



# The Catholic Community of Arundel & Storrington

## 2nd Sunday of Advent, Year A

### 7th December 2025



Contact us	Priest: Fr Stephen Dingley Deacons: Rev Roger Stone <a href="mailto:roger.stone@abdiocese.org.uk">roger.stone@abdiocese.org.uk</a> ; Rev David Clifton (Retired) Secretary: Louise Sharp Cathedral House, Parsons Hill, Arundel, BN18 9AY 01903 882297 <a href="mailto:arundel@abdiocese.org.uk">arundel@abdiocese.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.arundelcathedral.uk">www.arundelcathedral.uk</a> and <a href="http://Our Lady Of England">Our Lady Of England</a>  Safeguarding Rep (Storrington): Theresa Byrne - 01903 744790 Safeguarding Rep (Arundel): Caroline Phillips—07503 387409 <a href="mailto:sg1.arundel@abdiocese.org.uk">sg1.arundel@abdiocese.org.uk</a> Diocesan Safeguarding Office: 01293 651148, <a href="mailto:safeguarding@abdiocese.org.uk">safeguarding@abdiocese.org.uk</a>		
Our Churches	The Cathedral Church of Our Lady and St Philip Howard, London Road, Arundel, BN18 9AY Our Lady of England, School Lane, Storrington, RH20 4LN Convent of Poor Clares, Crossbush, Arundel, BN18 9PJ		
Live Stream	Masses from the Cathedral are livestreamed and are available via the Cathedral website <a href="http://www.arundelcathedral.uk">www.arundelcathedral.uk</a> or <a href="https://www.churchservices.tv/arundel">https://www.churchservices.tv/arundel</a>		
Catholic Schools	St Philip’s Catholic Primary School 01903 882115 St Philip Howard Catholic School 01243 552055	<a href="mailto:office@st-philips.w-sussex.sch.uk">office@st-philips.w-sussex.sch.uk</a>   <a href="mailto:office@sphcs.co.uk">office@sphcs.co.uk</a>	London Road, Arundel, West Sussex BN18 9BA  Headteacher: Mrs Lucy Horne Elm Grove South, Barnham, West Sussex PO22 0EN Headteacher: Mr Tim Hulse

Today, we are invited to pause on the road toward Christmas and listen attentively to the voice that calls us to “Prepare”. Each year, the Church places before us the striking figure of John the Baptist, crying out in the wilderness, “Prepare the way of the Lord.” His message is not gentle or sentimental; it is urgent and forceful, but deeply hopeful. Advent is not just a countdown, but a standalone season of spiritual wakefulness, and John reminds us that genuine preparation requires honesty, courage and a willingness to let God reshape our hearts.

In these early Advent days, the liturgy speaks often of promise: God’s promise to comfort His people, to lead them out of darkness and to renew creation. Yet the promise is always paired with a call: a call to conversion. Conversion is not just about identifying what is wrong; it is about turning deliberately towards what is good, true and life-giving. The wilderness where John preaches is symbolic: it is a place stripped of noise and distraction, a place where the essentials of life become clear. Advent invites us into a similar inner wilderness where we can hear God’s voice without the clutter that obscures it. The coming of Christ is not a test we must pass but a gift we are invited to receive with open hearts. Even the act of repentance, so central to John’s preaching and encouraged during Advent, is rooted in hope. We repent because we believe God will bring about something new within us.

As we move deeper into Advent, we might reflect on what “preparing the way” looks like in our own circumstances. Perhaps it means creating some quiet space for prayer in a busy schedule, reconciling with someone from whom we’ve grown distant or simplifying our lives so that Christ’s presence is easier to recognise. Small acts of love, patience and generosity can become the paths along which the Lord enters our daily experience.

This Second Sunday of Advent encourages us to live with expectation, not a passive waiting, but a hopeful readiness shaped by faith. May this week lead us deeper into that promise and renew our desire to welcome the Lord, who draws near.

*Deacon Jon Harman (Parish of Our Lady and the Saints of Sussex)*

**Changes to Mass times this coming week:** On Monday 8th December there will be a 10am Mass in Storrington and a 7pm Mass in the Castle Chapel, see below for details about access to the Castle. Mass on Wednesday 10th will be in the Fitzalan Chapel. On Saturday 13th 5pm Mass will be in the Cathedral Centre due to a Concert in the Cathedral.

**Advent Reconciliation Services** in the deanery will take place in Arundel Cathedral THIS Sunday 7th December at 3pm and Our Lady of Sorrows in Bognor on Tuesday 16th December at 7pm. All welcome to either. The sacrament is available in the Cathedral every Saturday after 10am Mass, and Thursdays in Storrington after 10am Mass.

**Mass in the Castle Chapel** will take place on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception with music from the choir: Vox Humana & Gregoriana. All welcome. Entry is via the High Street Gate from 6.30pm, a buggy will be available at the gate for anyone who needs it.

**Cathedral heating** The temporary boiler has been installed this week and there is heat again in the Cathedral. Many thanks to the team from Paine Manwaring for getting this done so quickly.

**Please pray for** Austin Bray (Storrington) who died recently. His Requiem will take place in Arundel Cathedral on Thursday 18th December at 11.30am. Please also keep in your prayer Sr. Clare of the Poor Clares at Arundel who died last week, her funeral will take place at the Convent of Poor Clares on Tuesday 9th December at 3.00pm.

**Tuesday Drop In** Next meeting: 16 December in the Cathedral Centre, all 2 to 4pm, All welcome for tea/coffee, friendly chat, board games. Lifts available, please contact Maria on 07413 267267.

**Silver Sterlings & Sewing Bees** Our next get-together for general cleaning, polishing and repairs is Thursday 11th December in the Sacristy 10am - 12 noon. Please join us - tea, coffee, chats and laughter guaranteed!

**Confirmation 2026** Application forms for the Parish Confirmation programme are now available at the back of the Cathedral and in the porch in Storrington. If you are in Year 10 or above and want to embark on the course to learn more, please complete a form and return it to the Cathedral or Fr Stephen by **5th January 2026**.

**Christmas Mass times**—Wednesday 24th December 5.00pm Vigil Mass of Christmas in the Cathedral—children are encouraged to come dressed as a character from the nativity and will have the opportunity to participate in the Spontaneous Nativity (see below); Wednesday 24th December 11.30pm (carols from 11pm) Night Mass of Christmas in the Cathedral; Thursday 25th December 9.00am Mass in Storrington; 11.00am Mass in the Cathedral.

**The Spontaneous Nativity** will be performed again at the Cathedral during the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at 5pm. There is an opportunity for all the children in the congregation to be involved - come dressed as angels and shepherds! We do need a small group of confident readers to be Mary, Joseph, Angel Gabriel, Innkeeper and a couple of other characters. They will have one or two lines to read from a card! If your child or grandchild would like to be one of these characters please contact the Parish Office soon.

**Safeguarding Representative Storrington** - We owe a huge debt of thanks to Theresa Byrne who has served as the Parish Safeguarding Representative in Storrington for many years and is now stepping down. We therefore need to find a replacement volunteer. The Parish Safeguarding Representative is responsible for: making sure the Parish is aware of the importance of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults; promoting good and safe practice, including what is appropriate and inappropriate behaviour; working with the Parish Priest and the Diocesan Safeguarding Co-ordinator in deciding how to administer the National Safeguarding Policies and Procedures within the Parish. Expressions of interest in the role to Fr Stephen or Deacon Roger. Thank you.



St Vincent  
de Paul Society  
England and Wales  
Turning Concern into Action

There are SVP Groups in Arundel and Storrington who meet regularly and can offer help and support. If you, or someone you know, would like a friendly visit or help in any way or you would like to know more, please contact the parish office.

**Missio Red Boxes (Arundel)** - If you would like your Missio Red Box emptied, please give to Frances Challen after 5pm Mass or leave in the sacristy during Advent.

**Choral Vespers** was recorded at the Cathedral recently for BBC Radio 3 and was broadcast on **Wednesday 3 December** 2025, 3.00pm, the first Wednesday in Advent and Memorial of St Francis Xavier, for repeat broadcast on Sunday 7 December 2025, 3.00pm or you can pick it up on BBC Sounds. Congratulations to Elizabeth Stratford, the choir and organists on the magnificent music they sang for this occasion.

**Sunday Lunch Club in Storrington:** The Churches in Storrington provide a cooked Sunday Lunch on the second Sunday of every month in The Old School, next one on Sunday 14th December. Tickets £5 from Louisa Austin (shop) and the Village Hub in Storrington. If you would be interested in helping with serving and/or cooking please speak to Susan Stone or contact Louise in the Parish Office.

**Christmas Day Lunch—Arundel** Don't be on your own on Christmas Day, you are warmly invited to lunch and festivities on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December at the Norfolk Centre, Mill Road, Arundel, BN18 9PA. Cost £5.00, transport available. For more information call 01903 883469.

**Don't be alone this Christmas – Storrington** 1pm lunch on Christmas Day at The Old School, tickets £10.00. Book by 15<sup>th</sup> December by calling Sue Kibblewhite 01903 745325.

**Christmas in Memoriam at Arundel** An opportunity to remember your loved ones this Christmas by bringing a poinsettia to help decorate the Cathedral. Please leave your poinsettia in the baptistery.

**Christmas Flowers collection** will be taken on the weekend of 19/20th December.



**Arundel Ministry of Consolation Group** - for those experiencing loss in any way, now or in the past. If you want to contact a member of the team you can e-mail them at: [MOC@arundelcathedral.uk](mailto:MOC@arundelcathedral.uk) or call the Cathedral office.

**Pastoral Plan Update** Bishop Richard issued a new Pastoral Plan for the Diocese [Pastoral Plan 2024 Website Copy.pdf](#) in January 2024. The Plan marks an important new stage in the development of diocesan parish structures, with the 11 former deaneries of the Diocese becoming 11 new parishes. Two new parishes have been established this year; Brighton & Hove (14 September) and Guildford (29 November). Weybridge will be inaugurated on 7 December. To find out more about the Pastoral Plan, visit the diocesan website W: [Pastoral Plan | Our Diocese](#)

**Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Word** – Saturday 24 January 2026 11-4pm at St Michael's church, High Salvington, Worthing BN13 3AL. Led by Bishop Richard and Catherine Christmas, Liturgy and Music Adviser. On the weekend of the [Sunday of the Word of God](#), this day will include talks on the Scriptures, the Lectionary and its use in the Liturgy, the Liturgy of the Word, and preparing to minister as a reader. There will be a time of Lectio Divina, and the day will conclude with the celebration of Mass. To book a place go to the Events page of the Diocesan website or use this link [Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Word \(24-Jan-2026\) · ChurchSuite Events](#) If you have any questions about this day, do not hesitate to contact Catherine Christmas at E: [catherine.christmas@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:catherine.christmas@abdiocese.org.uk)

**Posters/Notices** Anyone wishing to put up a poster or notice in either Arundel or Storrington is kindly asked to check with Fr Stephen, Deacon Roger or the parish office beforehand.

**Diocesan Directories** are now available in the shop in Arundel and the porch in Storrington for £5.00.

HOLY MASS & OTHER SERVICES THIS WEEK		<b>Prayers For The Sick</b> Your prayers are asked for all who are unwell at this time, those at home, in hospital, hospices and in care homes.
<b>Saturday 6th</b> Cathedral 5.00pm	<b>2nd Sunday of Advent, Year A</b> People of the Parish	<b>Sacrament of the Sick</b> Please contact Fr Stephen Tel 01903 882297 Other local parishes: Petworth: 01798 342169 Bognor: 01243 823619 Chichester 01243 782343
<b>Sunday 7th</b> Storrington 9.00am Cathedral 11.00am Cathedral 3.00pm	Stephen Cole RIP Sr. Giles RIP Deanery Reconciliation Service	 <b>Requiem in Aeternum</b> Your prayers are asked for all those who have died recently.
<b>Monday 8th</b> Storrington 10.00am Castle Chapel 7.00pm	<b>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b> Holy Souls Celebrant's Intention	<b>Coffee &amp; Tea</b> After 9.00am Mass at Storrington After 11.00am Mass at Arundel
<b>Tuesday 9th</b> Storrington 10.00am	People of the Parish	<b>Liturgy of the Word with Children</b> Takes place weekly at 9am Mass in Storrington. At Arundel this will take place at <b>5.00pm</b> <b>Mass</b> twice a month as follows: <b>6 &amp; 20 December.</b>
<b>Wednesday 10th</b> Fitzalan Chapel 10.00am	Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk RIP and Ladies Anne, Mary & Sarah RIP	<b>Music at Mass</b>  9.00am Mass Music Group at Storrington—all welcome to rehearsals on Wednesday evenings at 8.00pm in the church.
<b>Thursday 11th</b> Storrington 10.00am	François Mary Anne Lancaster RIP	<b>Rosary</b> Wednesdays 7.00pm - Storrington Mondays after 10am Mass - Arundel First Saturday of the month 9.15am - Arundel
<b>Friday 12th</b> Cathedral 9.15am Cathedral 10.00am	Adoration Mary Kathleen Hewitt & family	<b>Finance</b> If you have any questions about setting up standing orders or Gift Aid, please contact Martin Hall on <a href="mailto:ga.arundel@abdiocese.org.uk">ga.arundel@abdiocese.org.uk</a> Martin can help with queries in both Arundel & Storrington.
<b>Saturday 13th</b> Cathedral 10.00am Cathedral 10.30am Cathedral 5.00pm	<b>St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr</b> Diana Young RIP Confessions and Adoration to 11am <b>3rd 'Gaudete' Sunday of Advent, Year A</b> People of the Parish	
<b>Sunday 14th</b> Storrington 9.00am Cathedral 11.00am	Veronica 'Ronnie' Page RIP Ivan & Ray Weatherley RIP	
<b>Chemin Neuf at Our Lady of England, Storrington</b> Mon - Frid: Adoration 6pm-6:30pm in Church Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat Mass (Maronite) 9.00am in the Church Tuesday 7.30-8.30pm Prayer Group 01903 742150 <a href="mailto:storrington@chemin-neuf.org">storrington@chemin-neuf.org</a>		
<b>Masses at the Convent of Poor Clares, Crossbush</b> Monday - Saturday: 8.30am; (except Tues 9th, Funeral of Sr Clare at 3pm instead of 8.30am Mass) Sunday: 6.00pm		

Masses from the Cathedral are livestreamed and are available via the Cathedral website  
[www.arundelcathedral.uk](http://www.arundelcathedral.uk) or <https://www.churchservices.tv/arundel>