



ST CLEMENT'S CHURCH, EWELL

Parish Priest: Fr. Graham Bamford

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Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton

Charity No. 252878

All Masses are now live streamed. Access via the Parish Website



31st Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday 5th November 2023 Psalter Week 3 Cycle A

Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	All Parishioners
Sunday 05 Nov	8.30 am	Anna Kutty Joseph RIP
	10.30 am	Wellbeing Elpedio Tavares
Wednesday	10.00 am	Arthur Pullen RIP
Friday	10.00 am	Recovery Claire Kelly

FEAST DAYS: 5TH - 11TH NOVEMBER 2023

Thursday: Consecration of the Lateran Basilica

Friday: St Leo the Great, Pope, Doctor

Saturday: St Martin of Tours, Bishop

ANNIVERSARIES: 4TH - 11TH NOVEMBER 2023

Thomas Morrison, John Lynch, Frank Pawley

COFFEE AFTER 10.30AM MASS

Guides

32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday 12th November 2023 Psalter Week 4 Cycle A

Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	Dec'd of Noone & Byrne Fams
Sunday 12 Nov	8.30 am	Joseph Vella RIP
	10.30 am	Deceased War Dead
Wednesday	10.00 am	Wellbeing Estelle & John Ryder
Friday	10.00 am	Holy Souls
Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	Dec'd of Bruce & Ward Fams
Sunday 05 Nov	8.30 am	All Parishioners
	10.30 am	Wellbeing Laurene & Winnie Chu

ANNIVERSARIES: 12TH - 18TH NOVEMBER 2023

Marie Englehart, Maureen Seear, John Allen, Jimmy Johnson.

COFFEE AFTER 10.30AM MASS:

St Clement's School

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday, 10.30 am – 11.00 am or by appointment

RECOVERY AND WELL-BEING: Please pray for: Steve Kamm, Chris Williamson, Jocelyn Bowen, Joseph Ewing, Martina Savage, Mel Alvarez, John Stratford, Shona Dane, Sheila Hall, Elpedio Tavares, Nicholas Ward.

OCTOBER 200 CLUB WINNERS: Margaret Marshall No.19 £30 Anne O'Connell No.90 £20. Congratulations!

THE SWORD AND THE CLOAK St Martin, Armistice Day and the Gospel of Peace: A talk by Canon Rod Esdaile (Catholic Parish Priest of Woking), at St Martin of Tours Anglican Church, Church /street, Epsom, this Remembrance Sunday, November 12 at 6.30 pm. All are welcome.

SYNOD IN ROME: Talk on Friday, 10th November at 7.30pm by Austn Ivereigh (present at the Synod), at St Joseph's Church, St Margaret's Drive, Epsom. All welcome.

WINTER FAIR 26th November: Draw Tickets: Please take a book and return counterfoils with money as soon as possible – note: ticket £1 each, £5 a book.

Items Required: Please see attached list of items required for the fair. Please see if you can help.

A list of stalls and helpers is in the narthex. If you have any ideas for other stalls it is not too late.

HPT APPEAL: Julian Hall will be making an appeal at all Masses on the weekend of 11/12th November in support of the HCPT, a charity supporting children going to Lourdes.

ADVENT COURSE: Wednesday November 8th - December 13th at 7.30pm. A six-part series showing us the wisdom and teaching of the saints which can be of practical help today. Each session will include two 15-minute films with time then for discussion in small groups and reflection at the end. The saints that will be presented are: St Patrick, St Benedict, St Francis, St Catherine of Siena, St Ignatius and St Therese of Lisieux. Father Graham will then present a session on St Clement in the New Year. Please look on the Parish website for further details and to register your interest so that an email link for the zoom session can be sent out to you.

CAFOD Harvest Family Fast Day Donations: Many thanks for your generous response to the appeal. £660.44 (plus gift aid to be added) was raised via the fast day envelopes and the coffee morning. This will help to provide mobile medical aid in remote areas in Pakistan and elsewhere.

CHRISTMAS CARDS: We will be selling holy and charity Christmas cards in the narthex at all Masses on the weekend of 11/12th November. Please support us by visiting our table where you will also be able to buy religious advent calendars, candles and other bits and pieces. There will also be a raffle for a crib – tickets £1 each.

THE HOLY BOOKSTALL will be at the parish Fair (26th November) and the School Fair (9th December) There will be books for children and adults suitable for Christmas presents.

FINAL CALL FOR RED MISSIO BOXES: If you would like the money in your red mission box to be counted and returned to you, please return box to the church by 12th November.

JUST A THOUGHT: “A word or a smile is often enough to put fresh life in a despondent soul” *St Therese of Lisieux*

ST CLEMENT'S FAIR

SUNDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER 2023



We need donations of the following items for the various stalls.
Please can you help?



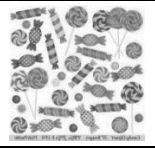
Grand Draw Prizes -Whisky, Brandy, Champagne,
Vouchers, a small iced Christmas cake, etc



Bottles for the bottle tombola stall. (Wine, Whisky,
Beer, Coca Cola etc)



Selection boxes, other sweets and chocolates suitable
for sweet tombola



Small toys and presents suitable for Father Christmas's
sack



A hamper or items suitable to be included in Wheel of
Fortune Christmas hampers, eg wine, boxes of biscuits,
fruit cake, boxes of sweets or a hamper



Toys - In good as new condition please,
unless a Steiff bear of course!!
Children's books



New Christmas decorations
Advent wreath if you have one made



Cakes both for cake stall and refreshment stall - please
put your name on the list in narthex for cake stall



Cosmetics, gifts and toiletries - completely unused
please.



Books, especially children's books, in good condition



Good condition curios (NO jumble please)



The world and society have changed since the birth of the Church at Pentecost. Some of the questions we face today could never have been imagined by the apostles as they gathered in the Upper Room and received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus had promised that the Holy Spirit would guide them towards the fullness of truth, but they lived 2000 years ago. The early Church didn't have to consider, for instance, communication technology or climate change. That is why the Synod on synodality is so vital: it is the entire Church coming together in a massive discernment process to look at what matters most to each one of us. The Holy Spirit is speaking, but the

questions that we ask in Britain will not be the same as those that are posed in the US, Ukraine, China, Nigeria, Myanmar or Senegal. Nobody has all the answers, but what is important is to listen, respect, understand and discern the way in which the Holy Spirit is present in each person, regardless of their language, culture, education or socioeconomic circumstances.

Decisions will be made following the Synod, but they will be enriched by the words and insights of many people and a vast range of life experiences. The Synod allows the Church to be relevant and active in the twenty-first century. We have all seen the decreasing number of people who are attending church and the increasing number of youngsters for whom God and religious faith appear irrelevant. The solution does not lie in more doctrinal statements and documents. Jesus called himself the Good Shepherd. What is needed is a pastoral answer, and that is the direction in which Pope Francis is trying to lead us. This was the purpose of the Synod and the meaning of synodality.

A LISTENING CHURCH



I can never forget travelling home from school, standing on the platform of Sandhills station in Liverpool, waiting for the train. Vatican II was to close that very day. It was good to be alive and exciting to be young. Even before the documents were published, the Council had told me that I was important and that the entire future of the world would depend on my tiny contribution and that of everybody else who was prepared to listen and to act. It felt as though the entire Church was ready and waiting to listen to me. Did other teenagers also feel they were on the cusp of an amazing adventure? I don't know. I didn't think to ask.

In October 2021, when Pope Francis introduced the opening of the preparations for the Synod on synodality, he used the example of the young man who knelt before Jesus and said to him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" The man asked a crucial question, one that belongs to all of us. He wanted an answer but recognised that the answer must be manageable. He couldn't do the impossible – and that is true for all of us.

The beauty was that Jesus listened to him, took him seriously and recognised his sincerity and his willingness to do what he could in order to encounter God at a deeper level. In that man's question and in Jesus' listening, they couldn't have been closer to each other. As Pope Francis said, "Jesus did not hurry along, or keep looking at his watch to get the meeting over."

The Church hasn't always been a very good listener. But during the Synod's preparation, things have changed. Time has been given so that, potentially, every single one of us has had a chance to say what is most important to us. There has been an opportunity to express how we want the Church to come ever closer into our lives so that we, the members of the Body of Christ, can truly be inseparable from its head, Jesus.

Walking Together



Today we start a new series in which Sr Janet Fearn FMDM looks at synodality and what it means for all of us.

Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God; be not far from me! Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong salvation!

FIRST READING **Malachi 1:14 – 2:2. 8-10**

PSALM **Psalm 130**

RESPONSE **Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.**

1. O Lord, my heart is not proud nor haughty my eyes. I have not gone after things too great nor marvels beyond me. **R.**
2. Truly I have set my soul in silence and peace. A weaned child on its mother's breast, even so is my soul. **R.**
3. O Israel, hope in the Lord both now and for ever. **R.**

SECOND READING **1 Thessalonians 2:7-9. 13**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! You have only one Father, and he is in heaven; you have only one Teacher, the Christ! Alleluia!

GOSPEL **Matthew 23:1-12**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.

Next Sunday's Readings:

Wisdom 6:12-16
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

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first the man and then a little lower down, the woman, no, both are. And a man without a woman beside him – whether as a mother, as a sister, as a bride, as a working companion, as a friend – that man by himself is not the image of God.

Further on he added, "A woman is trampled underfoot precisely because she is a woman."

The Bishops' Conferences across the world submitted the results of the 2022 synodality discussions to Rome ahead of the Synod. Again and again, regardless of nationality, culture and socioeconomic status, people asked for women to be treated with respect, taken seriously and recognised for their life-giving role.

The *National Synthesis* document for the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales reported:

On the whole women were not considered a marginalised minority so much as a silenced, unrecognised majority whose gifts lie unwrapped and ignored in the parish narthex. Despite being the "lifeblood" of the Church, women are seen as excluded from the leadership and ministry roles that correspond to them in ways that are both self-defeating and damaging to the Church's mission and credibility. The People of God at all levels "ought to recognise and make better use of the gifts that women have, including in decision making and planning." "By making intelligent use of the talents of women, they will contribute to the developing of the Church for the modern world." (56)

Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**Let my prayer come into your presence.
Incline your ear to my cry for help,
O Lord.**

FIRST READING **Wisdom 6:12-18**

PSALM **Psalm 62**

**RESPONSE For you my soul is thirsting,
O God, my God.**

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. **R.**
2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. **R.**
3. So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. **R.**

4. On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. **R.**

SECOND READING **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!
Stay awake and stand ready,
because you do not know the hour
when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL **Matthew 25:1-13**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing
I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures where
he gives me repose,
near restful waters he leads me.**

Next Sunday's Readings:
Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31
1 Thessalonians 5:1-6
Matthew 25:14-30



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THE PLACE OF WOMEN

I was new to the cathedral parish and quickly realised that women didn't enter the sanctuary to prepare the altar, read during Mass or act as Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. Even the Sisters' role ended at the sanctuary steps. Puzzled, I asked the parish priest to explain the situation. He nodded sagely. "It might be the wrong time of the month for a woman, and so this avoids asking embarrassing questions", he replied.

A teenage mother came to our mission hospital in advanced labour, having taken "medicine" in the village to abort her almost full-term baby, whom I delivered. Her mother, aunt and sister had all died in childbirth, the girl explained, and she was terrified that the same thing would happen to her. She had a small pelvis, had never heard of a caesarean section and didn't know that, with help, she could have a baby and live. Had she sinned or acted from ignorance and fear?

Back in Britain. It was Easter Sunday, and the local seminarians attended Mass in our convent chapel. Several of these future priests crossed the aisle to receive Communion from the priest rather than the Sister, who was both the Eucharistic Minister and a woman.

A young mother with a baby and two small children attended the midday Mass at Westminster Cathedral. When, during Mass, the three-year-old dropped his cap on the floor and noisily tried to climb back on the seat after picking it up, a male member of the cathedral staff, on his own initiative, told the woman to leave because the child might disturb people's prayers. Head bowed in embarrassment, she walked the entire length of the cathedral with her children, watched by the congregation, who probably sympathised with her huge efforts to single-handedly bring three children to a lunchtime Mass.

Then there are the women theologians and scripture scholars who are not taken seriously because they are not men...

TOWARDS A NEW VIEW

In a 2018 homily, Pope Francis declared,

Jesus' doctrine about women changes history. Before Jesus the view about women was one thing but after Jesus, [it is] another. Jesus dignifies women and puts them on the same level as men because he takes that first word of the Creator: both are "the image and likeness of God", both of them; not

Walking Together



Sr Janet Fearn FMDM continues her reflections on synodality.



12 NOVEMBER 2023

32ND SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK IV