



**Our Lady &
St Peter
and St Bernard's
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**

Magazine 2025

Issue 79

Diocese of ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON

The Catholic Church of Our Lady and St Peter, East
Grinstead and St Bernard, Lingfield

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Welcome to our 79th annual review of parish activities

Dear Parishioners,

This past year has been dominated by the refurbishment of St Bernard's church. Like most large projects there have been significant difficulties that, at the time, were very challenging. However, they were overcome, and all was completed pretty much on time and within budget. Particular thanks to Tom Clarke who gave up so much time in steering through this task. Mention must also be made of the Finance Committee under the chair of Paul Barrett for all their excellent work. While the roof was being replaced on the outside, the inside has also been renewed. Walls and ceiling have been redecorated, new lighting installed and a storeroom constructed. Also thanks here to Mike Goodwin who made this all happen.

While much has been happening at St Bernard's, at Our Lady and St Peter the hall has been redecorated and the railings repainted. Mike Goodwin again has been involved with the lighting and Shannon Weight with the vision and colour scheme.

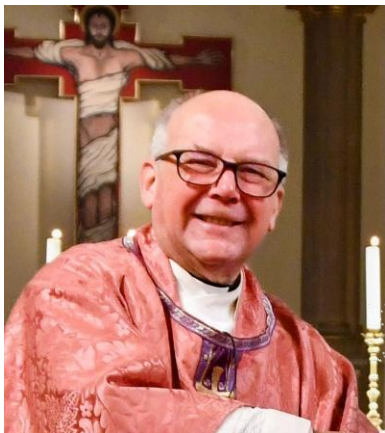
All of this has put enormous strain on our finances. The costs have been largely met by the sale of one of the parish properties. In addition, a very significant amount was raised by a fundraising drive and also through various grant applications, so although money is tight, we are still solvent. A big thank you for all who were involved and to all who contributed.

This past year there were 19 infant Baptisms and 27 First Holy

Communions. Sadly, there were insufficient candidates for Confirmation, however there are 19 in this year's cohort. Likewise, we had no marriages. Funerals remained steady, there being 24 across the parish.

Attendance at Mass seems to be good, the numbers being easily up to pre-pandemic levels, in particular at the 10:30 Mass at Our Lady and St Peter where it is often 'standing room only'.

Looking to the future the next big item will be the creation of the combined parish comprising the Crawley Deanery. Quite how this is going to take shape is still emerging, certainly it is hoped that there will be greater cooperation between the communities that will make up the new parish. As things stand both Lingfield and East Grinstead work well together, as I'm sure we will with Worth, Crawley, Horley and so on.



May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your prayers and support. I do so enjoy being your parish priest.

Fr Jack Lusted.

Fr Jack Lusted May 2025

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Papal Honours awarded in the Parish

We were delighted that two long-serving members of our community were acknowledged with 'Benemerenti' medals and certificates from Pope Francis last December. These rare honours are a testament to the dedication and inspiration they give to us. Congratulations to Chris Pond and Sue Joy.

The honour of BENEMERENTI literally means Worthy of Merit. These are rare awards perhaps less than 20 / year in the



UK to clergy and laity alike.

Benemerenti Medals are bestowed on individuals who have merited special recognition by the Holy See. The Medals are Pontifical decorations instituted by Pope Gregory XVI in 1832 and are conferred on recipients for distinguished service to Catholic principles, the Church and society, who have shown an active fidelity to and love for the Church.



The awards were presented at Mass in December 2024 with Chris and Sue being joined by Fr Jack Lusted and the community afterwards in the Hall.



Children's Ministry at St Bernard

Children's Liturgy - continues on the first Sunday of each month, sometimes with just one participant and occasionally with as many as eight. We never know until the day!

Children's Rosary - In the month of October we had our first Children's Rosary in the church hall, centred around a statue of Our Lady. With different pictures to help us focus, we prayed the Joyful Mysteries and offered our Blessed Mother roses as we prayed each decade.

Children's Advent

Afternoon - took place again at the beginning of Advent with 14 children preparing to celebrate when Jesus returns, and to get ready to meet him at his birth on Christmas Day. We made Nativity scene Christmas cards, Christingles, Advent calendars, and an



Advent wreath, and we finished with a short liturgy lead by the children. A busy and fun time was had by all.

Children's Way of the Cross - On Good Friday we had ten children and about 20 adults walking an interactive Way of the Cross, to participate in Jesus's passion and remember his great love for us. Each station had an object to see and touch and children were encouraged to really think about what it would have been like.

Our desire is to help form our children in the Catholic faith and to facilitate a deepening of their relationship with Our Lord Jesus.

We are always looking for people to join us in this ministry, so if you think the Holy Spirit is prompting you, please see Nicky Daines, Mary Watson, or Rose Bowers after Mass.

Children's Ministry at OLSP

Both churches attempt to make the liturgy more 'accessible' for children aged 8 and under, focussing on the gospel reading and trying to include the prayers of the faithful and creed as well.

The OLSP Children's Liturgy group currently operates on the first Sunday of the month and is made up of a core team of four members who take turns planning a liturgy session for children who are too young to participate fully in the adult liturgy.

We are all DBS checked and have at least two members of the team present at any one session, and more depending on numbers. We average around 10-15 children every Sunday from ages 3-10.

The aim of children's liturgy is not to provide a crèche or Sunday school, but to allow children to participate fully in the first part of Sunday worship. We read the same gospel reading as the 'adult' congregation, try to include the prayers of the faithful and the creed (time permitting) and we follow the liturgical year. For this reason some children will 'age-out' of children's liturgy at quite a young age, while others stay for longer.



Although we do not prepare children for the sacraments in any formal way, a key aim of children's liturgy is to familiarise children with the structure of the Mass and narratives from the Bible in a way that makes it more likely that they remember something.

All primary school aged children are able to attend unaccompanied, but we welcome parents who have less confident or pre-school age children to come and join in; there is no need to register beforehand but we do ask all parents to fill out a 'CASE-4' form which has information such as contact details, allergies etc.

We would like to provide more regular access to children's liturgy but require more volunteers to make sure we are following safeguarding guidelines. There is no requirement for volunteers to help plan the liturgy or commit to being present every Sunday.

If you'd like to try a different type of worship on Sundays and are willing to undertake safeguarding checks and training please consider joining our team.

Jordan Robinson – Co-ordinator

Safeguarding

The Parish is committed to safeguarding as an integral part of the life and ministry of the Church. Supported by and in compliance with the policies and procedures of the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency in England and Wales, we are striving towards a culture of safeguarding where all are safe from harm and abuse and where everyone is encouraged and enabled to enjoy the fullness of life in Jesus Christ through the prayerful, nurturing, supportive and protective endeavours of the Catholic Community, both individually and collectively.

The Safeguarding contact for the Our Lady & St Peter East Grinstead and Lingfield St Bernard Parish is **Maribel Favor**.

Email: maribelfavor@gmail.com Mobile 07528694112

Parish Finance Committee

OUR ROLE

In Canon Law the Parish Finance Committee supports the Parish Priest in all Parish finance matters. We have an extensive property portfolio consisting of two churches, two church halls, a presbytery, Fr Jack's Parish Office and one house owned & rented out by the Parish. During 2024 we sold a Parish owned house in order to help fund the St Bernard's project.

2024 OPERATING INCOME

Our normal income for the year was in the order of £185k (Offertory £111k, Gift Aid £30k, Other Income £44k)

Standing Orders now account for about 80% of our offertory which is excellent.

Gift Aid allows us to claim an additional 25% from HMRC for taxpayers at no extra cost to them. In 2024 we received nearly £30k in Gift Aid from HMRC.

For both offertory and second collections, the contactless machines in each church can now be used. These can also allow you to apply Gift Aid. You need only enter your details once and the machine will remember you. A Just Giving button is also available on the Parish website. This has now replaced the button that directed you to the Diocese website.

2024 OPERATING EXPENDITURE

Our operational expenses (Excluding the St Bernard's Project) for the year increased to £166k. (Stipend £30k, DDF Levy £36k, Maintenance/Contracts/Repairs £32K, Energy & Water £15k, Salaries £12k).

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Many thanks to everyone for making our 2024 Fundraising such a big success. We set ourselves the target of raising £60k. We actually raised £65k and with Gift Aid this will increase to £78k.

TRUST GRANTS

Our fundraising also helped us to receive generous awards totally over £37k from four trusts:

Garfield Weston Foundation, Benefact Trust, Ian Foulerton Trust and Sir Harold Hoods Charitable Trust. We would like publicly to thank these Trusts for their generosity.

ST BERNARD'S PROJECT

The main focus of this Major Church Project was replacement of the 'life expired' aluminium roof covering and structural remedial works to walls and columns. These major works ensure the longer-term structural integrity of the Church building as well as compliance with current Building Regulations.

Consultants were appointed in 2022 following a delay caused by 'Covid' and a budget in excess of £620k was advised covering the necessary remedial works and to include internal and external redecoration. Following Diocesan Finance Cttee approval to progress in June 2023, new consultants were appointed and the Project was progressed to tender in January 2024.

This process enabled the inclusion of considerable additional works including all maintenance required from the 2022 Quinquennial Survey, additional strengthening of the roof structure, new aluminium guttering, drainage repairs, cleaning of the Church façade, major works to carpark and paving, new lighting and sanding and sealing the parquet flooring.

With competitive tendering, these additional Project works have been contained within the original budget, and it is anticipated that final costs will come in below £600k.

OTHER PROPERTY WORK

Our Lady & St Peter Parish Centre

Structural repairs and refurbishment, necessitated by the effects of subsidence, have been completed along with internal and external redecoration, new carpeting and lighting and the provision of some additional upholstered seating. The sum of £20k was recovered from Diocesan Insurers for the structural repair works.

Our Lady & St Peter grounds

Overgrown hedging and trees have recently been reduced but there is a need for some attention to weeding and paving repairs etc and this will be considered for attention in the coming year... feedback will be sought from the Parish prior to carrying out any related work. We will give a full update at the forthcoming AGM in June 2025.

Paul Barrett - Parish Finance Chair

Faith is above all a response to a gaze of love. The greatest mistake we can make as Christians is, in the words of Saint Augustine, "to presume that the grace of Christ consists in His example and not in the gift of His person."

Pope Leo IV May 2025

Ministry of Consolation

The Ministry of Consolation has now been active at Our Lady & St Peter for over two years. Our monthly Consolation Cafe was recently re-named to reflect that we are here to support not only those who are grieving the loss of a loved one but also those who are lonely, sad or just in need of some friendly company. We offer a warm, non-judgemental welcome and hope that those who attend find comfort and support. Forthcoming dates continue to be advertised in the weekly Parish Newsletter, usually with two weeks' notice.

For those who would find attending the Café difficult, one to one support is available for anyone who would like to talk to a bereavement supporter. Please contact the Parish Office for this to be arranged.

On the 15th June 2024 a Healing Mass was arranged at Our Lady and St Peter for those who had lost a child before or after birth. This Mass was a comfort for those who attended, and many joined us for refreshments in the Parish Centre after Mass.

On Saturday 2nd November 2024 (during the month of Holy Souls), Fr Jack offered Mass at Our Lady and St Peter for all our family and friends who had died, with candles being lit in remembrance. As this coincided with our monthly Consolation Cafe, we were very pleased to offer refreshments after Mass in the Parish Centre.

A leaflet is available on the table at the back of both Churches. This gives information about the Ministry and how to contact us.

The Parish still has just two trained bereavement supporters; new members to this Ministry would be most welcome. If you are interested, or wish to know more, please speak to Father Jack in the first instance. The training provided by the Diocese will be once a week for 8 weeks and will include direct teaching sessions followed reading and assignments. This will take place either at the St Philip Howard Centre in Crawley (formerly DABCEC) or via Zoom. Refresher training is also provided by the Diocese at least once a year with the opportunity to receive regular updates and support.



“He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others.” (2 cor 1:4)

We look forward to continuing to serve our Parish Family and would be happy to receive comments/suggestions to help us provide even better support.

Sue Faulkner and Eleanor Johnson

Christmas Wreath Making

At the beginning of Advent a group of 15 ladies gathered in the church hall to share the experience of creating Christmas Wreaths to place on the doors of our homes. We also made wreaths to sell at church, and managed to raise £100 for the



church refurbishment fund. We enjoyed fellowship and creativity - and raise funds for the church too!

Sacristy and Servers at St Bernard

We continue to support Fr Jack in preparing for Mass and in clearing away afterwards, often helped by our young assistants (children who may join us in serving after they have made their First Holy Communion).

If you would like to join us in supporting Fr Jack in this way, please see Mary Watson or Nicky Daines after Mass. We would welcome you.

First Holy Communion and Reconciliation

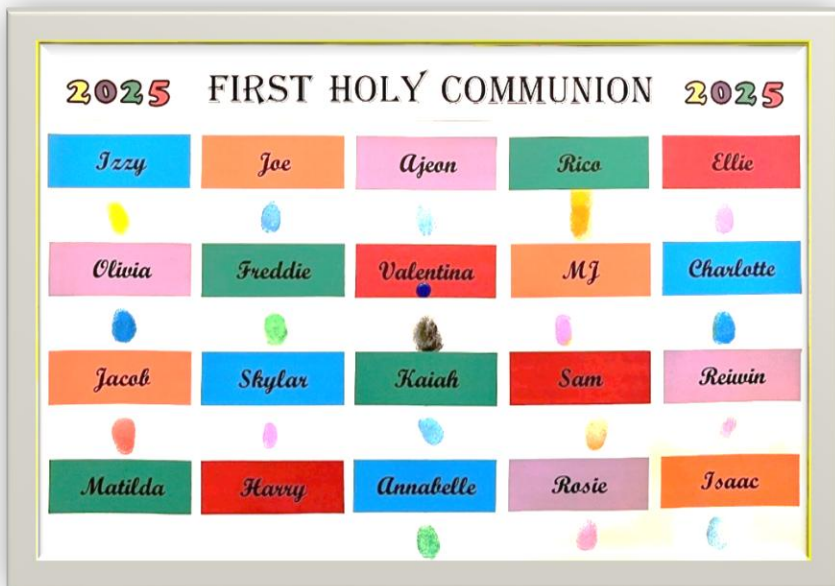
The Team covers OLSP and SB and currently consists of five volunteers. We prepare children over eight Saturdays and four Masses spaced throughout the year. Children make their First Reconciliation in February and then we have two Masses in mid-June where children make the First Holy Communion.

First Holy Communion is the second sacrament of Christian initiation. In our parish preparation is typically undertaken when a baptised child is in Year 4 (8/9 years old). Children who ‘missed’ the usual time, or if didn’t feel ready when they were younger are also able to participate. We are also able to cater to children of differing needs or abilities when we are given adequate time to prepare.

Parents are asked to help their children attend and participate in Mass throughout the year, help their children complete the workbook and prioritise our Saturday meetings, but do not attend classes alongside children.

This year we have 20 children making their First Holy Communion in June. They have been a thoughtful and enthusiastic group so please pray for them and welcome them into the church. This year we have adapted four Masses throughout the year into ‘children’s Masses’ so that the children have a turn at reading, welcoming and other duties.

On the 29th June all the children are invited to wear their First Holy Communion clothes and participate in all of the usual Mass duties for a final time.



If you would like to participate in this ministry, we always welcome volunteers. We meet eight times a year (November to June) on Saturday mornings in St Bernard's with the children and require all of our volunteers to be DBS checked and undertake safeguarding training.

Victoria, Shannon, Maribel, Julie Anne, Jordan

Lourdes Pilgrimage 2024

Each year, the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton takes more than 700 pilgrims to Lourdes to visit the Shrine of Our Lady of

Lourdes. The Group includes pilgrims who are sick, disabled, frail or elderly and need help to make the journey. Our pilgrimage is 'Love in Action', the journey to Lourdes focusses on service to each other and a renewal of our commitment to walk with Jesus Christ with the help of Our Lady and St Bernadette.

Thirteen parish members went on the Arundel and Brighton pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2024 - two Redshirts, four Helpers, one Chaplain, one Doctor, four Assisted Pilgrims and one Pilgrim.



Led by Bishop Richard Moth, the theme was **"Go and tell the priests to come here in procession"** and a wonderful time was had by all.

Wonderful memories include the Blessed Sacrament procession, a visit to the Baths, the Torchlight Procession, the International Mass, the high and low stations, and the Masses in the underground Basilica, including the Anointing of the sick.

Parishioners at 10.30am Mass will remember Carolyn Wells who died on 18 March 2023. The picture shows her memorial stone on the Pilgrimage grave where her ashes were interred - we hope she was pleased to be in the place she had loved so much as an assisted Pilgrim.



The 2025 pilgrimage is from 24-31 July with the theme

Pilgrims of Hope. Six helpers from the Parish will be going, plus one Chaplain and 2 Assisted Pilgrims - please pray for us.

Sue Joy May 2025

The Forum at St Bernard

A Parishioner's Reflection

What is a Forum?

A forum is broadly understood as a gathering where individuals with shared interests come together to discuss, collaborate, and determine the best path forward in achieving their common goals. Unlike hierarchical structures, a forum requires only a Moderator and a Record Keeper to track agreements.

How It Began

About six years ago, the Parish of East Grinstead and Lingfield experienced significant changes in the management of its churches. Fr Jack took over from Fr Steven just as the COVID-19

pandemic unfolded, and shortly afterward, Deacon Ted and his wife departed from St Bernard's.

The impact of these changes at St Bernard's was profound—local church management effectively came to a halt. Suddenly, no one even knew where the keys were kept! With Fr Jack's support, the St Bernard's community formed a Forum to handle local management issues. Previously, such matters were simply reported to or resolved by Deacon Ted. Now, parishioners had to take ownership themselves.

In hindsight, this transition has proven to be a positive step forward. Today, we have gained valuable experience in managing parish operations independently.

Taking Responsibility

The first task was to meet under Fr Jack's guidance and list all essential duties. Then, the most crucial step—assigning *responsibility*.

Responsibility is at the heart of this initiative. More than 20 community members attended, and, to their surprise, over 30 weekly tasks needed designated owners. An even greater surprise: all tasks were immediately adopted by individuals willing to step forward.

A list of responsibilities is now displayed on the notice board, ensuring everyone knows who is accountable. Additionally, many members provide support to task owners. For example, seven parishioners now rotate monthly responsibility for flower arrangements.

Every two months, owners report on their tasks—a simple box-ticking exercise. However, the meetings provide an opportunity

to address other concerns and discuss community interests. Thanks to the Forum, St Bernard's now operates efficiently within both the parish and the broader parish framework. Of course, larger matters such as pastoral policies, finances, and major works remain under the parish's responsibility.

Lessons from the Forum

The reality is clear: clergy can no longer single-handedly manage every aspect of parish life. We have fewer priests, and today's responsibilities include compliance, health and safety, insurance, and safeguarding regulations, etc. If we want our clergy to focus on pastoral duties, expecting them to handle all other tasks is simply unrealistic.

Likewise, relying on just a few people to bear the load is not sustainable. The only viable solution is collective local management.

We also recognize that long-serving parishioners—many of whom have carried these responsibilities for decades—eventually need to step back. Without an organized mechanism like the Forum, ensuring continuity becomes difficult.

Under the new parish structure, where pastoral matters are increasingly centralized, communities that demonstrate self-management may receive greater pastoral support. After all, a building remains a church only if it has an active congregation. Simply attending services once a week is not enough to sustain and expand a church's presence.

Furthermore, as individual churches integrate more closely with the larger parish framework, those that actively practice self-management are likely to remain viable. As the Diocese continues addressing the need to focus clergy efforts on

pastoral care, self-sufficient communities will be better positioned to thrive.

In short, churches that do not take ownership of their day-to-day management risk jeopardizing their own future.

CAFOD 2024 round up

CAFOD continues its important work in keeping the Catholic community in touch with people living in poverty who need practical help, whatever their religion or culture by campaigning for global justice, so that every woman, man and child can live a full and dignified life. CAFOD is the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and part of Caritas International. Through our global Church network, one of the largest in the world, CAFOD has the potential to reach everyone.

Two Family Fast days were held in 2024 - one in March (Lenten) and one in October (Harvest) and raised a total of £1855. There was also a special collection for the people of Sudan suffering from the three-year civil war - £786. Thank you for your generosity. Parishioners were also asked to sign a petition protesting about the cuts to the aid budget, its lowest level since 1999. The result will be that in some of the most vulnerable places on earth, more people will die and many more will lose their livelihoods.

At a time when we are seeing other western nations reduce aid to support the world's most vulnerable communities, our government should be careful to ensure that increases in defence spending do not come out of the necessary aid budget. Please go to the CAFOD website and write to your MP. www.cafod.org.uk.

CAFOD also continues its campaign about ending the global debt crisis and will be participating in a mass lobby of Parliament on Wednesday 9 July. This will provide a unique opportunity to speak to our MPs about this important issue.

Donations to CAFOD also resulted from the Parish Christmas Card greetings scheme and CAFOD's World Gifts catalogue was available both in our Churches and on our website.

The CAFOD Team

Music Liturgy and activity report 2024/25

I am your Musical Director, Liam Bauress. This last year has been busy beyond the usual Sunday Mass obligations, funerals and weddings. So, in chronological order:

On 7th July 2024, the Lingfield SVP held another charity concert with the iconic cream tea intermezzo. Dorian Pringle sang a set of major operatic arias, Kate and I played a piano duet arrangement of the second movement of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony.

On Tuesday 17th December 2024, the Parish Music Liturgy Team and some parishioners sang carols in the East Grinstead Station concourse in aid of Saint Catharine's Hospice.

On Thursday 19th December 2024, the Lingfield SVP staged the third St Bernard's Carol Service, culminating with mince pies and mulled wine in the Hall. As ever, donations were for the South Sudan Baby Feeding Programme.

Meanwhile, in Sunday Mass, we migrated from a Bernadette Farrell setting to a Paul Inwood setting. Next stop will be a revisit to the Mass of Creation by Marty Haugen.

Another innovation is the adoption of the revised psalter which uses the words from the new Lectionary. Parishioners have also had significant input as regards repertoire.

Rafael Barba from Spain was with us for a few months got us singing a big hit in Spanish churches, Hurricane. Similarly, Dayan got us singing an Alleluia which was composed by his cousin in his original home parish.



The Folk Band continues to play once a month even though our average is about 80. New members would be most welcome to lower that average. Teacher illness at St Peter's School has impacted the regular monthly Junior Choir Masses but things should be back to normal in the new school year.

The splendid Junior Band have got older and gone off to college, leaving a big whole in our music liturgy provision. Again, new members would be most welcome. Band master Julian Spencer always arranges the music to suit each player's ability, so come on down. Don't be shy.

Back to the diary:

On Good Friday, 18th April, Churches Together East Grinstead again held their annual open-air service in the High Street. Our parishioners, Mike Hope and Sue Joy, have been on the Committee for quite a while. It was my first time. I can thoroughly recommend it. See you there next year.

On Sunday 11th May, the confirmation Mass at Arundel Cathedral was specifically for our parish. It was wonderful to see and hear the various parish teams in action supporting our young people. A good and holy time was had by all.

The following Sunday, we had the Family Mass to celebrate the strikingly beautiful refurbishment of St Bernard's. I think it must be the first time that all available cantors from both churches sang together at a Mass. Mass was followed by refreshments, entertainment and activities. Perhaps the Jerusalema Dance workshop will spark a resurgence of liturgical dance!

Looking ahead, the next SVP Charity concert and cream tea intermezzo will be Saturday 4th October at 3:00pm when the esteemed harpist, Margaret Watson, will entertain and inform us about the celestial instrument. Tuesday 16th December is scheduled to be the next 'Carols at the Station'.

Thursday 18th December at 7:30pm sees the fourth St Bernard's Carol Service.

If you have been, thank you for reading, and perhaps consider helping along the music liturgy in our parish.

Liam Bauress May 2025

SVP at St Bernard 2024-25

You made a DIFFERENCE thank you

Overseas

In the past year we were able to feed 52 children for a year in war torn South Sudan. £3000 in value at local level went to our two Indian Villages helping towards self-sufficiency.

At Home



Homeless numbers in the Crawley area continue to grow. Once again we were able to supply Crawley Open House with 65 new winter grade Sleeping Bags. With covers and hot flasks. Food banks received £600 in vouchers.

Reaching out

Our monthly soup lunch continues to grow, with up to 20 people from the wider community dropping in for a chat. Do come along it's open the last Saturday of the month at 12:30. Bring a friend - all are most welcome!

These are some of the main areas where with you our many supporters, we've been able to 'make a difference'.

What is it that defines the St Vincent de Paul Society-The SVP? Well, perhaps it can be found in our Logo.

'Turning Concern into Action'

When there are people in need, whether they be Overseas in The SVP of England and Wales's nominated countries such as South Sudan and our Indian villages, or our Homeless nearer to home, or simply providing



companionship to people on their own, by giving of our time the aim is to couple [Concern with Action](#).

Almost all of our fund-raising events such as, Lunches with Silent auction, Music with Cream Tea, Sunday coffee with Bacon Butties, are free only relying on your generous donations. Due to limited space, we also run ticketed events, e.g. our Curry/Quiz night, and our Jazz in the Garden. Our Cake sale and Winter Appeal are also important income sources. But what they all have in common is, the bringing together of our Parish communities, which in itself is another of our aims.

What do we need to expand this work?

Simply put, **it's people** who can give a little time and imagination to help us touch more people in need.

There are a number of ways to help. As a **Full member** of the SVP you are allowed to **visit** those in need of help and companionship. As an **Auxiliary member** you are in effect a full member but may not visit vulnerable people as an SVP representative but you can participate in all of our events. Indeed, without our Auxiliaries we could not function.

At St Bernard's, we also have another level namely those who volunteer to help **'when asked'**. Our grateful thanks to them!

We meet monthly on the first Tuesday at 7:30 pm in St Bernard's Hall for about 2 hours, in the certain knowledge that in the words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

***“Where two or three are gathered together
in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”***

Our meetings begin with prayer followed by a period of round table spiritual discussion. These are lively, frank and considered by all to be beneficial.

Uniquely we acknowledge the tone of our discussions are the legacy of our retired Chaplain Fr Padraig Reagan CM who encouraged us to be mindful of the needs of others and never to claim we act alone. While the focus of all we try to do is to help those in need there is, while we engage in our current and future activity planning, a great sense of fun and camaraderie.

There are 12 people in our group known as an SVP Conference, of which there are over 800 in England and Wales. You may know us:

Enrique Valles President, Jenny Wilson Secretary, Liam Baures, Mike Butcher, Denise Doolan, Mary Goodwin, Mike Goodwin, Frank Lilley, Lala Micallef, Marissa Holgate, Angeline Rosner, Bernard Sumner,

Please give some thought to joining us in any capacity; you can do as little or as much as your personal commitments allow and help us: **‘Turn Concern into Action’**. Speak to any one of us or simply turn up on any First Tuesday in the month and join in at one of our meetings, you will be most welcome as will your participation.

Let us always remember the words of our dear Fr Len Turner:

***‘You can't help everybody
but be sure to help somebody’***

SVP activity at OLSP

One of the enduring mottos of the St. Vincent de Paul Society is “any act of Charity is not foreign to the society” So, because our lay society from the outset in 1833 has always worked closely with the Parish Priest, our work can vary from parish to parish, but invariably its mission is to help those in need. If you asked Fr. Jack what do we do at Our Lady and St. Peter’s, he is likely to say that we do a lot of Pastoral work and certainly, our Secretary’s Report at the end of the financial year for 2024 -2025 reflects precisely that.

We are expected to have regular meetings and we had 19 in the year. This helps us to not only meet regularly together in a prayerful way, but to keep in touch with what is happening locally, so that we can respond to any particular needs.

In 1833 we were the only lay charity visiting people on a face - to-face basis, and this year we made a total of 568 visits to elderly people in their own homes, 60 visits to people in residential and nursing homes, 35 visits to refugees, and 15 family visits. We also visited 6 Parishioners in hospital.

During the Pandemic, shopping for housebound people was commonplace, but surprisingly, we were only called upon 8 times this year. We have given material assistance in the form of financial help to people we visit 8 times, and items of furniture on 2 occasions. Most years we make substantial contributions to the Lourdes fund, but not the past year because there was enough in the Parish Fund. The same applies in usually providing an SVP caravan holiday for one family, but in the past year because of terrible flooding the site was unusable.

We managed to give 38 lifts to Mass last year, but with only 7 members, this is an area where there is a definite need, which we are sadly unable to fully carry out - if only we had a few more members!

One of our ongoing commitments is to take out Holy Communion to an average of 13 housebound and sick Parishioners within a fortnight, in close communication with Fr. Jack; one of our members is involved with OLSP Consolation Café, for those who are bereaved, sad, or just need a friendly chat.

In the past couple of years, with the rising cost of living, our activities have increased at the Foodbank. As a registered charity, the SVP has to be accountable for giving direct financial help to other charities, in accordance with Charity Commission rules. But realizing the need, SVP allows Conferences to purchase each financial quarter items of food up to a certain amount; and together with the Parish contributions of food left at the back of the church collected by an SVP member, both our local Foodbank and that of Crawley Open House have benefited significantly from our contributions. One of our members puts in a few hours each week at the foodbank in E.G. which cements a good working relationship between the two charities.

We have also focused our attention on the plight of refugees who have been placed in our locality, and have given financial help to 2 individual persons, and paid for the rent of a room facility for Ukrainians to have English lessons.

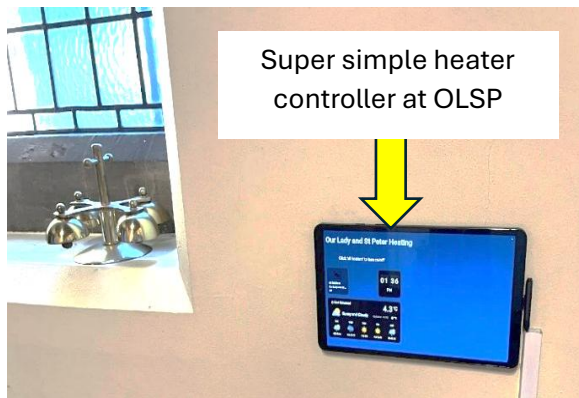
Peter Wells May 2025

IT, Sound and Livestreaming in our Parish

OLSP news

We have found some wonderful contractors who have improved the networking and Wi-Fi at OLSP giving us good Wi-Fi across the 3 buildings that make up the site. We have introduced a wifi signing in page too which kicks you out after 3 hours – a measure to ensure neighbours don't piggy-back on our broadband!

Sound quality and volume is tended as a delicate plant. Slight changes in the volumes can cause feedback or complete silence. We will have to look at a refresh of the sound kit in a future year. The wireless microphone is now working well and the standalone mic used by the Rosary Group is reported as excellent.



The heaters got a 21st century upgrade too. We now have the heaters controlled by schedule and by temperature. Before people resorted to switching them off at the wall! If you've been into the

sacristy, you will have seen the tablet dedicated to allowing a 'one-button' toggle to switch them on and off. Useful also for non-regular events like funerals and baptisms.

We will also look at installing CCTV at OLSP – building on the positive lessons learnt at St Bernard's – and ensuring that the responsibility for managing the cameras is a shared one! CCTV will reduce our insurance premiums and allow the possibility of opening the church during the day.

St Bernard's news

The Wi-Fi at SB continues to be reliable - this has been exploited in 2025 to support the wi-fi enabled heaters. The electronic equipment needed a lot of dusting off after the renovations but thankfully, no damage was sustained.

Sound in the church needs to be improved, particularly to the choir loft where Liam and the choir can miss their cues! This work is underway and will be completed this June.

Electronic payment machines

These were installed during the year following approval from the diocese and finance committee. The SB machine was in the wrong location but is now in a prominent but discrete position at the back of the church.

They did have an upfront cost and a monthly fee but they are an ideal way for cash-free visitors and parishioners to pay towards the church's needs. They do gift aid too and remember you for next time, making the process easy. They are a success.

Livestreaming

We are now into our 5th year of livestreaming of two masses a week for the benefit of those unable to attend Mass in person. Typically, we have 6-9 concurrent viewers at SB, 4-9 at OLSP.

We also livestream the Rosary on a Friday afternoon too (Midday, just after adoration). Baptisms, funerals and weddings over the last year are regularly streamed and we are happy to provide a record of these events on a USB stick. Note, we won't stream a special service by default. We need your explicit permission to stream – so please ask.

Put together on a shoestring budget, it has served its purpose well and we are slowly upgrading cameras and laptops to stream faster and at higher speeds. This laptop upgrade is being forced upon by the end of Windows 10 support by Microsoft in October.

Ideas and improvements please to Jonathan Jenkins at jamjenkins64@outlook.com

Justice and Peace Group

Throughout 2024, EG Justice and Peace Group continued its watching brief on a wide range of activities whilst contemplating its future. This was due to the difficulty of recruiting new members

and the taking on of new projects which members felt capable of seeing through. Ultimately it was decided that after 35 years as an active ecumenical group it would cease “to be” at the end of 2024.

Although saddened, the Group was heartened by the prospect of a reconstituted Churches in East Grinstead led by Ben Scrivens, Minister at Trinity Methodist Church, which J&P reps were invited to join as lay members. In this way their experience and networking skills in a wide range of social justice issues would be continued.

Individual Group members agreed to remain involved in the Love in a box scheme, the annual Sleep Out, the Charity Feast Spring



and Autumn programmes, support for Crawley Open House, the World Day of Prayer (on Friday March 2026 prepared by the Christian women of Nigeria), Amnesty letter writing, online petitions on social action issues, and also a newly established Eco-Group chaired by David Shaw, Trinity Methodist Church.

In 2024 £3366.99 was raised from the Sleep Out - £1122.33 each sent to Crawley Open House, The Easter Team and Turning Tides, £5988 from the Charity feasts for six local charities, and 176 boxes were sent to Moldova from the Love in a Box scheme in November.

Thanks to all former J&P Group members for their long-term commitment and service.

Sue Joy

Adoration/Holy Hour

We invite you to join us for a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration at St Bernard's Church, Wednesday's at 7.30pm.



We spend an hour in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament praying and meditating on the love of Christ. You are most welcome to join us for more details: *Mary 07512203744 or Nicky 01342 870358*

Jesus my God, I adore You, here present in the Blessed Sacrament.

A Holy Hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament is worth more than a thousand years of human glory. (Padre Pio).

Fairtrade sales in the Parish



East Grinstead is a Fairtrade town and both St. Bernard and Our Lady and St Peter are Fairtrade Churches, within the Fairtrade Diocese of Arundel and Brighton. By supporting our church stalls or by buying Fairtrade at your supermarket of choice, you can make a difference to someone's life. With such dreadful conflicts in the world at the moment we are not always able to obtain a large selection of

items, so please just come back next time if you don't see what you want on your visit. Even one banana can make a difference.

The Fairtrade Foundation - the UK arm of the Fairtrade movement – was established in 1992 by CAFOD, Christian Aid, Oxfam, Trócaire, the World Development Movement and the National Federation of Women's Institutes.



Feeling brave? One of our livelier pickles from Eswatini (Swaziland)

It was started in response to the struggles of Mexican Coffee farmers, following the collapse of coffee prices in the 1980's. Fairtrade addresses the challenges of market access and price, which are not devised for the smaller scale farmers, putting them at a disadvantage. All participants must adhere to Fair Trade's social, economic and environmental standards.

Buying Fairtrade helps develop a better standard of living, not just for the farmer, but also for their community, through the added Fairtrade Premium, an extra amount of money that can be used for education, health care or any other project that is needed.

We come to you! By advertising in the newsletters - in advance – there is no surprise when you see us at the back of our churches. And we now take cards too – using the new card readers. So please support this important way of putting faith into action.

Anne & Julian Spencer. May 2025

Fairtrade Lingfield and Dormansland

Fairtrade Lingfield and Dormansland was happy to bring together our regular stall holders at the Big Brew and Spring Market in March 2024 which was well attended. As a result of donations received, and proceeds from cake sales and the raffle, £250 was sent to Transform Trade, the successor to Traidcraft which closed down in January 2023. Transform Trade supports small producer farmers and growers in the developing world. Another event took place at the Harvest market in the Autumn and a further donation was also sent.

The Fairtrade Foundation continues to encourage critical support for fairer trade, including over 100 MPs pledging their commitment to farmers and workers dealing with the reality of unfairer trade every day. It also campaigns for better pay and greater support for climate adaptation which calls on businesses, consumers and decision-makers to improve human rights for farmers and workers in the global trading system. Looking ahead the Fairtrade Foundation will be back at the Glastonbury Festival in June and Fairtrade Fortnight will be from 22 September - 5 October.

Chris and Margaret Vasey

Confirmation 2025

Sunday 11th May saw the culmination of the confirmation programme for the young people of the parish. Some 17 (yes – seventeen!) young people attended the Cathedral of Our Lady and St Philip Howard in Arundel to be confirmed in the presence of Bishop Richard, Father Jack and their many friends and family.

Attending Mass at Arundel Cathedral can present logistical challenges for those of us that travel from the East Grinstead and Lingfield areas. However, as this year is a Jubilee year in the Church's calendar, all the young people of the Arundel & Brighton Diocese were invited to attend confirmation at Arundel Cathedral.



Jakub Bizukowicz
Felix Dell
Luca Dell
Joshua Doggett
Seth Elmer
aximilian Gordon Clark
George Hughes
Harry Hughes
Cameron Lloyd

Caidan Maxey
Samuel O'Sullivan
Nathan Pepper
Camila Piggott
James Reilly
Maya Spryszynska
Rogan Weight
Maksymilian Wielowski

*Also for: Ciaran McMahon and Declan McMahon
who will be Confirmed on 13th July 2025*

According to Bishop Richard he is due to confirm some 1000 young people within the Diocese this year alone.

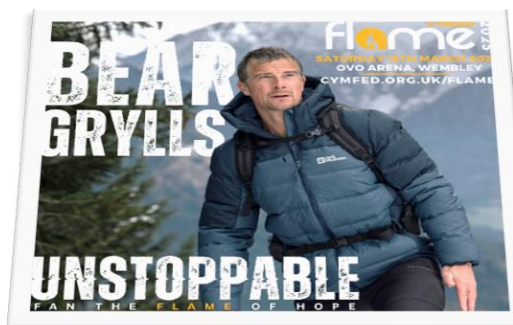
The weather was glorious, the parking awful. Fortunately the confirmation Mass on 11th May was held for the young people of our parish only, which meant that plenty of family and friends could attend. In previous years our parish has had to share the day with two or three other parishes.

The day itself was the final step in the confirmation programme which started in January 2025.

As part of the programme the young people attended a number of workshops to understand what “confirmation” means, both to them as individuals and to the wider Church community.

The young people also spent some time on ‘retreat’ at Worth Abbey to allow a deeper reflection of their faith and of their role as young adults in the Church. The confirmation catechists were impressed with the level of maturity demonstrated by the young people during the programme.

As some readers may know the Catholic Church in England and Wales organises a biennial event for young people, called “Flame”. Flame was held at Wembley Arena this year and many of our confirmation group attended, thanks to the support and prayers of the parish.



Copies of the Cathedral Order of Service can be found at the back of both OLSP and St Bernard’s church for those who wish

to know more about the day. We will present all of the young people with their Confirmation certificates at a parish Mass in the autumn. As a postscript two more of the young people of our parish will be confirmed in July 2025.

We wish all of the young people all of the joy of Easter and the strength of the Holy Spirit as they embark on their journey of faith.

Mike Hope, Eileen Lyons, Thad Dell, Mary Bellinger, Terry O'Neill

Missio

Missio ignites God's love by helping local missionaries to work alongside global communities that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. Sometimes this need might be very specific: a motorbike for a Priest to celebrate Mass in remote villages; a simple community hall so people can gather; vaccinations to protect vulnerable children. Whatever our missionaries need to help them share the joy of the Gospel, Missio strives to provide it. By [supporting Missio](#), you play a vital part in creating a vibrant Catholic Church for the future.

Missio gives thanks to God for the election of our new pope, Pope Leo XIV, highlighting his extensive missionary experience in Peru and prays for him, that he will have the strength to lead the Church in proclaiming Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour of all in the footsteps of Peter. The new Holy Father began his pontificate with a message of peace to all nations and people, everywhere. In his first statement, he told crowds in St Peter's Square, and the many millions more watching around the world, to continue to be in mission: 'We have to look together how to be a missionary Church, building bridges, dialogue, always open to receiving with open arms for everyone, like this square, open to all, to all who need our charity, our presence, dialogue, love.'

Your support of the Church's mission of proclaiming the Good News of the Risen Christ is helping those in need to claim their dignity as children of God. By God's grace and your help, they can stand tall and proud. In 2024, people in England and Wales gave over £2 million through the Red Box - both donations in the boxes and by people giving directly via direct debits, cheques and online.

In the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton, almost £130,000 was raised. East Grinstead Parish raised £2,465 including £443 at St Bernard's.

The Parish Communications Team

Jordan, Seana and JJ continue in this role of improving parish communications, following a busy inaugural year in 2024:

1. Improving the written and online newsletter. Online, the range of news has been extended and now includes diocesan and national events and is quite a concentrated read.
2. Creating WhatsApp groups
3. Rewriting the website
4. Supporting events and announcements with publicity and equipment

We are taking the communications brief further this year:

Firstly, we are producing this document (the parish magazine) - hard act to follow after Klara King's many years of professional engagement.

Secondly, we are aligning our efforts with the deanery comms team (specifically, a standardised website common to the bigger parish).

Thirdly, we hope you agree that the creation of a 'welcome pack' will be er, welcome. This will include a card to take away and pin

to fridge with contact details. Plus, we are looking to create a welcome sheet for our neuro-diverse congregation.

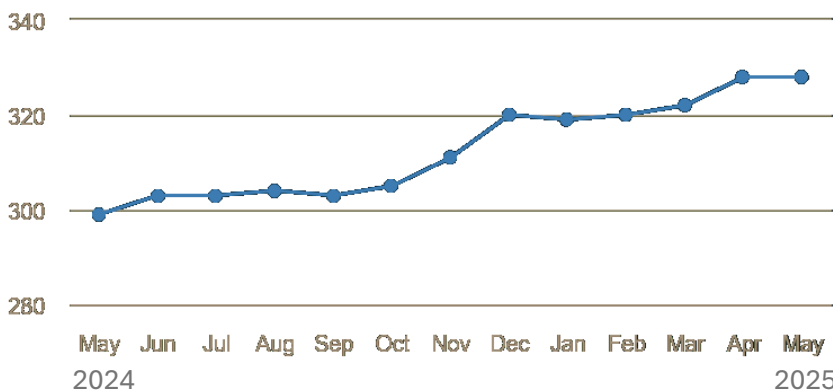
Finally, we are challenging ourselves by taking the fullest meaning of communications to include promotion of faith and formation. We will be announcing some programmes later this summer.

So who are we all? A total of **467 named parishioners** are in the database; 72 regularly attend St Bernard's, 309 most regularly attend OLSP. The remainder go to both churches equally, or might be housebound, Worth Abbey parishioners, or those keeping in touch abroad. It may also include those who unsubscribe from the newsletter but stay part of the parish.

We also have **328 digital subscribers** between both churches, a 10% increase over the year, so that's good:

Total subscribers

328 ↑ 9.7% compared to last year



If you are not registered, please, please consider doing so. We can then contact you and you can keep up to date with news. Go to www.eastgrinsteadcatholicparish.com or look for the forms at

the back of the churches. Also, if you move or change numbers - please go to the bottom of the email newsletter and click 'update your preferences'. You will be mailed a link to change all the details. It does help if we need to contact you, so please check we have the up-to-date details.

Other than the weekly newsletter, we are able to send out urgent requests or appeals plus pastoral letters from Fr Jack. The WhatsApp announcements group has saved wasted journeys when Mass has unexpectedly been cancelled. We don't spam but send out critically important news. Please join us. Scan this QR code to join.



We keep your privacy paramount and GDPR regulations are followed. Un-registering is just as easy – but we hope you find the weekly online newsletter useful.

Finally, we are delighted that one of our contractors (NML networks) has quite unexpectedly come up with a mechanical solution to the pain in changing at hymn numbers at OLSP. The hymn board now simply moves up and down on a pole. Lovely Low Tech!

Seana, Jordan and Jonathan

The Parish 100 Club

Now approaching the 25th year of its inception, the Parish 100 Club continues to offer a “bit of a flutter” for a chance to win good cash



An idea for a welcome card, stolen from another parish

prizes and raise funds for worthwhile causes in our Parish community. True, “100” is a little misleading as we have a “cap” on 126 members but the original title was “200 Club”. This could not be achieved and the “100” compromise followed.

For a membership annual subscription of just £20, we offer a quarterly draw with an opportunity to win one of three prizes, £150, £75 and £50 and, in recent years, reserves permitting, a Christmas bonus has also been included.

Worthwhile Causes for funds raised can come under any manner of reasons, recent cases being the supply of a new Henry cleaner at Our Lady & St Peter’s, also support for the moving of the grand piano in St Bernard’s. And the 100 Club will always be pleased to hear from any Parish groups who need to raise funds for a particular reason but do not have their own resources to do so.

For that purpose, or if you would like to become a member, just speak to, or contact, Chris (07812 952784 cjp_mrp@hotmail.com). Now, a Big Thank You here to all our members who support us so well, some of them back to the Club’s very beginning.

Chris Pond

Prayer Network

Our prayer network has been in existence for well over two years now and includes 22 parishioners who have volunteered to respond to any prayer request which they receive. Prayer requests are sent to all members of the prayer network via e mail promptly after they are received by the co-ordinator.

Members of the prayer network say prayers for the intention they have received in their own home. This co-ordinated prayer at

home means that there are a lot of people praying for the same intention. This also enables those housebound parishioners who can no longer get to Church to participate fully in the prayer life of the parish.

Some people requesting prayers ask to be anonymous and this is always respected. Only the information that is requested to be shared will be passed on by the prayer network co-ordinator who has a current Diocesan DBS and has been checked for Safeguarding purposes according to Diocesan guidelines.

All prayer requests are responded to by our intercessors. Although most prayer requests come from members of our parish, we welcome prayer requests from anyone who is in need of prayer or would like prayers said for a family member or friend. We would like to receive more prayer requests so please do not hesitate to make contact if you would like your intentions prayed for. Contact details are listed in our weekly newsletter and in this parish magazine.

We would like to extend our prayer network and invite members of our parish family, who would like to pray for the needs of others, to join us. Although most members of the prayer network receive requests via e mail there are a few who are contacted by phone when a prayer request is sent.

Sue Faulkner

Prayer Network Co-ordinator

Rosary Group at Our Lady & St Peter's

The group was established in November 2017 to provide an opportunity for parishioners to pray the rosary together in church and to generally encourage participation in the devotion. We were inspired by the 100th anniversary of the Fatima Apparitions, in particular Our Lady's instruction that we should all pray the rosary on a regular basis, for peace in the world. Appropriately enough, we pray in front of a statue of Our Lady of Fatima, between the Lady Chapel and Altar at Our Lady & St Peter's Church.

We pray the rosary shortly after 12 noon on a Friday - adoration begins at 11.00am.

It's safe to say we are operating on an even keel – new members come along and old members leave, in roughly the same numbers – there are 40 folk on the rosary prayer document distribution list, which we send out on the Wednesday ahead of Friday prayers.

The rosary is streamed and regularly gets over 40 views, helped by the Wi-Fi upgrade at OLSP, for which we are very grateful. On

average 8 - 10 parishioners attend OLSP to pray the rosary each week.

We use homilies and writings by pope's, saints, and religious generally, to help us open our hearts to the messages of each mystery. We have also developed the custom of adding a short topical prayer after the first 5 Hail Mary's, which usually includes a prayer for peace, as requested by Our Lady of Fatima.

Over the years this has proved to be a popular addition to our devotion to the Rosary.

I mentioned our connection with the Fatima Apparitions and our aim to foster greater participation in praying the rosary. The Promoter General of the Rosary, Fr Lawrence Lew O.P., shares our thoughts, as you will see from the following quotes:



- “The Rosary is about life. Because the Rosary is about Jesus Christ and “in him was life and life was the light of men.” Our hope is to share in the joys of Mary, the joys of eternal life with all the Saints in heaven.”
- “I am conscious that the greatest promoter of the Rosary is Mary herself, and there can be no better endorsement, no greater encouragement than to have the Queen of Heaven herself ask us to pray the rosary every day. But she does so with a mother’s gentle love: without compulsion, nor guilt, nor under threat of sin. Rather she, the Mother of all who

live, simply invites all of us who love life, and who desire an abundance of life in Christ, to heed her sweet words, and so offer her a crown of spiritual roses formed from our prayers and meditations on the mysteries of salvation contained in the Holy Rosary.”

Please do join us at OLSP on a Friday if you can, you will be made very welcome. Alternatively view the streaming on the parish website or simply add your name to the email distribution for the weekly rosary prayer document. Please get in touch using the contact details below. I know too that many parishioners will be praying the rosary privately, and hope that they will find these words helpful.

Les Whittaker tel/text: 07502 274450

leswhittaker252@outlook.com

Guild of St Stephen for Altar Servers

The Guild of St Stephen began as a Society of Altar Servers founded in England in 1904 by Fr Hamilton McDonald at the convent of the Sacred Heart in London. Since then Pope Pius X increased its establishment



to an Archconfraternity in 1906 so that all branches could be linked to it. In 1934, Pope Pius XI enabled all Guilds of Altar Servers throughout the commonwealth to be affiliated with the Archconfraternity at Westminster. with purpose of raising the standard of altar serving by teaching young boys how to serve at Mass and also to increase their knowledge of the Mass.

It is now an international organisation of Altar Servers with many hundreds of members both young and old, male and female.

In East Grinstead we embrace this wide membership and are always looking to welcome new members to join us. The only requirements are that one has to have received their First Holy Communion and come to Mass in the parish regularly. Training sessions are arranged before Mass at 9.45 on Sunday at OLSP and are in two periods; September to Christmas and Lent to Easter. Special sessions are arranged as necessary. Servers are expected to attend all training sessions as part of their commitment to their service.

This year we held an enrolment ceremony at OLSP on the 24th November, the Feast of Christ the King, to catch up on those who had been serving for some time but never been formally enrolled into the Guild.



We also set up a ‘reward system’ so that those who had been serving for several years or were mature and more knowledgeable could be recognised for their service. This is acknowledged by a thick red cord with tassels on which to hang their medals. After 10 years of continued service as an enrolled member of the Guild, servers are eligible for a silver medal which is worn on a dark blue cord with tassels.

Parish altar servers are able to join others in the diocese by attending various events. This year, four of our servers accepted the Bishop’s invitation to attend the Annual A& B Diocesan Mass for Altar Servers at Arundel Cathedral. There were probably over 200 servers from the Diocese in attendance, and it was a wonderful event.

Also, we were invited by the Confirmation coordinator to provide servers for the Parish Confirmation at Arundel on 12 May 2025. Five servers accepted the invitation and were made very welcome by the Cathedral staff and MCs. Our servers were given prominent roles and, afterwards, were invited to come and serve at any time in the future - a well-deserved recognition!

We have an Altar Servers WhatsApp which is set up in accordance with Safeguarding Regulations. This App is restricted to Altar Servers only and is for serving matters only. All servers are invited to join.

Richard Emms is DBS Approved and Certificated.

We are always looking to recruit new members and would welcome any enquiries after Mass on Sunday.

Richard Emms (07733113789)

Filipino British Nurses

The Filipino British Nurses ExtraCare East Grinstead (EXTRACARE) has been a beacon of health and wellness since 2012, spearheading a vital Diabetes and Blood Pressure Screening Initiative.

Led by Danny and Maribel Favor, long standing parishioners at OLSP, along with their dedicated team of Registered Nurses and healthcare professionals, this program actively addresses the critical need for accessible diabetes and hypertension care within various community groups and organizations.

Since 2012, ExtraCare has been a proactive health and wellness action team for adult residents of East Grinstead and surrounding areas. They not only monitor, prevent, and detect cases of hypertension, diabetes, and malnutrition but also actively organize and support fundraising



events for charities and less fortunate families and individuals, both locally and internationally.

Danny & Maribel Favor May 2025

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.*

*Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created,
and you shall renew the face of the earth.*

EG Street Pastors

The Church in Action on the Street

East Grinstead Street Pastors are volunteers from seven local Christian churches who patrol central East Grinstead's streets and parks. We operate on Saturday nights and some afternoons after school, offering a listening, caring and helping presence to those who welcome that. This year we've continued our practice of patrolling about one Saturday night per month, from 9pm to around 1am Sunday, providing help to those affected by alcohol or drugs, to people feeling sad, rough sleepers, and to people



feeling vulnerable or wanting to talk.

An important recent activity was helping a young man we met about 1am who was having a tough time in lots of ways and said that he 'didn't see much point in his life currently'. Thankfully, he seemed very much less sad when he left us half an hour later. Afternoon patrols aim to provide a

listening ear, particularly to young people and to reduce antisocial behaviour in the town centre.

We focus on showing practical "love for our neighbour" and don't 'preach'.

From our parish, Jonathan Jenkins and I are current Street Pastors and there are others who serve as Prayer Pastors – receiving texts from us asking for prayer for particular incidents

and people we are encountering on our patrols. This prayer support is very important for us.

If you would like to come out and see what we do, you'd be very welcome. We have been very grateful to be able to use the OLSP hall as a base for our patrols in recent months, while our usual base at West St Baptist church is being renovated.

Mike Hope East Grinstead Street Pastors

eastgrinstead@streetpastors.org.uk

The Friends of St Peters

The church / school connection is a vital one. As the church sign outside OLSP says – we work in partnership with the school. To strengthen those ties, the Friends of St Peters has a strong membership from within the church community.

We are a group of volunteer parents, carers, parish members and teachers who collaborate to raise funds and organize events that enrich students' educational experiences. We consider all members of the school and parish as automatic members of The Friends. You can participate by attending meetings, volunteering at events, or contributing ideas and resources.

We organise various events throughout the year, including school fairs, discos, and movie nights. These events aim to foster community spirit and raise funds for the school. Funds are allocated to projects and resources that benefit the students. Some of our most recent purchases have been funding enrichment days, sports kits and learning-to-read materials.

The biggest events are always our Christmas and Summer fairs. In June 2024

we had to postpone our fair until September due to wet weather, only to be rained off again in the Autumn! Over Christmas we hosted a pop-up event in the OLSP parish hall - thank you very much for your support on that day, and to those of you who spotted us at the various Christmas fairs we attended over the festive period.

In 2025, please do join us at The Summer Fair on Saturday 28th June from 12pm to 3pm, and pray for good weather!

This year's summer fair will happen! The BBQ will be open, DJ Terry Sumner will be providing music and East Sussex Circus Arts will be roaming around making sure everyone has a good time.



Thank you for your continued support - both financial and spiritual.

The Friends of St Peter

OLSP Flower Team

We are a team of nine volunteers, some of whom are new to flower arranging and joined recently and are most welcome. About half of us work full time. Following the move by our team leader, Anne Davies, to Salisbury a few months ago we are doing our very best to keep up the high standard she set. A hard act to follow!

Behind the scenes this is what happens: we take it in fortnightly turns individually or with another team member to make the floral arrangements for the church. This always consists of a big one at the front right or left-hand side of the main altar and sometimes a smaller one for each of the two side altars. When on the rota we check the water levels and titivate as and when necessary.

Flowers of a particular colour are used at certain times of the year in the church depending on the occasion eg white at Ascension, red at Pentecost. We are now trying to use as little floral foam as possible in order to be more sustainable and environmentally friendly as well as incorporating faux flowers

and foliage into the arrangements which help keep costs down There are two special collections per annum to fund fresh flowers and parishioners are always most generous which is much appreciated.



We try to make the displays particularly



special at Christmas and Easter and stick to a plan and colour scheme but the rest

of the year there's kind of carte blanche to come up with our own ideas and let our creative juices flow! No previous experience is necessary to join the flower team as help, guidance or mentoring are available and can be arranged on a one to one basis. Flowers add visual appeal and a sense of warmth and welcome to our churches. They can evoke feelings of joy, celebration and reverence, offer a sense of comfort and peace and serve as a reminder of loved ones and the beauty and gift of life.

We hope our displays help contribute to a more meaningful and emotionally enriching worship experience for all who enter OLSP. *Anne-Marie Newby*

St Bernard's Flower Team

Six of us started Our Flower Group at St Bernard's three years ago. We organised a rota with each doing the flowers for a month at a time. To keep in touch and make coordination simple, one of our members created a WhatsApp group, allowing us to exchange ideas, offer support and cover for each other when needed. A seventh member has since joined – a welcome addition. Most of the year we use our collection of artificial flowers, mixed with real foliage, usually brought from our own gardens. Most parishioners never realise they are artificial!



EASTER 2025

even if you think you can't arrange flowers, we are all there to help and encourage. None of us is a professional – we are all amateurs who enjoy the challenge, companionship and joy of decorating the church.

Why don't you join us and have a go!

Mary Goodwin May 2025

For Christmas, Easter and other special occasions we use fresh flowers and all work together, which makes the task manageable, enjoyable and fosters teamwork. We have become a very friendly and supportive group and have enjoyed a lunch outing recently.

We would be delighted to have more members and

even if you think



OLSP Lunch Club

OLSP Lunch Club restarted in October 2023 and continues to be run by an enthusiastic band of volunteers in Our Lady and Saint Peter's Parish Hall.

We have up to 30 people attending and most months we enjoy a simple meal of homemade soup and bread, followed by tea, coffee and homemade cake. We all appreciate the opportunity to relax and have a chat. Our menu has varied occasionally to reflect the season – e.g. in the summer and at Christmas when we had a special celebration which was enlivened by carols led and accompanied by Liam Bauress on his keyboard. We also helped to celebrate a 90th and 92nd birthday during the year!

We do not make a charge for lunch, but generous donations by our Lunch Club members have allowed us to send money to a number of charities: EG Foodbank, St. Bernard's Roof Fund, Friends of the Holy Land and St. Catherine's Hospice.

The Lunch Club is open to all parishioners of OLSP and St. Bernard's and we always welcome new members! We meet every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 12.30pm in the hall at OLSP, except for August (no meeting), and December when we meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

If you would like to come please contact Gabrielle Joyce on 01342 326118 or Jan Beaumont on 07927 494341 or talk to us after Mass on Sunday.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Christine Hardisty May 2025

Ministry of Consolation

The Ministry of Consolation has now been active at Our Lady & St Peter for over two years. Our monthly Consolation Cafe was recently re-named to reflect that we are here to support not only those who are grieving the loss of a loved one but also those who are lonely, sad or just in need of some friendly company. We offer a warm, non-judgemental welcome and hope that those who attend find comfort and support. Forthcoming dates continue to be advertised in the weekly Parish Newsletter, usually with two weeks' notice.

For those who would find attending the Café difficult, one to one support is available for anyone who would like to talk to a bereavement supporter. Please contact the Parish Office for this to be arranged.

On the 15th June 2024 a Healing Mass was arranged at Our Lady and St Peter for those who had lost a child before or after birth. This Mass was a comfort for those who attended, and many joined us for refreshments in the Parish Centre after Mass.

On Saturday 2nd November 2024 (during the month of Holy Souls), Fr Jack offered Mass at Our Lady and St Peter for all our family and friends who had died, with candles being lit in remembrance. As this coincided with our monthly Consolation Cafe, we were very pleased to offer refreshments after Mass in the Parish Centre.

A leaflet is available on the table at the back of both Churches. This gives information about the Ministry and how to contact us.

The Parish still has just two trained bereavement supporters; new members to this Ministry would be most welcome. If you are interested, or wish to know more, please speak to Father

Jack in the first instance. The training provided by the Diocese will be once a week for 8 weeks and will include direct teaching sessions followed reading and assignments. This will take place either at the St Philip Howard Centre in Crawley (formerly DABCEC) or via Zoom. Refresher training is also provided by the Diocese at least once a year with the opportunity to receive regular updates and support.

We look forward to continuing to serve our Parish Family and would be happy to receive comments/suggestions to help us provide even better support.

Sue Faulkner and Eleanor Johnson

He comforts
us in all our
troubles so
that we can
comfort
others.”
(2 cor 1:4)



News from the Parish Office

Hello, my name is Seana Dawson, and I became Parish Administrator (aka that bossy woman in the Office) in September 2023 after somehow blagging my way through an interview. Having lived in East Grinstead for over 20 years I had just moved house and rashly thought starting a new job at the same time was a perfectly reasonable and stress-free thing to do. I'm an optimist.

As the role was new, I spent the first few months wondering

- a) What's happening here?
- b) How does this work?
- c) And occasionally Why am I here?

Thus, covering many of Life's existential questions on a daily basis.

What do I do? Many and varied things – from ensuring our invoices get paid on time, submitting financial information to the Diocese, filing, organising, answering queries submitted via our Contact forms and generally getting involved. I also joined the Communications team to assist with the paper Newsletter which



I beg you to take home with you. In fact, why not actually read it? That would make a bossy woman very happy. In a recent Parish meeting I was told “you look nothing like I expected you to look”. As stand-alone statements go that one is slightly alarming so I'm providing a photo for clarification.

Being a member of the Parish for such a long time helped me greatly as I was able to call on the experience of a lot of

wonderful, impressive Parishioners, people I already knew of, and ask them a lot of silly questions. I'm not going to name them. They know who they are or if they don't, they are at least wondering why I genuflect every time I see them.

My official hours are Tues/Weds/ Thurs mornings 9am until 1pm, so please bear this in mind if you are awaiting a response to an e-mail. I will always reply as soon as I can but remember I'm a humble administrator and not a member of the Magic Circle.

Final thought – Parish Administrating doesn't necessarily mean lounging in a desk chair, drinking coffee, eating Bourbon biscuits and laughing at Fr Jack's jokes. I know that now.

Seana Dawson. May 2025

Prayer Ministry Team

The current prayer ministry team have been writing the weekly 'Prayers of the Faithful' (Bidding Prayers) for well over two years. There are five members of the team: Nicky Daines and Mary Watson from St Bernard's and Eileen Lyons, Gabrielle Joyce and Sue Faulkner from Our Lady and St Peter. Each member of the team writes the prayers for a calendar month on a rolling cycle.

In preparing to write the Bidding prayers we take account of the readings for the following Sunday and spend time praying and reflecting on them. We ensure we are aware of the Pope's intentions for the month and any themes and prayer focuses listed in the Diocesan Directory and on the Diocesan website. Other resources that may be consulted include: CAFOD, Caritas, Missio and the Columbian Fathers websites. We include prayers that relate to the difficulties and challenges experienced at different stages of life and hope that they may bring some comfort.

As a prayer ministry team we are committed to praying for members of our parish family who are sick and in need and will only remove names when we are asked to do so. This is because they remain in need of our ongoing thoughts and prayers for them. Recently the names being read out during the Bidding Prayers reached 16 so we made the decision to separate the names, between the two churches, allocating those who are sick to the Church that they attend or previously attended.

Please make contact if you would like to have yourself or a loved one included in our weekly prayers for the sick and those in need. If you are requesting prayers for another person, please ensure that you have their permission. Contact details are in the weekly newsletter.

We have taken account of comments, concerning the length of the prayers, and have made some adjustments. We have asked readers to pause after reading each prayer so that those listening can have a short time to reflect on the prayer before making the response. We are pleased that this has become established practice.

We would like to thank Ruth Longley who kindly prints the Bidding Prayers each week for the 6.15pm and 10.30am Masses at Our Lady and St Peter and ensures they are ready on the lectern with any last-minute updates included. Thanks also to our team member Nicky Daines who does the same for St Bernard's.

Sue Faulkner

Prayer Ministry Team

The Parish Big May Celebration at St Bernard

This celebration on 18th May 25, marked the end of the St Bernard's refurbishment project. The day was fine and after a celebration Mass at 10:30, music, games and dancing were provided along with a magnificent spread and cake.

That project's main focus was the replacement of the 'life expired' aluminium roof covering and structural remedial works to walls and columns. These major works ensure the longer-term structural integrity of the Church building as well as compliance with current Building Regulations.

Consultants were appointed in 2022 following a delay caused by 'Covid' and a budget in excess of £620k was advised covering the necessary remedial works and to include internal and external redecoration.

Following Diocesan Finance Cttee approval to progress, new consultants were appointed in January 2024 and the Project was progressed to tender.

This process enabled the inclusion of considerable additional works including all maintenance required from the 2022 Quinquennial Survey, additional strengthening of the roof structure, new aluminium guttering, drainage repairs, cleaning of the Church façade, major works to carpark and paving, new lighting and sanding and sealing the parquet flooring. With competitive tendering, these additional Project works have been contained within the original budget and it is anticipated that final costs will be less than £600k - below the original £620k budgeted.



About 130 people came to see the significant improvements made to St Bernard's church. There were two displays; one on the history of St Bernard's from when it was a hut in 1957 through to present time. It includes some touching Christian moments including what happened on Christmas Day in 1940 when a number of German prisoners of war came to Mass. The second was a display of the works that were undertaken this time round. Both displays will remain at the entrance to the church for the next 6 weeks to give people a chance to read them.

After Mass a buffet lunch and drinks were provided (thank you Hilary Barrett and the Catenians for organising this).



Activities were also arranged for the children who attended; a quiz trail, a planting session and a St Bernard's Racecourse which children of all ages enjoyed (thank you Rose and Nikky for making this happen). It was great to see so many children come to the day.



The church looks beautiful both inside and outside, and parishioners were able to see the significant improvements that have been made. So the day was also an opportunity to say

thank you to the building firm (Redmonds) who undertook the reforms, to Tom Clarke who spent a huge number of hours coordinating the whole project, and to Mike and Mary Goodwin who spent much time and effort arranging the interior decoration and lighting.



And of course, a big thank you to the parishioners who contributed to the parish finances in order to make the reformation possible.

It was a happy day and a successful process which will be enjoyed for years to come. And so, the Vatican flag, now flying from the flagpole, provides a sign that all people are welcome to our church.



Pope Francis's Tomb in Santa Maria Maggiore. Taken by Sue Joy a few days after his interment.

East Grinstead Catenian Circle

It's been another successful and enjoyable year for the East Grinstead Catenians, the local Catholic faith-based friendship group that is now 46 years old. We have several new members who have joined or are in the process of doing so, mainly following pulpit presentations at each Mass late in 2024, explaining who we are and what we do.

We are in communion in prayer and faith with over 6,000 brothers globally, predominately from countries where Catholics are in the minority. Besides this bond our families and we meet socially with likeminded people to enjoy a wide range of activities that include lunches, annual snooker, bowling and skittles competitions, quizzes and theatre / concert visits,



An informal tapas meal

among others. A Sunday pub lunch in May marked the handing over of the presidency from Pat Doolan to Larry Newman and the coming months will include a vineyard visit / wine tasting, tapas meal and our annual President's Sunday, always one of the year's highlights, at which Fr. Jack and Sarah usually join us for a lovely Barbecue in St Bernard's church hall / garden.

The festive season is marked with a Christmas Carols soiree at the home of one of our members and the annual Clergy Night / Christmas Dinner, where Fr. Jack and Sarah are again among our guests, and this year we will also be honoured by the attendance of Bishop Richard. The raffle at this event helps raise funds for the President's chosen charity of the year, with over £1500 raised last year towards the costs of the building works on our parish churches.

Catenians play a significant role in many parish activities, including regularly take a turn in providing tea and coffee (and cake and biscuits!) after 10.30 Mass at Our Lady & St. Peter and we were much in evidence at the recent Big May Celebration at

St. Bernard's. Each year we also arrange for masses to be offered for both vocations and for deceased Brothers of the Catenian Circle.

We meet on the third Monday of each month at the OLSP parish centre we'd be delighted for any fellow parishioner to join us afterwards at around 9pm at La Farola for a drink, light snacks (on us!) and a chat.



Skittles match against the Tandridge Catenian Circle

Maybe you're new to the parish, would like to widen your circle of acquaintances or are working from home and missing some social contact. Come and join us - more information can be found at www.egcats.com or call Larry Newman on 07714 237900. We look forward to welcoming you.

Please also read about our Catenian Bursary Fund, below.

Nick Bozzini May 2025

Catenians Bursary Fund

Helping young people help others: make a difference

Two of our young parishioners have just received financial awards from the Catenian Bursary Fund to help fund their trip to Lourdes as helpers. Congratulations to Thanujan Arulanantham and Tanya Thomas (pictured on a previous visit to Lourdes).



The Catenian Bursary Fund provides monetary awards to enable young people aged 16 to 24 who wish to do something useful to help others. If you are a Catholic or a member of a faith group in communion with Rome then take advantage of this potential financial support.

Besides that, it is an opportunity to build up your CV that can help with job search as well as enabling you to gaining valuable life skills and experience for your own benefit.

The fund could support you on a Lourdes Pilgrimage, or it might be your own individual voluntary project which must be at least 15 days' duration providing benefit to others.

The Fund has made awards of well over £1,000,000 so far and helped many thousands of young Catholics from all over the world. You and your parents need not have any existing connection with the Catenian Association.

For more details, including some ‘success stories’, eligibility criteria and how to apply, visit our website (<https://catenianbursary.com>). Or if you have no internet access contact Wladek Koch here in East Grinstead (07393 474614).

The Quiet That Speaks – Quod ore sumpsimus:

The final quiet prayer of the priest at Mass is offered while he purifies the sacred vessels after Holy Communion. He prays:

“What has passed our lips as food, O Lord (Quod ore sumpsimus, Domine), may we possess in purity of heart, that what has been given to us in time may be our healing for eternity.”

The prayer’s origin is ancient, already found in the earliest sacramentaries. The indication was always that it was to be said quietly and so it is intended to be the personal prayer of the priest. At the



same time, it uses the plural and, at Mass in this parish, extraordinary ministers use it after purification, once all have finished receiving Communion.

Parish contacts

Altar Society – Church Flowers *OLSP*: Anne-Marie Newby [amd17@icloud.com] **St Bernard**: Mary Goodwin [cbeandmme@aol.com 01342 892042], Angeline Rosner ca.rosner@btinternet.com 07889 323431]

CAFOD *OLSP*: Sue Joy [susanjoy471@hotmail.com 07821 379064], Rosalind Turner [07946 641366], Jan Beaumont [07927 494341]; **St Bernard**: Chris & Margaret Vasey [cjvasey@aol.com 01342 834436]

Catechists Confirmation Eileen Lyons [elyons55@icloud.com 07769 317256], Mike Hope [mike@hopes9.plus.com] General [confegparish@outlook.com]

Catechists Holy Communion Julie Anne Dell [julieannedell@gmail.com], Victoria Dickinson [dickinbar@gmail.com]

Crown of Thorns Lisa de Quay [wwwcrownofthorns.org.uk 01342 870472]

East Grinstead Catenian Circle Secretary John Fitzpatrick [unclefitz@btinternet.com 07768 504480]

Fairtrade *OLSP*: Sue Joy [susanjoy471@hotmail.com 07821 379064]; **St Bernard**: Chris & Margaret Vasey [cjvasey@aol.com 01342 834436]

Friends of St Peter's Catholic Primary School [admin@friendsofstpeters.co.uk 01342-321985]

Gift Aid Secretary Frank Lilley [frank@thelilleys.plus.com 01342 321987]

Guild of St Stephen (Altar Servers) Richard Emms [07733 113789]

Justice and Peace Group Sue Joy [susanjoy471@hotmail.com 07821 379064]

Ministry of Consolation Sue Faulkner [suzy.faulkner@icloud.com 07462 394964], Eleanor Johnson [eleanorjohnson77@hotmail.com 07908 421689]

Missio (The Red Box) Chris & Margaret Pond [cjp_mrp@hotmail.com 01342 327002]

Music Ministry Director of Music, Liam Bauress [liambauress@me.com 01342 825035]

Parish 100 Club Chris Pond [cjp_mrp@hotmail.com 01342 327002]

Parish Administrator Seana Dawson
[eastgrinstead@abdiocese.org.uk 01342 325705]

Parish Communications/Streaming Jonathan Jenkins
[jamjenkins64@outlook.com 07974 179647]

Parish Finance Committee Chair Paul Barrett
[paulmatbarrett@yahoo.co.uk 01342 870058]

Parish Lunch Club Jan & Alan Beaumont [itsjan@sky.com 07927 494341], Gabrielle Joyce [gabriellejoyce03@gmail.com 07981 337759]

Parish Magazine Jonathan Jenkins [jamjenkins64@outlook.com 07974179647]

Reading Ministry OLSP: Judy Hayler [judyfhayler@yahoo.com 01342 321269]; **St Bernard:** Chris Vasey [cjvasey@aol.com 01342 834436]

Rosary Group Les Whittaker [leswhittaker252@outlook.com 07502 274450]

Safeguarding Officer Maribel Favor [maribelfavor@gmail.com 07528 694112]

St Bernard's Forum Enrique Valles [valles.clan@outlook.com 07824 098276]

St Vincent de Paul (SVP) OLSP: Peter Wells
[peterwells120@gmail.com 07484 330899]; **St Bernard:** Enrique Valles [valles.clan@outlook.com 07824 098276]

Welcoming at OLSP: Ruth Longley (6:15pm Mass)
[ruth.longley@outlook.com] and Jonathan Jenkins (10:30am Mass)
[jamjenkins64@outlook.com]

Times of Services

Our Lady and St Peter, East Grinstead

Saturday Mass Vigil: 6:15 pm

Sunday Mass 10:30 am*

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday:

Exposition: 9:00 am

Mass: 9:30 am

Friday: Exposition and Angelus: 11 am

The Holy Rosary: 12 pm*

Holy Days of Obligation

Vigil; 7:30 pm before the feast*; on the day: 9.30 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, 10:30 to 11 am, and 5:30 to 6 pm, and on request.

St Bernard, Lingfield

Sunday Mass 9.00 am* preceded by:

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 8:30 to 8:45 am

Wednesday Mass 9:30 am

Wednesday Holy Hour and Rosary: 7:30 pm

* *Livestreaming via www.eastgrinsteadcatholicparish.com*

