

RC CHURCHES OF MAYFIELD AND WADHURST

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Sunday, 1st February, 4th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Mass at 9.00am at Sacred Heart, Wadhurst

Mass at 11.00am at Mayfield School Chapel. Mass for the repose of the souls of Old Cornelians

Services during the week

Monday 2nd February – Mass at 10am at St Thomas's. Feast The Presentation of the Lord. Candlemas

Tuesday 3rd February - Holy Hour at Mayfield School Chapel at 6pm.

Wednesday 4th February - Mass at 10am Sacred Heart. Feast Day of St Gilbert of Sempringham. Confession after Mass or by appointment.

Friday 6th February – Mass at 10am at St Thomas's. Feast Day of St Paul Miki and his Companions, Martyrs. Confession after Mass or by appointment. Rosary Group following Mass.

Sunday 8th February. Mass at normal times.

Church Cribs. The Cribs at Sacred Heart, the School Chapel and St Thomas's will be taken down on Tuesday, the feast of Candlemas. Crib donations are for the Arundel & Brighton Crisis Fund of the Catholic Children's Society, which helps families facing a crisis in their lives. You can donate at the Crib or via the CCS website: www.cathchild.org.uk/crib.

Pope Leo's prayer intention for February. For children with incurable diseases

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

Nourish. We will have our monthly Nourish collection this Sunday, 1st February. Items in very short supply include tea, cereal, milk and tinned fruit. Please include these in your food donations if possible. Cash donations are also most welcome.

First Friday Adoration 6th February. The First Friday Eucharistic Adoration will be at Sacred Heart from 9am to 10am.

Second Collections: There will be a second collection on Sunday 8th February for the A&B Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund. The CAFOD Family Fast Day collection will take place on Sunday 1st March.

Sacred Heart Live Streaming of 9am Mass. We hope to start streaming Sunday Mass at Sacred Heart from Sunday 8th February. For safeguarding purposes the link will only be available to known parishioners requesting it, and the recording will only be viewable for 12 hours. Please email Toni for details at toni@dalecottage.net.

Lent talk at Worth Abbey 14th February 10.30am-1pm. Facing What Is: Lent, Listening, and Hope in a Time of Change. Join Abbot Mark and draw on the wisdom of the desert, and monastic tradition, to explore how Christian faith teaches us to tell the truth about ourselves and God. To find out more and reserve your place go to <https://worthabbey.net/upcoming-worth-abbey-pilgrims-dates-for-your-diary-2026/?ct> .

London Jesuit Centre Lent Retreat in Daily Life, from 21 February, 4pm-5.30pm, online (Cost: £125). Would you like to take a little time out of the rush and complexity of life and make space for your relationship with God? Take extra time for prayer and reflection during the course of your everyday life this Lent with this online retreat - which includes a weekly individual meeting with a trained retreat guide. For details <https://londonjesuitcentre.churchsuite.com/events/hsjxbttn?ct> .

Event Reminders

Mental Health Awareness Training, 7 February. The number of people experiencing poor mental health is rising. This course will help attendees understand the impact and reality of poor mental health, enabling them to identify the early signs and symptoms and signpost people effectively. The course is from 10am to 3pm, at the St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley, (£40) Book your place <https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/ibgv7xjz>

Quiet Friday, 13 February, 10.15am-3.30pm, Worth Abbey RH10 4SB (Cost: £20). Quiet Fridays are designed to foster a peaceful environment of prayerful silence, offering you time to unwind, reflect, and deepen your awareness of God's presence. Go to <https://worthabbey.net/come-for-a-quiet-friday/> to find out more and book.

Catholic Book Club Meeting – 19th February. The Catholic Book Club will be starting its next book, "Can We Trust the Gospels" by Peter Williams at its meeting on 19th February at 6pm at Sacred Heart. The book is available on Amazon. All are welcome, in order to have a feel on numbers please email Daniel White at dcwhite39@btinternet.com.

Lourdes Pilgrimage. A reminder that applications for the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage is now open. For those who are interested in going or have any questions about what it entails, Susan or Stephen Moir would be very happy to talk to you about it. Further details and the application link can be found at <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/lourdes/home?ct> .

Recurring Notices

Mass Intentions. For anyone wanting to ask for an intention please put in an envelope and hand it in at the end of Sunday Mass. If you would prefer the intention to be private, please state this and Father Raymond will include it in his own Tuesday or Thursday Mass.

Parish Registration. For those new to the Parish and for those who have not yet registered, please register at <https://sacredheartchurchwadhurst.org.uk/register/> in order to receive the Parish Newsletter and news of Parish activities. **If you have any concerns about this process please speak to a member of your Pastoral Council.**

Ministry of the Eucharist. Please would you please let Father Raymond know of anybody who requires Holy Communion at home.

Mothers Prayers. Mothers Prayers in Mayfield are held every Monday after Mass at Virginia Longin's House. **The Wadhurst group now meets on the second Friday of the month** at 9.30. They meet in each other's houses. If you would like to come, please phone Clare on 07857 529690 or email Virginia at longinvirginia@yahoo.com

Lifts to Mass. Lifts to Mass can be arranged for anyone who has difficulty getting to Church. Please let Father Raymond or one of the Welcomers know if you need a lift. Also, please let a Pastoral Committee member know if you are able to offer a lift to someone who lives near you.

Father Raymond's February Reflection

THE SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD (3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME)

It invites us to deepen our relationship with the Sacred Scripture, recognising it as the living Word of God that guides and transforms our lives.

We recall that on September 30, 2019, the late Holy Father, Pope Francis, established the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time each year as the Sunday of the Word of God. With the Apostolic Letter, *Aperuit Illis*, the Holy Father emphasised that “the sacred Scriptures are the living Word of God, in which God himself speaks to us, reveals his love, and calls us to conversion and holiness.” In this letter, Pope Francis invites all Catholics worldwide to deepen their appreciation, love, and faithful witness to God and His Word, stressing that the Bible should not be “a book that gathers dust on a shelf” but a source of life, guidance, and an encounter with the Lord. The Church, through this observance, calls the faithful to celebrate, study, and disseminate the Word of God in both personal and communal life.

A profound bond links sacred Scripture and the faith of believers. Since faith comes from hearing, and what is heard is based on the word of Christ (cf. Rom 10:17), we are bound to listen attentively to the word of the Lord, both in the celebration of the liturgy and in our personal prayer and reflection.

Today, we are reminded of the teaching of Saint Ephrem: “Who can understand, Lord, all the richness of even one of your words? There is more that eludes us than what we can understand. We are like the thirsty drinking from a fountain. Your word has as many aspects as the perspectives of those who study it. The Lord has coloured his word with diverse beauties, so that those who study it can contemplate what stirs them. He has hidden in his word all treasures, so that each of us may find a richness in what he or she contemplates” (Commentary on the *Diatessaron*, 1, 18).

God’s word constantly reminds us of the merciful love of the Father who calls his children to live in love. The life of Jesus is the full and perfect expression of this divine love, which holds nothing back but offers itself to all without reserve. In the parable of Lazarus, we find a valuable teaching. When both Lazarus and the rich man die, the latter, seeing the poor man Lazarus in Abraham’s bosom, asks that Lazarus be sent to his brothers to warn them to love their neighbor, lest they also experience his torment. Abraham’s answer is biting: “They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them” (Lk 16:29). To listen to sacred Scripture and then to practice mercy: this is the great challenge before us in life. God’s word has the power to open our eyes and to enable us to renounce a stifling and barren individualism and instead to embark on a new path of sharing and solidarity.

May our encounter with God’s Word lead us to deeper communion with Him and to a faithful witness of His love in our families, parishes, and society.