

# WHAT HAPPENS IN THIS CHURCH?

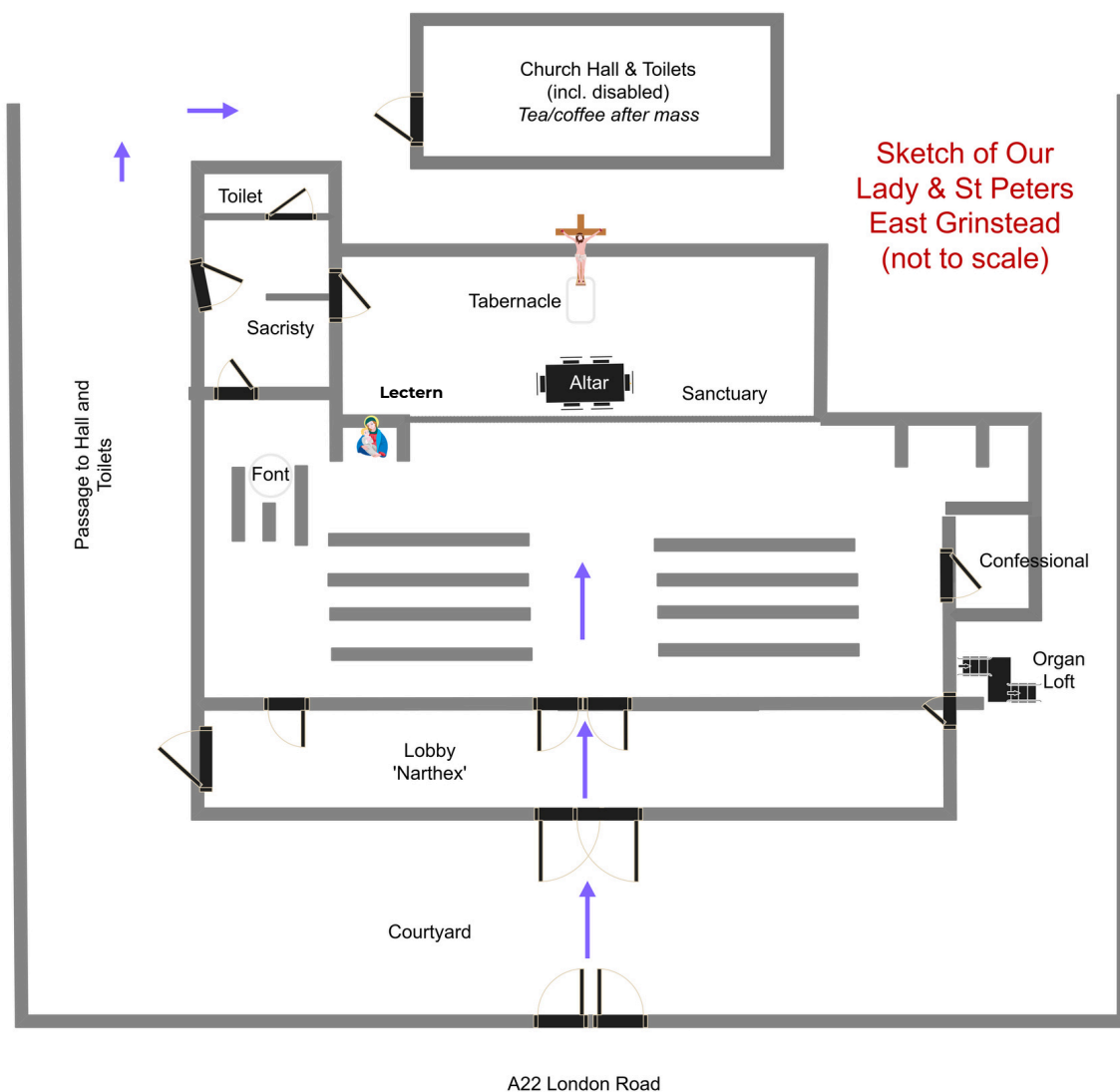
*Our Lady & St Peter East Grinstead*



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

# WELCOME TO OLSP

Welcome! Whether you are visiting here for the first time, or have been part of our community for years we are happy to have you here. We hope this leaflet may be of use to those who need more information to fully engage in our community. You are very welcome here, wherever you are in your faith journey and whatever your needs. If we've missed anything please let us know by using the contact form on the website or emailing [eastgrinstead@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:eastgrinstead@abdiocese.org.uk)



This Roman Catholic Church is part of the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton. The Diocese is led by Bishop Richard Moth and our Parish Priest is Fr Jack Lusted.

# LAYOUT

The area behind you is the **Narthex** and has speakers that allow the Mass to be heard from this area. Some parishioners prefer to sit here if the main part of the church is too busy.

The **Altar** lies at the centre of the **Sanctuary**. It is situated at the front of the church, flanked by statues of Our Lady [Mary], and of St Peter.

To the left of the statue of Our Lady is the **sacristy**, a place where the priest and altar servers prepare for Mass. Here you can find a door leading out to the side of the church and another door to a small **toilet**. There are bigger, more accessible, toilets in the **parish hall** at the back of the church. You can access them along the path on the left side of the church.

Next to the statue of Our Lady is the **baptismal font** and more seating. This seating area is popular with those who need extra space for prams, wheelchairs and children.

To the right of the altar are statues of St Peter and St Joseph. Along this wall is the **confessional**, please check the church newsletter for times when confession, also known as reconciliation, is available. You are also welcome to approach Fr Jack at any time to arrange a time to speak. Inside the confessional there is a space to speak behind a screen, or you may sit opposite the priest's chair if you prefer.

The pew in-front of the confessional is wider to allow access and is also a popular place for those with accessibility needs or prams.

## THINGS YOU CAN HEAR

The main **bell in the belltower** is rung before Mass and during the consecration of the bread and wine, the most solemn part of Mass. You can hear it throughout the church and outside on the street. You can anticipate the bell being rung as it requires some 'warming up' by pulling the rope before it rings. The bellringer stands in the middle of the aisles, towards the back.

**Smaller bells** are used to signify the presence of the Holy Spirit during Mass. These bells are rung from the sanctuary and are lighter in tone.

Families are welcome during Mass and do not have their own 'area'. Crying babies, breastfeeding, children asking when Mass will be over, and stimming are all acceptable behaviours.

During Sunday Mass and special feasts the **organ** is usually played. It is played from the choir loft and is accompanied by the **choir**. Occasionally the choir are seated at the front, to the right of the sanctuary, and accompanied by the keyboard and other **instruments**.

**Speakers** are placed at regular intervals throughout the main nave of the church and in the narthex. The left of the church, towards the font, is less well covered by the speakers. For those with **hearing aids**, there is a Hearing Loop installed.

# CONSIDERATIONS

## THINGS YOU CAN SEE

For most Masses the **light** level does not change (except with the movement of the sun). During Candlemass, Easter Vigil and Christmas Vigil, **candles** are used at the beginning of Mass and then the main lights are switched on and remain on.

There are a variety of places where **votive candles** are available to parishioners who wish to offer a candle with their prayers.

## THINGS YOU CAN SMELL

We use **incense** during the Mass which may be an irritant to those with asthma or aversions to strong smells.

Incense is sometimes used during the entrance procession from the sacristy, to the back of the church and then to the sanctuary. It is then used during the Liturgy of the Eucharist within the sanctuary. Sit further back to minimise the smell of incense.

## THINGS YOU CAN FEEL

**Holy water** can be found in the stone stoups placed at the back of the church. During certain Masses holy water is also flicked into the congregation to bless people or as part of the renewal of baptismal promises. This most commonly happens during Easter Mass.

## PARTS OF THE MASS

### A mass usually takes about an hour.

After the prayer petitions a basket is handed out for the **collection of money**. Nobody is required to add anything as the basket passes along and no-one will think anything of you if you do so. Many people do not use the basket, but give money through direct debit or the card machine at the back of the church. The Catholic Church in the UK relies entirely on contributions from the congregation for the support and upkeep of the priests, bishop and buildings. It has no state funding.

The **sign of peace** occurs during the Liturgy of the Eucharist and it is traditional to exchange a handshake . It is not mandatory to do so and many parishioners prefer to bow towards someone or simply smile while saying 'peace be with you'.

Catholics believe that when they queue for **communion**, they are receiving the actual body and blood of Christ. This is different from most other Christian Churches where the consumption of bread and wine is symbolic.

As a mark of respect, please do not take take communion unless you are a Catholic who is not in a state of sin and has received their First Holy Communion. All people, of any age or faith are welcomed and encouraged to queue for a **blessing**. As you approach the priest cross your arms over your chest to signify that you would like a blessing..