

## RC CHURCHES OF MAYFIELD & WADHURST

THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF  
ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON

### REFLECTION

#### Father Raymond: The Unshakeable Love of God:

*“Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,” says the Lord, who has compassion on you (Isaiah 54:10).*

When the sea is calm, even the unskilled sailor may guide the ship; but when the waves rise high and the winds roar, then the true pilot is revealed. So it is with the soul: in times of ease, even the faint-hearted may seem steadfast; but in the hour of trial, only the one anchored in hope remains unmoved.

When the prophet speaks of mountains (in Isaiah 54:10) falling and hills turning to dust, he is not merely describing the crumbling of the earth, but the shaking of all that seems secure in our lives. Mountains are symbols of strength, permanence, and stability. Hills are the gentle guardians of our valleys. Yet even these, the prophet says, may pass away.

Hear the promise of the Lord: *“Yet my love will stand.”* This is not the love of man, which is often fickle and bound by conditions. This is the eternal, steadfast love of the Creator — the love that called the universe into being, the love that took on flesh in Christ, the love that endured the cross for our salvation.

If mountains fall, His love remains. If the hills turn to dust, His mercy endures. If the storms of life rage, His hand still upholds us. For His love is not built on the soil of this world, but on the unshakable foundation of His own divine nature.

Therefore, let us not anchor our hope in what can be moved, but in Him who cannot be moved. Let us remember that even in the ruins of our plans, the Lord is building something eternal.

And so, when the mountains of your life crumble, do not despair. Lift your eyes to the One whose love never fails, and you will find that even in the dust, there is life — for His love is the rock that no storm can break.

Consider the thief upon the cross: in the very hour of death, when all seemed lost, he turned his eyes to the crucified and said, *“Remember me.”*

### CONTACTS:

**Parish Priest: Fr Raymond**

[raymond.tumba@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:raymond.tumba@abdiocese.org.uk)

**MPPC Chairperson: Tom Treherne**

[trehernethomas@gmail.com](mailto:trehernethomas@gmail.com)

**WPPC Chairperson: Toni Buckley**

[wadhurst@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:wadhurst@abdiocese.org.uk)

**Website:** [sacredheartchurchwadhurst.org.uk](http://sacredheartchurchwadhurst.org.uk)

**Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/sacredheartchurchwadhurst](http://www.facebook.com/sacredheartchurchwadhurst)

### ALL SACRAMENTS:

**Contact:** [wadhurst@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:wadhurst@abdiocese.org.uk)

**EMERGENCY (last sacrament):**

WhatsApp +2348081255325

Mobile 07379483121

### HOLY WEEK/EASTER TRIDUUM

#### SERVICES:

(30th March - 5th April)

<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>11am</b> Mayfield School Chapel
<i>Please arrive early, in time for the procession with palms into the chapel.</i>	
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>8pm</b> Sacred Heart
<i>Mass of the Lord's Supper</i>	
<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>3pm</b> Mayfield School Chapel
<i>Celebration of the Lord's Passion</i>	<i>(screening of Mel Gibson's 'The Passion' following mass – bring cushions!)</i>
<b>Holy Saturday</b>	<b>9.15pm</b> Mayfield School Chapel
<i>Easter Vigil</i>	
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>9am</b> Sacred Heart
	<b>11am</b> Mayfield School Chapel

And in that moment, hope blossomed in the barren soil of despair, and Christ Himself answered, *“Today you will be with Me in Paradise.”*

Do you see, beloved, how hope is not bound by time, nor crushed by circumstance? It is the bridge between the present trial and the eternal joy to come.

To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen.

## PARISH NEWS:

### **Palm Sunday**

A Reflective Meditation for Passiontide will take place at 6.30pm this evening at Stonegate Church. All are invited to enjoy the readings and beautiful seasonal music performed by members of the Wadhurst Parish Church choir.

### **Good Friday (3rd April):**

**The Churches Together in Wadhurst (CTIW) Good Friday Walk of Witness** will start at Wadhurst Parish Church this year at **10.15am** and end at Sacred Heart Church. There will be a Good Friday United Service of hymns and readings at Sacred Heart Church at 11am.

**Mayfield's Good Friday Walk of Witness** will start at St Thomas of Canterbury Church this year at **10am**

### **Cafod BIG Lent Walk**

Last Saturday, on a glorious Spring day, 19 of us met at Bewl Water and walked 5km along the bank of the reservoir. So far we have collectively walked 186km! Much more exciting is the £925 raised so far. A big thank you to everyone who have joined the walks and to those who have donated to this worthy cause, with a very special thank you to the anonymous donator of £350! Safe drinking water is a major problem in many developing world countries and it is usually the women who have to walk miles every day to get it. The money we have raised will fund a community water project. **So we have only 14 km to go to achieve the 200km target; for those who are free and able, we intend to finish this off at Court Meadow on Monday, meeting at 1130am at the Scout Hut car park.** You can of course still donate to the Big Lent JustGiving page by clicking the donate button on <https://parishes.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-thomas-of-canterbury-and-sacred-heart-wadhurst-big-lent-walk>

### **Nourish - Easter Donations:**

We are asking parishioners to donate an Easter egg or Easter-themed treat per family for our Nourish contribution this year. An Easter raffle for Nourish will be drawn after Mass on March 29th. Thank you for your continued generosity.

### **Volunteers for Easter Services:**

If you are able to read at any of the Easter services, or would be willing to be a Maundy Thursday foot-wash Volunteer, please add your name to the sign-up sheets at the end of Sunday Mass or contact Toni at [wadhurst@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:wadhurst@abdiocese.org.uk). We need readers from both churches for all the Easter services and 12 volunteers for foot washing on Maundy Thursday. Rehearsal on Wednesday after Stations of the Cross at 6.30pm at Sacred Heart for all those taking part in the Maundy Thursday Mass. This includes readers and those having their feet washed.

### **Easter Collection**

The collection at Easter is your gift to Father Raymond.

Please can Gift Aid members use blue envelope or a plain envelope with their name and or Gift Aid number on it. Cash or a cheque payable to St Thomas of Canterbury or Sacred Heart Church should be used.

Those who use bank transfer must be sure to include their name and Easter Collection as reference.

### **Haydn's Meditation:**

The Coralroot Ensemble will be performing Haydn's "The Seven Last Words of Christ", a meditation for string quartet on *Monday 30th March at 6pm* in St Dunstan's Church, Mayfield. It is a non-ticketed event, but with a retiring collection for Hospice in the Weald.

### **St Thomas's Keys:**

Please could all those who have a key to St Thomas' Church, Mayfield contact Tom Treherne - [trehernethomas@gmail.com](mailto:trehernethomas@gmail.com).

**Stations of the Cross in Lent:** *6pm Wednesdays at Sacred Heart.*

### **Adoration:**

There will be adoration at St Thomas's every Wednesday at 6pm during lent.

Adoration every day at Sacred Heart from 3-4pm.

## Come & Sing Fauré Requiem at Mayfield – All Welcome!

We are delighted to invite you to join us for a *Come and Sing* performance of the Fauré Requiem in the Chapel of Mayfield School on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2026. Rehearsal: 15:00-17:45, Performance: 18:30-19:30**

Mayfield's combined choirs - alongside string ensemble, harp, organ, trumpet, timpani, and two soloists from the Royal Academy of Music - promise a beautiful evening of music.

Singer tickets: £13.50 (free for under 18s), With music hire: £20.50 (£7 under 18s)

Audience tickets: Free (booking recommended due to limited Chapel capacity)

A retiring collection will support music making at Mayfield.

Book your tickets here: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/108693>

## Rosary:

After Friday 10am Mass at St Thomas'. Wednesdays Sacred Heart 9.30am.

## Mothers Prayers:

Monday after 10am Mass at Virginia Longin's

## Update on Mayfield and Wadhurst Finances

Finances for the Burwash / Holy Cross Heathfield, Wadhurst and Mayfield churches are managed by one Finance Committee, led by Fr Brian and Fr Raymond. The Committee is chaired by Stephen Green and includes representatives from each of the churches.

The accounts for 2025 were recently presented to the Committee and the following are the key updates regarding Mayfield and Wadhurst:

- Mayfield incurred a significant deficit in 2025 of nearly £28,000. This was primarily due to the costs incurred renovating the Priest's House to prepare it for rental, as per the Bishop's instruction. In 2025 just below £40,000 needed to be spent to fix legacy problems and upgrade the property to a suitable standard. The good news is that there has been a tenant since mid-January and this will bring in around £20,000 of income per annum.
- Wadhurst also incurred significant costs to prepare the Priest's House for occupation following Fr Raymond's arrival, just below £20,000, and this meant that there was a deficit of just over £23,000 in 2025.
- At the end of last year Mayfield held a cash balance of just under £10,000, but the situation is anticipated to improve now the house is providing rental income. Wadhurst has the benefit of a much larger balance of just under £200,000 as a result of the previous sale of the Rotherfield property. However, recent large deficits (and a further likely deficit in 2026) cannot be sustained into the longer term.
- The continued generosity of parishioners is much appreciated at a time when budgets are stretched and costs increasing. However, the total income in both parishes fell significantly in 2025, by 12% in Mayfield to £49,000 and by 9% in Wadhurst to just above £37,000. There has been a decline in Gift Aid payments which is a very efficient way of giving for taxpayers - if you aren't currently registered for Gift Aid then please consider this option.

If you would like to discuss more details regarding the finances then please just ask - I usually attend mass at Mayfield or can be contacted at [stephengreen1963@icloud.com](mailto:stephengreen1963@icloud.com) or 07714192277.

If you wish to discuss Gift Aid please contact Chris Hockey - [ga.wadhurst@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:ga.wadhurst@abdiocese.org.uk) or 07967389108.

## MASS TIMES:

SUNDAY	<b>9am</b> Sacred Heart <b>11am</b> Mayfield School Chapel
MONDAY	<b>10am</b> St Thomas of Canterbury Mayfield
TUESDAY	<b>6pm</b> Holy Hour in Mayfield School Chapel
WEDNESDAY	<b>10am</b> Sacred Heart <b>6pm</b> St Thomas of Canterbury Mayfield, Adoration. <b>6pm</b> Sacred Heart, Stations of the Cross followed by <b>6.30pm</b> Lent Group.
THURSDAY	(PRIVATE MASS)
FRIDAY	<b>10am</b> St Thomas of Canterbury Mayfield
SATURDAY	(PRIVATE MASS)

## CONFESSIONS:

After Monday, Wednesday or Friday mass or by appointment.

## PARISH REGISTRATION

Please visit <https://sacredheartchurchwadhurst.org.uk/register/>