



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

Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time/Lent

Sunday 11th February 2024 Psalter Week 2/4 Cycle B

Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	Catherine Hughes RIP
Sunday 11 Feb 2024	8.30 am	All Parishioners
	10.30 am	Agnes Mitchell RIP
First day of Lent (Ash Wednesday)		
Wednesday	10.00 am	Enda Bryne RIP
	8.00 pm	Special Intention
Friday	10.00 am	Wellbeing – Seamus V Lynch

First Week of Lent

Sunday 18th February 2024 Psalter Week 1 Cycle B

Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	Patrick & Joan Walsh RIP
Sunday 18 Feb 2024	8.30 am	All Parishioners
	10.30 am	Bernadette Timothy RIP
Wednesday	10.00 am	Ann Hennes RIP
Friday	10.00 am	Raymond Darragh RIP
	7.30 pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	P J Daly RIP
Sunday 25 Feb 2024	8.30 am	All Parishioners
	10.30 am	In Thanksgiving – Lesley Squibb

EAST DAYS: 11 – 17 FEBRUARY 2024

Wednesday: Ash Wednesday – Beginning of Lent

ANNIVERSARIES: 11 – 17 FEBRUARY 2024

Sharon Spring, Bridie Holland, Jack Hooper.

COFFEE AFTER 10.30AM MASS

Parish Funds - Eunice Onyeonoro Akomah

FEAST DAYS: 18 - 24 FEBRUARY

Thursday: The Chair of St Peter the Apostle

ANNIVERSARIES: 18 - 24 FEBRUARY

Josephine Vella, Joan Tuff, Frank Myall, Veronica Robinson, Edmund Phillips, Brigid Johnson.

COFFEE AFTER 10.30AM MASS

CAFOD

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, Maritina Savage, Mel Alvarez, John Stratford, Shona Dane, Sheila Hall, Elpedio Tavares, Nicholas Ward, Marcia Bancroft

DEATH: Please remember in prayer Mary Northeast who died recently. Our sympathy to Tony and sons Paul, Anthony and Martin. Requiem Mass – Monday 4th March at 11.00 am. May she rest in peace.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED LETTER FROM THE TRANSITION TEAM REGARDING THE FUTURE OF THE PARISH

CAFOD Lenten Family Fast Day, 23rd February. Your donations will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. You can give using the envelope or online at cafod.org.uk. and please pray for all those who are struggling to feed their families.

LENT: Wednesday, 14 February is the first day of Lent, better known as Ash Wednesday. Ashes will be blessed and distributed on that day at 10.00 am and 8.00 pm Masses. Ash Wednesday is a day of Fast and Abstinence (a time when we should avoid eating meat). Beginning on Friday 23rd February there will be Stations of the Cross at 7.30 pm.

BAPTISM: We welcome into the church Daisy Grace Ryan.

The certificates for baptisms up to January 2024 can now be collected from Father Graham.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: We have commenced Adoration on the first Friday of each month for 30 minutes after the 10.00am Mass. The next date is Friday 1st March..

200 CLUB: A cheque for £1,956 was presented to the parish. This was the profit for 2023 and will go towards maintenance work to be done soon. Thank you to Pauline and Rod Artiss for administrating the club and to all faithful members.

UPCOMING EVENTS

16th March: St Patrick's Night Celebration

24th March – Passover Meal

11th May – Skittles evening

13 April – Quiz Night

30th June – Summer Fair

DAY TIME LENT GROUP will meet in the Tivey Room 11.15 – Noon (After coffee) for five Wednesdays starting 21st February, to reflect on the coming Sunday's readings. All are welcome.

ONLINE LENT GROUP will meet on Thursday evenings for five Thursdays starting on Thursday 22nd February at 7.30pm. We will be following the diocesan Invited course, which includes short videos and our own small discussion groups. If you would like to take part please email John Lodge on Johnlodge47@gmail.com so that you can be sent a zoom invite. If you would like more information please look at abdiocese.org.uk/invited. All are welcome.

THE BOOKSTALL will be open at all Masses on the weekend 17th/18th February. Also our new look LIBRARY is available at all times in the Narthex and adjacent room

St Clements and the Diocesan Pastoral Plan *A Letter from the Parish Transition Group*

Dear Parishioners,

We're writing to you about the changes that are coming to our parish in the near future.

Bishop Richard has published the Pastoral Plan for the diocese (copies available in the Narthex of the church) and in it he describes the principles and practical changes that will affect everyone in the diocese. This is an inspiring document and deserves careful reading. Our aim with this letter however is to consider the practical implications of the Pastoral Plan for St Clements.

In the plan Bishop Richard highlights the difficulties arising from the serious shortage of priests; a subject Father Graham has raised more than once in his Sunday sermons. So it should be of little surprise to anyone that the time has now arrived when we must adapt to this situation. The Pastoral Plan describes how groups of individual parishes will be formed into *one large moderated parish* based on the present deanery structure. Current parishes will be renamed *church communities*.

St Clements will join with Banstead, Cobham, Dorking, Effingham & Fetcham, Epsom with Ashstead, Leatherhead and Tadworth to form a new *moderated parish*. This *moderated parish* will be allocated a number of priests to share across the *church communities*, with one of them taking on the moderator role; and an administration hub will be established to serve its needs. **Work on these changes will begin in September of this year and should be completed by mid-2025.**

Some observations:

- St Clements will retain its name and continue to exist as a *church community* (as long as its members continue to sustain it).
- It is likely that the timetable for Sunday Masses will change; the number of Masses could well reduce.
- There may be times when a priest is not available for a Mass. Some of our parishioners will need to undergo the necessary formation to be able to provide Eucharist celebrations in such emergencies.
- We may – or may not – have a priest resident in the presbytery.
- The laity may be called on to exercise such functions as supporting bereaved people and conducting funerals (but obviously not Requiem Masses). Again, formation will be provided to empower people.
- In general, members of the *church community* will need to take on increased responsibility to ensure that St Clements continues to fulfil its role.

To help prepare for these important changes, Bishop Richard asked each parish priest to set up a group of parishioners. Father Graham has nominated a number of active parishioners for this purpose. The group – which we call the *transition group* - has already met with their opposite numbers from two other parishes in the deanery and – drawing on work carried out earlier by the parish Synod group – it is engaged on preliminary work that we hope will help with practical aspects of our move to a *moderated parish*. It's very early days and so there is little yet to report to you. However we aim to keep everyone updated as things progress.

St Clements Transition Group

NOTE

Names of the Transition Group members are listed in the narthex of the church.

Ceredigion. On 27 May 1956, it was carried to the little church of Our Lady of Sorrows. On 23 July 1970 Bishops Petit and Fox consecrated the new church of Our Lady of the Taper. Three days later the statue was carried there by pilgrims.

However, the original statue did not prove durable, and Mother Concordia OSB cast another one in bronze. This beautiful statue was blessed in Cardiff Cathedral in the presence of 4,500 pilgrims and brought around the parishes of Wales. On 18 May 1986, Pentecost Sunday, it was solemnly installed in the church of Our Lady of the Taper, which was designated the Welsh National Shrine of Our Lady by Pope Saint John Paul II. Her taper, blessed by the Holy Father, was placed in her hand and lit.

Father Jason Jones, a former rector of the shrine, explained the meaning of the taper:

Popular piety associates the image with the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, Candlemas ... Our Lady is the one who fully reflects the light of her glorified Son, and she embraces each pilgrim in the warmth of her love.

Contact information to arrange a pilgrimage:

Address: Our Lady of the Taper Church, North Rd, Cardigan, Ceredigion, SA43 1LT
Email: cardiganshrine@yahoo.com Tel: 01239 612615

Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your
name.**

FIRST READING **Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46**

PSALM **Psalms 31**

RESPONSE **You are my refuge, O Lord;
you fill me with the joy of
salvation.**

- Happy the man whose offence is forgiven,
whose sin is remitted.
O happy the man to whom the Lord
imputes no guilt,
in whose spirit is no guile. **R.**
- But now I have acknowledged my sins;
my guilt I did not hide.
I said: "I will confess
my offence to the Lord."
And you, Lord, have forgiven
the guilt of my sin. **R.**

- Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,
exult, you just!
O come, ring out your joy,
all you upright of heart. **R.**

SECOND READING **1 Corinthians 10:31 – 11:1**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our mind,
so that we can see what hope his call holds
for us.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL **Mark 1:40-45**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**They ate and had their fill,
and what they craved the Lord gave them;
they were not disappointed in what they
craved.**

Next Sunday's Readings:

Genesis 9:8-15
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:12-15



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OUR LADY OF CEREDIGION (CARDIGAN)



There is a beautiful legend that a statue of Our Lady was found on the banks of the River Teifi "with her sonne upon her lappe, and the taper bernynge in her hande".

The original meaning of "legend" was the reading given to monks during their meals in the refectories of monasteries. Legends may not be historically accurate in detail but generally have a basis in an actual event. The story relates that the statue of Our Lady with her taper was placed in the parish church but would not remain there, returning three or four times to "the place where now is buylded the church of our Lady",

the present St. Mary's. This reflects a decision to build a new church for the statue. In due course it became a parish church and a priory.

The Benedictines of Chertsey Abbey looked after it, and a monk sang Mass daily in honour of Our Lady for pilgrims. These lodged with the Knights Hospitallers of St. John, where the Angel Hotel now stands. Our Lady was deeply loved in Wales, and the devotion remains in many names like Llanfair (St Mary's) or Capel Mair (Chapel of Mary).

Our Lady of the Taper is a very rare title. There was another in Wales not far from Ceredigion in Haverfordwest. But the closest to Ceredigion's legend is in Sardinia, where in 1370 a Catalan ship foundered off Cagliari, and the sailors jettisoned a large crate to save themselves. The crate was opened on the shore and found to contain a large statue of Our Lady holding Jesus in her left hand and a candle in her right. She is known in Cagliari as Our Lady of Fair Winds (giving her name to Buenos Aires in Argentina). As at Ceredigion, a church was built to house her. In that period Catalonian sailors were thronging British waters. Did they perhaps come to Ceredigion, see the shrine and adopt the idea of Our Lady holding a candle?

Like all our shrines, Our Lady of the Taper was destroyed under the orders of Henry VIII, and the church of St Mary's became Anglican. Nothing remains of the shrine except that, on the old pilgrim route, there are the ruins of a building by a stream. It is called Capel Bach (Little Chapel); it may have been an oratory where travellers prayed before walking the last mile to the shrine.

Happily, the shrine was restored. A new statue, ordered by Bishop Petit, was blessed by Cardinal Griffin in Westminster Cathedral and then taken to every parish in the Diocese of Menevia before arriving in

Restored Marian Shrines



Fr Michael Rear concludes this series on restored Marian shrines in England and Wales with Our Lady of Ceredigion (Cardigan).

11 FEBRUARY 2024

6TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

YEAR B

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK II



There's a t-shirt slogan that has always made me smile, "Beer and bacon: proof that God loves you and wants you to be happy!" Well, I enjoy both those things, but if I couldn't be happy without them, I'd have a problem. The problem is sometimes we fall into a pattern of seeking happiness in created things and not in the Creator – we enjoy all the gifts, but we never look up to give thanks to the Giver. If every time I went for a meal out I reported back only about the food and not about the company, there would be a problem. Food, especially a meal out, is supposed to be an occasion for time together and not just about eating. All meals create a possibility for communion. In the Mass, the heavenly food brings about a communion with God and with those with whom I receive.

Fasting, then, is not a rejection of the goodness of creation but a renewed focus on the goodness of the Creator. In this first week of Lent, we might reflect that we were made for relation, not consumption. During this time of Lent, the next time I hear a "Go on, have another" in my head, I'm going to check whether there might not be another voice saying, "Go on, spend a little time with me instead."

Fr Toby Lees OP is a Dominican friar and priest. He currently works as Priest Director of Radio Maria England.

Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

FIRST READING **Genesis 9:8-15**

PSALM **Psalm 24**

RESPONSE **Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.**

1. Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour. **R.**
2. Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old. In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord. **R.**
3. The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor. **R.**

SECOND READING **1 Peter 3:18-22**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

GOSPEL **Mark 1:12-15**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

Next Sunday's Readings:
Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18
Romans 8:31-34
Mark 9:2-10



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SUNDAY BULLETIN



GO ON, GO ON!

"Go on, have another biscuit... Go on, have another chocolate... Go on, have another packet of crisps... It's a Feast Day; Jesus would want you to enjoy the biscuits... It's a Solemnity; Jesus would want you to enjoy the chocolate... It's a Sunday; Jesus would want you to enjoy the crisps and be happy!"

Whenever snacks are involved, the interior dialogue in my head can sound a lot like Mrs Doyle in *Father Ted*, "Go on, go on, go on, go on!" Normally, I listen to the voice and eat the snacks. And I am in no doubt that Jesus wants my happiness. What I am increasingly doubting, though, is whether Jesus wants me to be the sort of person who needs the snacks to be happy!

Our Gospel today tells of the temptation of Christ in the desert, but there's another word which we could use instead of *temptation*, namely, *testing*. When we think of it in terms of testing, another aspect opens up to the story. We test someone to see what they are made of, to find out what they know. Testing tells us something about the person, and the testing of Jesus tells us that he is stronger than the devil and that he will not give in to the empty promises of Satan. The testing of Jesus shows that he finds his happiness in obedience to the Father's will and not in anything fleeting.

Mark's succinct description of the temptation/testing might make us think back to Eden, where Adam and Eve were amongst the animals in the garden. The devil, in the form of a serpent, tested them. They capitulated where Jesus remains true. The devil makes many promises of happiness, but they are empty because they separate us from God, without whom we can never be truly happy.

Part of the purpose of fasting during Lent, where we join Christ in the desert, is to make sure that we have a focused time of seeking our happiness in God himself and not just the things of God. Fasting is supposed to awaken a hunger in us for God that we sometimes dull by seeking happiness in so many other places. The Lenten fasting we are encouraged to undertake is not from bad things (we're supposed to be giving those up all the time!); it's from good things, so that we might focus on the best thing.

Lenten

Reflections



Today we begin a new series of reflections on the Sunday readings during Lent with Fr Toby Lees OP.



18 FEBRUARY 2024

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

YEAR B

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK I