

Parish of Our Lady of Consolation and St. Gabriel

Rector & Parish Priest: Canon Tim Madeley KCHS

Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation
& St. Francis
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Shrine Administrator
Kate Goddard 01403 710273

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Catholic Parish Church of
St. Gabriel
East Street Billingshurst
RH14 9QH

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Parish Office
18 East Street Billingshurst
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01403 782128



Welcome to the parish of Our Lady of Consolation and St. Gabriel. If you are new to the parish please make yourself known to Canon Tim and complete a new parishioner form available at both churches.

Do take your newsletter home with you.

The Parish Office is open on Tuesdays from 10am to 12 noon and on Fridays from 10am to 1pm. The deadline for items for the newsletter is 12noon on Thursday.

ADVENT SCRIPTURE GROUP

ADVENT SCRIPTURES explained by catechist Sue Petritz MA. Do come along to St Gabriel's church hall, to hear in depth about the prophet Isaiah and Matthew. Sessions take place on Mondays from 24th November weekly ending on Monday 15th December from 6.30pm to 7.15pm.

Children's Liturgy continues TODAY the 14th December during the 9.15am Mass.

Can you help? Christmas Cleaning at Our Lady of Consolation

There will be a pre-Christmas cleaning party for the church and Parish Room on the morning of Monday 22 December starting at 10am. Please come along to help out if you can. The more the merrier! Cleaning will be followed by tea, coffee and mince pies. Please sign up on the list by the coffee station, or just turn up on the day.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve 24 December

Carols and Readings 11.00pm

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Our Lady of Consolation

Christmas Day 25 December

Mass 9.15am St. Gabriel's

Mass 11.15am Our Lady of Consolation

Boxing Day 26 December

Mass 9.30am St. Gabriel's

PARISH PRAYER LIST Prayers for Ruth & Helena Malone, Christine Wylie, John Blythe, Maricel Walka, Pat Cox, John Gladman, Mary Gleeson, Philip Baker and all the sick or housebound of the parish.

Please pray for Fr Sebastian Paul and all the sick clergy of the diocese.

Pray for the repose of the soul of Bishop Thomas McMahon and all those who have died recently.



3rd Sunday of Advent 'Gaudate'

14th December 2025

Divine Office: Week 3 Year A

This coming week we find ourselves in the final countdown towards the celebration of the birth of Christ. The popular hymn O come O come Emmanuel is taken from the 'O Antiphons' these are the antiphons from the Magnificat in the Evening Prayer of the Church (Vespers). On each day of the week leading up to Christmas, one responsive verse would be chanted, each including a different Old Testament name for the coming Messiah. When we sing each verse of this hymn, we acknowledge Christ as the fulfilment of these Old Testament prophecies. We sing this hymn in an already - but not yet kingdom of God. Christ's first coming gives us a reason to rejoice again and again, yet we know that all is not well with the world. So along with our rejoicing, we plead using the words of this hymn that Christ would come again to perfectly fulfil the promise that all darkness will be turned to light.

From Bishop Richard:

This Sunday finds us celebrating Gaudete Sunday – Rejoicing Sunday – taking its name from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon at Mass: Rejoice. The vestment colour changes to Rose, a sign that we are at a mid-point in the Season of Advent. We rejoice that the coming of the Lord is near. The readings speak of waiting in patience. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks of John the Baptist as the greatest person born of woman. Yet He compares John to the least in the Kingdom of heaven – we wait in patience for the coming of the Kingdom. Isaiah speaks of the promise of God's coming and the need for us to be ready – but patience is needed, for the Lord has not yet come.

Packs of 10 lovely **Christmas postcards** priced £4 will be available in the porch from next week to help fund humanitarian aid for refugees arriving on the Greek island of Chios.

POINSETTIAS are a lovely way to remember a loved one and to decorate our churches at Christmas time. If you would like to participate please bring your poinsettia and leave it in the narthex at St. Gabriel's or the Parish Room at Our Lady of Consolation.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES are now available priced £5.

Today Sunday 14th December there will be a second collection towards the cost of flowers to decorate our churches at Christmas time.

We will update this list each month so please contact the Parish Office if you wish your name or that of a friend or loved one to remain on the list.

Echoes of 1,500 Years: Gregorian Chant for Advent, 14 December, 3.30pm, St Augustine's Abbey, Chilworth GU4 8QR. Experience traditional Latin Gregorian Chant performed by the Benedictine monks of the Abbey, offering a rare opportunity to hear this ancient form of prayer in its authentic monastic setting. There is no need to book and all are warmly welcome.

The Sandgate Choir Christmas Carols Sunday 14th December 4pm at Our Lady of England Church, Storrington. Tickets including festive refreshments: Adults £12 Children £6 from www.thesandgatechoir.com or on the door.

Christ's Hospital Choral Society presents **Christmas in the Chapel** Saturday 20th December 7.30pm in the Chapel, Christ's Hospital. Ticket £17.50 in advance from 01403 247434 or www.chchoralsoc.org and £20 on the door.

Worth Abbey Pilgrims Advent Carol Service, 21st December, 3.30pm, Worth Abbey. Celebrate the joy and hope of Advent with a beautiful blend of traditional and contemporary carols performed by the Worth Abbey Choir. This special service is much loved by all those who attend. Followed by festive refreshments.

BILLINGSHURST WALKING NATIVITY Sunday 21st December Back again for the annual Christmas event! The festivities start at Jengers Mead at 4pm, with the Nativity starting at 5pm. Join for festive fun and to celebrate Christmas! Hope to see you there.

Crib Mass 24th December, 3pm, Worth Abbey. Children are invited to come dressed as nativity characters and to bring a gift for a child in need. Mass will include singing by children from St Robert Southwell & St John the Evangelist schools and Brighton Catholic Youth Choir.

Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Word, 24 January, 11-4pm at St Michael's Church, Worthing BN13 3AL. Led by Bishop Richard and Catherine Christmas, diocesan Liturgy & Music Adviser, this day will include talks on the Scriptures, the Lectionary and its use in the Liturgy, the Liturgy of the Word, and preparing to minister as a reader. Register your free place at <https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/xqparvc5?ct=1>

TODAY Sunday 14th December at Our Lady of Consolation there will be Extraordinary Form Latin Mass at 3pm. All are welcome.

FOR SALE, in the narthex at St. Gabriel's, a selection of very reasonably priced Christmas cards and gift bags.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Parish Safeguarding Officer Kevin Rourke
01403 885120
sg1.billingshurst@abdiocese.org.uk
St. Gabriel's Parish Hall Hire
hallbookings@stgabriel'sbillingshurst.org.uk

St. John the Evangelist Horsham Parish Office
<https://www.stjohnshorsham.com/> 01403 253667
St. John's Primary School 01403 265447
St. Robert Southwell Primary School 01403 252357
St. Wilfrid's Catholic Comprehensive 01293 421421

The Parish is part of the Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Trust, a Registered Charity. No. 252878

MASSES FOR WEEK BEGINNING 14th December 2025

Sunday 14th December 3rd 'Gaudate' Sunday of Advent	<u>St. Gabriel's</u> 9.15am Mass <u>Our Lady of Consolation</u> 11.15am Mass	<i>People of the Parish</i> <i>Allen & Rosemary Wilson RIP</i>
Monday 15th December	St. John the Evangelist, Horsham 12 noon Mass	-
Tuesday 16th December	<u>St. Gabriel's</u> 9.30am Mass	<i>Intentions of Elizabeth Zakar-Smith</i>
Wednesday 17th December <i>'O Sapientia'</i>	<u>Our Lady of Consolation</u> 11.00am Adoration, Confessions & Benediction 12 noon Mass	<i>Ruth Malone's healing</i>
Thursday 18th December <i>'O Adonai'</i>	<u>St. Gabriel's</u> 7pm Mass	<i>Holy Souls</i>
Friday 19th December <i>'O Radix Jesse'</i>	<u>St. Gabriel's</u> 8.30am Mass followed by Adoration	<i>Holy Souls</i>
Saturday 20th December <i>'O Clavis David'</i>	<u>St. Gabriel's</u> 9.30am Mass followed by Adoration, Confessions & Benediction	<i>Jane Jackson RIP</i>
Sunday 21st December 4th Sunday of Advent <i>'O Oriens'</i>	<u>St. Gabriel's</u> 9.15am Mass <u>Our Lady of Consolation</u> 11.15am Mass	<i>Paul & Shane Bradshaw RIP</i> <i>People of the Parish</i>

CONFESSIONS THIS WEEK

Wednesday 11.15am Our Lady of Consolation, West Grinstead
Saturday 10.00am St. Gabriel's, Billingshurst

	14th December	21st December
9.15am Welcomers	Graham Dow Marguerite D'Urban Jackson	Lucy Cooper Claire Fairlie
9.15am Readers	Sara Tremlett Lucy Cooper	Luke Knight Alex Martens
9.15am Collectors	Brian Richards Vijay Anthony	Jacqui & Kevin Rourke
Children's Liturgy	Kevin Rourke tbc	NO SESSION
9.15am Ministers of the Eucharist	Sarah Cooper Denis Woodhouse Sue Pirie	Karen Goldsmith Vijay Anthony tbc
9.15am Counters	Vicky McGee Brian O'Connor	Alex & Andre Manko
9.15am Coffee	Lucy Cooper Mary Lewcock	The Cooper family
Readers 11.15am	Linda Thompson Carol Cooper	Gay Davenport Jenny Marsden

Readings for 21st December: 1st Reading: Isaiah 7: 10 - 14 Psalm: 24
2nd Reading: Romans 1: 1 - 7 Gospel: Matthew 1: 18 - 24

PARISH GIVING 7th DECEMBER

St. Gabriel's	Collection:	£ 151.45
Our Lady of Consolation	Collection:	£ 191.00
	Standing Orders November:	£1,392.00

During Advent and the Christmas season St. Gabriel's tea & coffee money will be collected for the Catholic Children's Society.