NEXT SUNDAY THERE WILL BE A SECOND COLLECTION FOR PAX CHRISTI. THIS COLLECTION IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR PARISH GIFT AID BUT PAX CHRISTI HAVE PROVIDED THEIR OWN GIFT AID ENVELOPES FOR YOU TO USE.

WHAT’S ON IN THE PARISH THIS WEEK

**Sun 7th:** Children’s liturgy at morning Masses
Coffee & Teas after morning Masses
4pm Confirmation Session 2

**Mon 8th:** Coffee & Tea after 10AM Mass

**Tues 9th:** 9:30AM Toddler Group (St T Hall)
8PM Choir practice (Old Hall)
Wed 10th: 8:30AM Ecumenical morning prayer
(St Peter & St Paul, Chaldon)
8pm Journey of Faith (Old Hall)
Thurs 11th: 8pm Baptism Preparation (Old Hall)
Fri 12th: 7pm Youth Club Film Night (Old Hall)
Sat 13th: 12:30pm New Years Lunch (Cent Hall)
1:30pm FHC Session 4B (Old Hall)
Sun 14th: Children’s liturgy at 9am Mass only
10:45am Youth Mass
Coffee & Teas after 10:45AM Mass
4pm Confirmation Session 3

**Morning Prayer** every Monday 9:40AM
**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** every Tuesday and Saturday 9AM to 10AM
**Rosary** every Thursday 9:40AM
**Confessions** every Saturday 10:45AM – 11:15AM
**Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour** - after Saturday Mass
**Benediction** every Sunday 4:45PM

OFFERTORY COLLECTION
Sincere thanks for your generosity last 2 weekend:
4th Sunday of Advent: £744.81 (Gift Aid £372.76)
Holy Family: £721.79 (Gift Aid: £298.39)
**NEW YEARS’ LUNCH**

Our annual New Years’ Lunch will be held on Saturday 13th January 2018 (12:30PM for 1PM). Please complete and return the forms in the porch if you are able to attend.

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**WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES PILGRIMAGE**

Bishop Richard is leading a pilgrimage to Dublin to participate in the World meeting of families. Participants will have access to a 3 day conference led by world renowned speakers with age appropriate streams available for children and young people. The festival of families will be a joyful celebration of the gifts of family life and on the final day we will share in the wonderful experience of Mass, presided by Pope Francis. The Diocese will cover the cost of registration and other sponsorship may be available.

If you would like more information about the event visit [www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en/](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en/). For more information please contact Katherine Bergin on 01293651152 or katherine.bergin@dabnet.org

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**HEALTH & SAFETY**

*Candle safety*

Please can we once again reiterate the importance of safety around candles. Children should not be allowed to play near, under or hold onto the candle holders during Mass.

*Parking*

Please remember to park only in marked bays on the Church drive and not on the yellow lines, even those that appear to have been painted out. If you park in these areas emergency vehicles are unable to get access to site.

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**ANNUAL JUSTICE & PEACE ASSEMBLY – HOPE OVER COMING FEAR: THE CHURCH IN THE MODERN WORLD**

On Saturday 27 January 2018 at DABCEC 10AM – 4PM with Jack Valero of Catholic Voices and Dr Anthony Towey of St Mary’s Universi-

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**N E W  M I N I S T E R S  O F  H O L Y  C O M M U N I O N**

Training sessions will be held in the Centenary Hall on Monday 22nd and Monday 29th January 2018 at 7:30PM. Sessions will last approximately 1 hour.

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**INTENTIONAL MARRIAGE - REFLECTION DAY**

All marriages, no matter how wonderful, can always be enriched. Ensuring our marriage doesn’t become stale and floundering requires giving it attention.

Making a choice to become intentional about our marriages is more than a good idea, as Catholics it’s part of our reason for being. Christian marriage is a vocation, a calling from God to live our lives in a certain way to bring him glory by imitating the love he has for us.

For people interested in exploring how they can invest more into their marriage please join us at Worth Abbey on Feb 10 at 1.30PM for inspiration from organisations that support marriage, followed by Mass with Bishop Richard. For further information or to book please contact Katherine Bergin on 01293651152 or katherine.bergin@dabnet.org

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**S V P F I L M C L U B**

The next Film Club date will be 29th January.

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You are warmly welcome to a mini-retreat day (or morning/afternoon) of spiritual refreshment and renewal, focussing on Renewal and Mission. At Alton School, Anstey Lane, Alton GU34 2NG. 11.00AM Rosary; 11.30AM Mass; 12.15PM Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; 1.00PM Shared lunch; 2.00PM Praise & Worship; 2.30PM Talk “The Good News of Jesus Christ” by Charles Whitehead; 3.30PM Prayer for healing. We end about 4PM.

There is no need to register in advance, and no charge (though a collection will be taken to cover costs). For more information and directions, see poster or website: www.altonrenewal.com

Or telephone Deacon John Foley on 07769 251747.

Next month’s meeting is on 24th February: “The Spirit has anointed me” - guest speaker Fr Anthony Meredith

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On Friday 12th January, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this Country. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed, and it really does save lives. Please also pray that buffer zones around abortion centres won’t be introduced.

For information on the days of Prayer and Fasting see: www.goodcounselnet.co.uk/Prayer-and-Fasting-Days.html

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The work of Pax Christi – the Peace of Christ – is based on the gospel and inspired by faith. Our vision is of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in any form. Pax Christi is rooted in Catholic Christianity but is open to all who share its values and work.

Pax Christi works for

- **Peace** – based on justice. A world where human rights are respected, basic needs are met and people feel safe and valued in their communities.
- **Reconciliation** – a process which begins when people try to mend relationships – between individuals or whole countries after times of violence or dispute.
- **Nonviolence** – a way of living and making choices that respects others, challenges what is not fair or just, and offers alternatives to violence and war.

This will take place on **Sunday 14 January**.

The theme this year is ‘Migrants and Refugees - Seekers of Peace’. Information and resources is available from the Pax Christi website - www.paxchristi.org.uk/news-and-events/peace-sunday. This includes the full text of the Pope’s letter for Peace Sunday. There can also be a collection in parishes to support the work of Pax Christi.

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**E V E N I N G S  O F  R E F L E C T I O N  W I T H  B I S H O P  R I C H A R D ,  2 0 1 8**

In 2016 and 2017, Bishop Richard invited Confirmation candidates to join him at Evenings of Reflection held around the Diocese. More than 350 people attended in 2017, and had the chance to meet with Bishop Richard and to be led in the practice of Lectio Divina. Bishop Richard will be doing the same thing in 2018. The dates and locations are now available so that parishes and Confirmation coordinators can factor them into their planning.

- Thursday January 18th - St John’s Church, Horsham
- Thursday February 8th - St Joseph’s Church, Epsom
- Thursday February 22nd - St Michael’s Church, Worthing

Saturday March 3rd - St John’s Seminary, Wonersh
Saturday March 10th - St Mary Magdalene’s, Bexhill.

All evenings run from 7PM to 9PM. BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL. Contact Jack.Regan@dabnet.org
Your Prayers are requested for the following people who are ill or housebound:

Pat Knight; Kathleen & John Saunders; Helen Keogh; Daisy Hill; Christopher Browne; Kit Monk; Krista Thompson; Jane Hill; Rosemary Whale; Pam Weaver; Jimmy Mullen; Margaret Robertson; Heather Tordimah; Jenny Rowen; Elizabeth Daley; Eileen, Mel & Rose Lattimore; Bryan Smith; Oliver Farrell; Seeta Pillay; Elise O’Connor, John Gilford, Chris Norman, Baby Tabitha Harrison, Christine Vernon, Maureen Kelly, Mary Wallace, Don Hancock, Gina Waiton, Joe Kelly, Ian Lester, Fred Ardley, Charmaine Wise, Breda Sharpe, Richard Sowa, Ann Walker, Val Williams & Patrick Eade.

BAPTISMS

Maria Bustillo and Maisie Ann Donellen will be baptised here next weekend. Please keep them in your prayers.

First Vespers of the Epiphany

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS

1 Samuel 3:3b–10,19
1 Corinthians 6:13c–15a,17–20
John 1:35–42

GOSPEL REFLECTION

In last week’s Gospel we heard old Simeon, the priest in the Temple, making a prophecy that our Lord would be a light for revelation to the Gentiles. This is no small thing; to this point in time, ‘true’ religion had been the province, one might almost say property, of a small race of rather quarrelsome people. The Messiah was to be one who would save not only the Jews but all people from their sins. In today’s Gospel we hear of the showing (‘epiphany’) of their God to the Gentiles for the first time. And yet it is curious that, although the birth of our Lord was heralded for them not by the Jewish scriptures but by (probably) astrology, these Magi see our Lord only in his Jewish context: Where is the infant king of the Jews? they ask.

Who were these Magi? Well, really, we don’t know. There is not the slightest suggestion in the Gospel passage today that they were kings; this suggestion, so popular in art and music (‘We three kings from Orient are’), derives from the Old Testament, in particular from today’s first reading and the psalm, and the identification with this event is not at all clear. They probably refer more generally to the spread of true religion among other races. It is no doubt a better idea to regard these strange visitors simply as wise men and leave it at that. There has been a persistent tradition that they were Persian astrologers, Zoroastrians, whose ‘star’, certain recent work has suggested, could have been a conjunction of planets in a part of the sky that suggested Judah (the part of the Holy Land around Jerusalem) and royalty, but we have to leave this aside, because we cannot really know, only guess.

The gifts are curious things to give a new born baby; gold, no doubt, would be useful, and myrrh (a spice normally used for embalming), they tell me, used to be used to help teething infants; but incense? Some have suggested that it might be helpful against the odours of a stable, but surely the Holy Family were no longer lodging with the animals. The tradition of the Church (a sound guide to the interpretation of the Scriptures) suggests that the gold is for a King, the incense for God, and the myrrh symbolic of his death which with his resurrection was to be the focus of all his earthly ministry. And no less an authority than ‘We three kings’ agrees.

But if we are to end on a carol, I would rather it were another with a more spiritual meaning, perhaps that of Christina Rossetti:

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb,
If I were a wise man, I would do my part,
But what I have I give him; give my heart.