



ST CLEMENT'S CHURCH, EWELL

Parish Priest: Fr. Graham Bamford

Web Site: www.stclements Sewell.org

307 Kingston Road KT19 0BW Tel: 020 8393 5572

St. Clement's Primary School: 020 8393 8789

St. Andrew's Secondary School: 01372 277881

Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton

Charity No. 252878



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

Feast of the Holy Family

Sunday 31st December 2023 Psalter Week 1 Cycle B

Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	Wellbeing – Ros & Lello Ciriaco
Sunday 31 Dec	8.30 am	All Parishioners
	10.30 am	Phillip Lehart RIP
Mary, Mother of God		
Monday	10.00 am	All Parishioners
Wednesday	10.00 am	Wellbeing – M A Brown
Friday	10.00 am	In gratitude for Fabio Candelice

FEAST DAYS: 31 DEC 2023- 06 JAN 2024

Monday: Mary, Mother of God

Tuesday; St Basil, the Great & St Gregory Nazianzen, Drs of the Church

ANNIVERSARIES: 31 DEC 2023 – 06 JAN 2024

Marjory Donovan, Elsie Jillians, Alice Kinsella, Ann Henderson, Alan Bryne, Mary Edwardson.

COFFEE AFTER 10.30AM MASS

Parish Funds – Lesley, Wyn and Lil

Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday 7th January 2024 Psalter Week 1 Cycle B

Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	Caroline Boore RIP
Sunday 07 Jan 2024	8.30 am	All Parishioners
	10.30 am	Emily Richardson RIP
Wednesday	10.00 am	Wellbeing: Margaret Cossou & Marcia Bancroft
Friday		Holy Souls
Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	Mary, Felix & Vincent Edwardson RIP
Sunday 31 Dec	8.30 am	All Parishioners
	10.30 am	Tony Ball RIP

FEAST DAYS 07 – 13 JAN 2024

Monday: Baptism of the Lord

ANNIVERSARIES: 07 – 13 JAN 2024

Thomas White, Craig Gordon, Walter Wynn, Nigel Haydon, Sheila O'Flaherty.

COFFEE AFTER 10.30AM MASS

Parish Funds - Ann & Robin Hannan, Pat Russell,

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

FR GRAHAM WISHES ALL PARISHIONERS A VERY HAPPY AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR

DECEMBER 200 CLUB WINNERS: David Farrar No.196 £200 Nathaniel Samuel No.119 £50 Congratulations!

PARISH QUIZ NIGHT: Our next parish quiz will be on Saturday 13th January in the Church hall. Doors will open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Entrance will be £1 per person and there will, of course, be a raffle. Nibbles, teas and coffees will be provided but please bring your own other drinks. Do come along for a fun and sociable evening with your parish friends. If you would like to join us, add your name to the sign-up sheets in the Narthex. Any queries, please ask our quiz master Robin Hannan on 07810 64773

CONFIRMATION GROUP: Our next session will be on Saturday 6th January in the Church Hall, starting at 4pm. All candidates should attend please.

COFFEE AFTER 8.30 AM MASS: During the past year £526.70 has been raised through the coffee mornings organised by Mark McLoughlin. As per Mark's request the amount is to be shared equally between CAFOD & the Food Bank (£263.35 each)

PASTORAL PLAN: Bishop Richard has written a new Pastoral Plan for the Diocese which will be released in the New Year: 'The Word Who is Life: The Call to Mission'. As society becomes more secular our parishes must be ever-clearer beacons of light guiding people to Christ. The new Plan highlights how our community of faith can embrace this important time of renewal, forging diocesan parishes into communities of saints and strong, lively, and welcoming schools of discipleship. The Pastoral Plan will be released on the diocesan website on Tuesday 2 January and will be available to read on this page: www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/pastoral-plan with hard copies available to read in each parish. Bishop Richard met with members of clergy recently and will be hosting a Pastoral Plan Webinar for people across our diocesan community on Wednesday 10 January at 7.30pm. There is no need to register for this event, please use the following the link to join the webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86457734895>. All are very welcome to attend.

DAY OF REFLECTION FOR MINISTERS OF THE WORD – Saturday 20 January 2024

Bishop Richard will lead a day of reflection and formation for Ministers of the Word at Sacred Heart Church, Cobham, 11-4pm. Including Lectio Divina and Mass, plus talks on Sacred Scripture, the Liturgy of the Word, the Lectionary, and practical aspects of the ministry. Please register using the link W: [Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Word \(20-Jan-2024\) · ChurchSuite Events](#). If this link does not work, please scan the QR code on the posters in the narthex.

A BIG THANKYOU: To all who prepared the church and liturgy for the Christmas Season. The church was well decorated with tree, seasonal flowers, crib, etc.

Fr Graham is very grateful for the Christmas cards, gifts and Christmas offerings. Much appreciated!

If you visit Provence at Christmas, you'll see cribs with santons everywhere. But whatever time of year you go, there are several santon museums to see. Perhaps the most impressive is at Grignan, where there's a crib that covers 400 square metres of floor and includes more than 1000 figurines. The museum in Avignon has another huge crib, and this one also features an interesting display of the Provençal landscape in miniature.



The santon display always involves the central characters of Mary, Joseph and the infant Christ, but there are many other colourful figures who have become almost as traditional. In a typical Provençal crib, there should be fifty-five figures. You'll usually see the figure of a blind man with his son; he is hoping that their trip to the stable might lead to a miracle and his sight will be restored. Nearby will be a couple of child stealers; the story is that on seeing the baby Jesus in his crib, they immediately hand the kidnapped child they have with them back to his parents.

A beautiful female figure, dressed to the nines in local costume, is the Arlesienne, while a tambourine man is often to be seen leading a troupe of colourfully-dressed dancers. But probably the most endearing character in the line-up is the ravi. He has nothing to give the newborn Christ, but he's absolutely thrilled to hear of his birth – so much so that he's usually shown raising his arms in the air and dancing a little jig.

Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

FIRST READING **Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3**

PSALM **Psalm 104**

RESPONSE **He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever.**

1. Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. O sing to him, sing his praise; tell all his wonderful works! **R.**
2. Be proud of his holy name, let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice. Consider the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face. **R.**
3. Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, the judgements he spoke. O children of Abraham, his servant, O sons of the Jacob he chose. **R.**

4. He remembers his covenant for ever, his promise for a thousand generations, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. **R.**

SECOND READING **Hebrews 11:8. 11-12. 17-19**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son. Alleluia!

GOSPEL **Luke 2:22-40**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

Next Sunday's Readings:
 Isaiah 60:1-6
 Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6
 Matthew 2:1-12



www.rpbooks.co.uk rp@rpbooks.co.uk @redemptorist

SUNDAY BULLETIN

A CRIB BORN DURING THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

Santons – the brightly-coloured clay figures used in nativity scenes that you find all over Provence – have their origins in the French Revolution. In 1789 the French government, wanting to take control of the religious landscape, banned Catholic worship and closed churches, a cause of sadness to many. At Christmas, the inability to worship or focus on the story of Christ's birth was particularly keenly felt. To circumvent the laws, believers began to create their own cribs in their homes – although even that was illegal, with stiff penalties for those found to be using them.



At first the crib figures were made out of bread crumbs or papier mâché. Then in 1798 a craftsman called Jean Louis Lagnel was on a walk and had the idea of using the clay on the ground to make an improved version. Lagnel became the first santonnier, and many others followed him into the profession in the years that followed. In fact the santon industry grew so quickly that the first fair to sell the figures was held in Marseilles in 1803 and continues every year to this day, beginning in early November and continuing into January.

Santons are always made in small batches to ensure quality, and the process is in six stages. First the character is imagined and created using raw red clay: the features, clothes and so on of the figure are carefully carved into the clay. Next, the character is wrapped in plaster to create a mould. Once the mould is made, clay is pressed into it to produce the figure that will be used for the crib. It's important that the clay be firmly pressed into the mould to capture all the details of the figure.

After being removed from the mould, the figure is left to dry and then baked in a very hot oven before being painted. Traditionally, the colours of the paints are bright. And the santonnier will work on his or her models year-round, but the main time to sell them is at the winter fairs as Christmas approaches.

Christmas Crib Traditions



Joanna Moorhead continues this series on Christmas cribs with a look at the Provence region of France, which has a very special type of nativity figure.

31 DECEMBER 2023

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
 YEAR B
 DIVINE OFFICE WEEK 1

Every stall on the street is adorned with nativity characters. You're unlikely to have ever seen so many models of Mary, Joseph and the infant Christ, all surrounded by angels, shepherds, kings and cattle. While you browse their wares, the makers are at work carving wood and painting figures. One of the most fun elements of a walk along Christmas Alley is spotting the latter-day additions to the nativity scene. On my visit I spied Pope Francis, Madonna, Elvis Presley and King Charles III.



Presepi come in all shapes and sizes: some are as large as life, others in miniature. One of the best elements about the tradition is that, in Italy, the presepi season lasts well into January and even into February. On a trip to Florence at the start of last year, there were still plenty of cribs to be seen in churches and courtyards – and in the centre of Florence, outside the magnificent cathedral, you could admire the life-size crib to the sound of carols beamed out through loudspeakers.

One of the best-known presepi in all of Italy is the one unveiled by the pope in St Peter's Square each December, a tradition begun by St Pope John Paul II in 1982. Each year the idea is to reflect current concerns with the crib. In 2022 the crib's theme focused on sustainability and the importance of family and solidarity towards others. Baby Jesus, carefully covered until Christmas Day, and all the figures around him were sculpted from trees lost in a huge storm in 2018, so while the crib was entirely made of wood, not a single tree was cut down to create it.

Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

FIRST READING **Isalah 60:1-6**

PSALM **Psaln 71**

RESPONSE **All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.**

- O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. **R.**
- In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. **R.**
- The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. **R.**

- For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. **R.**

SECOND READING **Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! We saw his star as it rose and have come to do the Lord homage. Alleluia!

GOSPEL **Matthew 2:1-12**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

Next Sunday's Readings:
1 Samuel 3:3-10. 19
1 Corinthians 6:13-15. 17-20
John 1:35-42



www.rpbooks.co.uk rp@rpbooks.co.uk @redemptorist

SUNDAY BULLETIN

NEAPOLITAN DELIGHT



The tradition of recreating the scene of Christ's birth with a crib began in Italy: it's credited to the thirteenth-century Francis of Assisi. And to this day, his country is home to probably the most extensive array of cribs on the planet. Every village, church, town square and public building is adorned with a Bethlehem display, many of them historic works dating back to the eighteenth century and earlier.

The eighteenth century was the heyday of the Christmas crib, and Naples was its epicentre. The city's craftspeople took up crib making with an unrivalled gusto: the settings became ever more extensive and elaborate, often reflecting the town or village where the crib was destined to be shown. It was this weaving together of a Biblical story and a contemporary landscape that would come to define the presepe, as Italy knows it.

Today Naples' National Museum of San Marino has one of the most extensive collections of cribs, including that of Michele Cuciniello, widely acknowledged as one of the finest cribs in the world. Cuciniello was a collector as well as an artist and architect. He put his skills together to create an extraordinary scene featuring Roman ruins, a tavern, a fountain (a must in any Neapolitan crib because of the cleansing significance of water), a star and a cascade of angels descending from the heavens.

In Britain we tend to think of cribs as being for domestic spaces and churches. But part of the success of the presepe tradition in Italy was that it was always about recreating Christ's birth for the community in its widest sense. The earliest large-scale presepi (the plural of presepe) were made for monasteries and designed by monks and clerics. But in the eighteenth century, monarchs and other aristocratic leaders began to commission them for their courts and grand houses, making selling presepi a lucrative industry.

It's hard to escape the presepi in Naples, even if you visit in the height of summer and give the museum a wide berth. In the middle of the city is a narrow street called Via San Gregorio Armeno, which winds up a hill. It's better known there as Christmas Alley, and it's the hub for today's artisans who continue the crib-making tradition.

Christmas

Crib

Traditions



In the Italian city of Naples, crib making has been a tradition and an industry for centuries. Joanna Moorhead finishes this series on Christmas cribs with a visit to Italy.

7 JANUARY 2024

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

YEAR B

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK 1