



ST CLEMENT'S CHURCH, EWELL

Parish Priest: Fr. Graham Bamford

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St. Clement's Primary School: 020 8393 8789

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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



33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday 19th November 2023 Psalter Week 1 Cycle A

Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	Dec'd of Bruce & Ward Fams.
Sunday 19 Nov	8.30 am	All Parishioners
	10.30 am	Wellbeing Laurence & Winnie Chu
Wednesday	10.00 am	Elizabeth Keogh RIP
Friday	10.00 am	Yvonne DaSilva RIP

FEAST DAYS: 19TH – 25TH NOVEMBER 2023

Tuesday: Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Wednesday: St Cecilia, Virgin, Martyr

Thursday: St Clement

Friday: St Andrew Dũng-Lac Priest and Companions,
Martyrs
Martyrs of Vietnam

ANNIVERSARIES: 4TH – 11TH NOVEMBER 2023

Dori Campbell, Derek Storey, Marie Gould, Canon John Sullivan,
John Callander.

COFFEE AFTER 10.30AM MASS

African Vision Malawi - Ahu Guray

Our Lord Jesus, Universal King

Sunday 26th November 2023 Psalter Week 2 Cycle A

Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	Holy Souls
Sunday 26 Nov	8.30 am	All Parishioners
	10.30 am	Marjorie Joan Bamford RIP
Wednesday	10.00 am	Fr Michael Campbell- Johnson RIP
Friday	10.00 am	Fr Gerry Vann RIP
Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	Wellbeing of Fergus Powell
Sunday 03 Dec	8.30 am	All Parishioners
	10.30 am	Michael & Pat Bamford RIP

FEAST DAYS 26TH NOVEMBER – 2ND DECEMBER 2023

Thursday: St Andrew, Apostle

ANNIVERSARIES: 26TH NOVEMBER – 2ND DECEMBER

Sylvia Fitzgerald, Patricia Sproat, May Maynard, John Campbell,
Gerry Boughton, Ted Bryant

ST CLEMENT'S CHRISTMAS MARKET

ALL WELCOME – COME AND ENJOY YOURSELVES

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, Marcia Bancroft

NOVEMBER 200 CLUB WINNERS: Jane Goss-Vera No.148 £30 Marie Green No.66 £20 Congratulations!

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. Please also return any unsold tickets to the narthex as soon as possible.

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. **FINALLY PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO COME ALONG AND ENJOY YOURSELF.**

BECOMING A DEACON: Are you being called to serve God and His people in a deeper way? In the words of the Lord "come and see" (Jn 1:46) You are invited to an open evening to learn about the role of a Deacon in today's Church, Friday, 1st December at 7.00 pm, St Joseph's, Redhill, RH1 1LF. For more details contact Deacon Tim Murrill, email tim.murrill@abdiocese.org.uk

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 ISRAELI -PALESTINIAN CRISIS APPEAL: Donations can be made at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and Southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers.

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS - You are invited to join with fellow parishioners for a short, gentle reflection during Advent. We will meet in the Tivey Room on Wednesdays 29th November, 6th and 13th December from 11.15am - 12noon.

ST CLEMENT'S SCHOOL: St Clement's School Christmas Fair is on Saturday 9th December, 12-3pm. Please join us for food, drink, stalls, games, raffle, and lots of festive fun! Everybody is welcome and the Friends of St Clement's look forward to see you there.

JUST A THOUGHT: "Have patience with all things, but first of all with yourself"

(St Francis de Sales)

ST CLEMENT'S FAIR

SUNDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER 2023



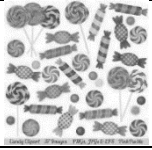
We need donations of the following items for the various stalls.
Please can you help?



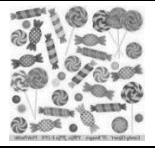
Grand Draw Prizes -Whisky, Brandy, Champagne,
Vouchers, a small iced Christmas cake, etc



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)



denying access to the sacraments. The Church's magisterium is very clear in this area, and recently the *Directory for Catechesis* stated explicitly that "no-one can deny the sacraments to persons with disabilities" (No. 272).

The discussions leading to the Synod on synodality allowed people with varying abilities, perhaps for the first time, to say what would help them to take an active part in the life of the Church to which they belong. Most of the Synod participants don't know what it is like to be physically or intellectually limited. Enlightened decisions on behalf of others can only happen if they listen to those for whom disability is a daily and perhaps lifelong experience.

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

The voices of those suffering degrees of incapacity – whether deafness, blindness, mobility, learning difficulties, etc. – have called in this Synod for attention to be given to their needs. They want to participate more in the life of the Church. This might mean introducing or making use of particular facilities and technologies, but the predominant voice asks that the People of God listen to their experience. The testimonies collected in a submission from the Catholic Deaf Association, for example, give a vivid insight into the experience "in the pews" of people battling with loop systems. Overall, people of disability are making the same call as other faithful for co-responsibility and participation in decision-making. "We need to be offered and accept more responsibilities so that we can be more committed." (70)

DIFFERING ABILITIES

My late father was in his fifties when he had both legs amputated. Except for my Final Profession, he never found the courage to be publicly wheeled to the local church. It nearly broke his heart because the Church meant everything to him. On home leave, I asked the parish priest if I could give Dad Communion. At that time Eucharistic Minister accreditation was non-transferable between dioceses; he gave permission but warned me that it applied only to my father and not to others in the parish.

Fortunately, things have changed. However, other people still regularly encounter similar situations. "Father doesn't allow us to take Communion around the parish", a Eucharistic Minister sadly declared. "He sees it as his responsibility to visit the sick and housebound, but now that he is caring for two parishes, he doesn't have the time. People are left without the support of the Eucharist, no matter how much they want to receive it."

Mark was a delightful child with severe learning disabilities. I was preparing him for his first Holy Communion and was told that Mark was fascinated with gasholders. Provided I could somehow bring these huge constructions into the conversation, he would understand what I was saying. The results could be hilarious, as he would sometimes spontaneously progress beyond my expectations. On one occasion, he unexpectedly described heaven as "the big gasholder where God lives". Then came the Mass at which Mark would receive Communion. Only his mother was unsurprised by the child's perfect behaviour. More than one person had tears in their eyes as Mark walked back from the altar, his radiant smile lighting up the whole church. He – and God – knew exactly what had just happened; he just didn't have the words to express what was happening in his mind and heart.

In his 2020 *Message for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities*, Pope Francis wrote,

People with disabilities, both in society and in the Church, also wish to become active subjects of our pastoral ministry, and not simply its recipients. "Many persons with disabilities feel that they exist without belonging and without participating."

In his 2021 message, he had more to say:

As far as the Church's life is concerned, "the worst form of discrimination... is the lack of spiritual care" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 200). Sometimes... this has taken the form of

Walking Together



Sr Janet Fearn FMDM continues this series on synodality.



Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

FIRST READING **Proverbs 31:10-13. 19-20. 30-31**

PSALM **Psalm 127**

RESPONSE **O blessed are those who fear the Lord.**

- O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. **R.**
- Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. **R.**

3. Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life. **R.**

SECOND READING **1 Thessalonians 5:1-6**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Even if you have to die, says the Lord, keep faithful, and I will give you the crown of life.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL **Matthew 25:14-30**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.

Next Sunday's Readings:

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17
1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28
Matthew 25:31-46



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the Church and to feel that their contribution is both worthwhile and valued. They want to grow closer to God and each other. They want to make a difference – but in the here and now, not in some distant, intangible future.

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

A common denominator of the reports is a call by people to be allowed to express faith and commitment to the Church through greater involvement, along with a fear that they "do not always feel welcomed, valued or encouraged to do so". A typical view is that "I feel I could do more but don't have the permission to fulfil my potential". Pressures of time and fears of commitment also inhibit participation. While frequent mention was made of sharing responsibility for the Church's mission, "actually identifying and defining what the mission is was not clearly expressed". (37)

In reflecting on the Synod process, Pope Francis declared:

Dear brothers and sisters, let us have a good journey together! May we be pilgrims in love with the Gospel and open to the surprises of the Holy Spirit. Let us not miss out on the grace-filled opportunities born of encounter, listening and discernment.

Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

FIRST READING **Ezekiel 34:11-12. 15-17**

PSALM **Psalms 121**

RESPONSE **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. **R.**
2. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. **R.**
3. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **R.**

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **R.**

SECOND READING **1 Corinthians 15:20-26. 28**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! Alleluia!

GOSPEL **Matthew 25:31-46**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord sits as King for ever. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Next Sunday's Readings:

Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:33-37



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OF THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE

How does the Church become relevant to its parishioners? Is it just somewhere to go for an hour on Sunday with little or no effect on the rest of the week? Do the lonely remain lonely or do they discover a smile, a greeting and a welcome? Does the parish give people an excuse to come together and share what means most to them? At Mass, is the homily "real", touching hearts that may be looking for answers to burning questions, which may be hidden from the rest of the world? Does the parish support and energise its priest and parishioners in their search for a closer relationship with God and each other? Or does it leave them dispirited and frustrated because nobody seems to accept, understand or have time? Are children and young people excited or turned away by what they find? Is the parish a home from home?

In an effective parish, the priest and parishioners talk and listen to each other. They look for ways of becoming ever more welcoming, not only to the stranger but also to the parishioner longing for companionship and support. Loneliness can be a massive problem in any community, but it doesn't have to be: listening within the parish community converts strangers into friends. In other words, we must look at our own situation, recognise what we can and cannot do and then identify the ways in which God is calling us to grow in faith and love, using the resources which are available to us.

Parish pastoral needs vary enormously. What fits the parish in Britain differs greatly from one in rural Africa. Our parish in Zambia had forty-five outstations. At the Easter Vigil, we regularly had forty baptisms, fifty First Communions and twenty confirmations. Our offertory procession often included not only the bread and wine but also a chicken, a goat and sometimes a huge fish carried from the lake, still dripping, by two strong men.

That is not the normal state of affairs in Bath, Bermondsey or Blackpool – and yet, as Pope Francis said at the beginning of the Synod process,

In these days, Jesus calls us, as he did the rich man in the Gospel, to empty ourselves, to free ourselves from all that is worldly, including our inward-looking and outworn pastoral models; and to ask ourselves what it is that God wants to say to us in this time. And the direction in which he wants to lead us.

The Church cannot adopt a "one-size-fits-all" approach. Yet, universally, people want to come together to support each other, both in their faith and life circumstances. They want to be involved in the life of

Walking Together



Sr Janet Fearn FMDM concludes this series of reflections on synodality.



26 NOVEMBER 2023

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
KING OF THE UNIVERSE

YEAR A

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK II