised have a priestly role at Mass, offering Jesus' sacrifice to God the Father. As well as worshipping God together, Jesus invites lay people to be involved in the redemption of ourselves and all people. Such a responsibility!

Another area that I found helpful, was learning about Church history, not as a static story, but realising that every age had its obstacles to belief, often overcome by the insight of a great saint, like St Francis, or nearer to our age, St Maximilian Kolbe.

I have found a greater confidence in sharing my faith through doing the Course. I am still learning but it helps me in the task I do in the Parish as a catechist for Infant Baptism.

*Mary Downy, Parish of Our Lady & the Saints of Sussex*

The six core modules of the CCRS cover the Old Testament, the New Testament, the Church, Christology, the Sacraments and Morality. Two specialist modules relate to each participant's particular ministry in the Church. The CCRS offers a very flexible and accessible way of learning and includes some online content. Each of the eight modules involve ten hours of course time and an assignment. Participants can take between one and five years to complete the CCRS if they want to take the whole course. Participation in just one or some modules of particular interest is also very welcome.

*For more information or to sign up, contact the [Diocesan Formation Advisor, Dn Jon Harman](#).*

For all the latest news from the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton, sign up for the weekly E-Bulletin newsletter, via the [Diocesan website](#).

