

A message from Fr Neil about celebrating Mass ‘ad orientem’.

Let's be clear that despite what many think Vatican II didn't rule out eastward facing celebrations of the mass. It is true that the question was raised as to whether facing East alienated the people and engender a sort of clericalism, a danger to be avoided. Yet most of the Vatican II documents still assumed that mass celebrated facing the people would be the exception rather than the rule. The general instructions of the 'Missals', since Vatican II, also assume that mass would be celebrated Eastwards. I make this point not to denigrate mass celebrated facing the people, with its emphasis on imminent theology, God appearing in the midst of us, but to highlight the legitimate celebration of the mass facing Eastwards, with it emphasis on transcended cosmic theology, in which we ascend to the worship of heaven.

When the priest offers Mass facing eastwards, he is not turning his back on the people to exclude them. Rather he faces the same direction as the people, because he and the people together are offering worship and sacrifice to God. As a Christian community, all are facing ad orientem (i.e. toward the east) waiting in joyful expectation for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ who will return to judge the living and the dead. The priest also offers Mass in Christ's name and in His Person, in persona Christi, (where the identity of the individual priest is unimportant) to God the Father, (listen carefully to the words of the mass and note how much is addressed to God the Father) and is leading his people in adoration and worship. He is facing east, the rising sun, which is symbolic of the 'New Jerusalem' and he is leading his flock as the Good Shepherd does.

The position of the priest then was not meant to separate the clergy from laity. Rather, it has more to do with the understanding of the Cosmic Liturgy. In early Christianity, all Churches were "oriented" toward the east, meaning that if you were sitting in the pews as a parishioner facing the altar, you would be pointing east. The rising of the Sun was seen in the early Church as a powerful symbol of the rising of the Son, Jesus Christ, from the tomb (ergo, the importance of a "Sunrise Service" on Easter Sunday). In light of this, (no pun intended) the priest and people would face east to symbolically "orient" their prayers to the risen Christ, not seeing the Sun as a god, but allowing the Sun to be a powerful symbol of the risen Christ.

To quote St. Augustine: "When we rise to pray, we turn East, where heaven begins. And we do this not because God is there, as if He had moved away from the other directions on earth..., but rather to help us remember to turn our mind towards a higher order, that is, to God."

Christmas Mass Times at CTK and St Jo's.

Sat 23rd. 5.00pm : CTK - Mass.

Sun 24th 10.00am. CTK : Mass.
4.00pm CTK : Children’s Liturgy.
6.00pm St Jo’s : 1st Mass of Christmas
8.00pm. CTK : 1st Mass of Christmas
11.30pm CTK : Midnight Mass (DW)

Mon 25th 10.00am. CTK : Morning Mass of Christmas.

THE ‘RORATE CÆLI MASS’ is a traditional Advent devotion. Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary is offered, by candlelight, just before dawn, and will be celebrated at OLR on Fridays from Dec 8th-Dec 22nd at 6.30am. Breakfast will be provided after Mass.

Christmas Children’s party will take place after 11.30am Mass in CTK hall on Dec 10th. There will be games and gifts for children plus we’re expecting a very special visitor all the way from the North Pole! Please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church if you are attending. Please bring food to share with others. Tea, coffee & squash will be provided.

Hymns for First Sunday of Advent

Open : CTK (52) ‘Awake, awake’
St Jo’s : (7). ‘Abba Father’
Off : CTK. (243) ‘In bread we bring you’
St Jo’s (302). ‘In bread we bring you’
Close : CTK (104). ‘Come, Lord Jesus’
St Jo’s : (128) ‘Come, Lord Jesus’

CTK Seniors : our next meeting will be on Wed 13th Dec, 11.00am-1.00pm in the parish room at CTK. All welcome for a time of sharing and friendship. We will have a light lunch. A great chance to spend time chatting and supporting each other. If you need a lift, please contact Dominic (07709305657). See you there!

Church Fundraiser. Stay after 11.30am Mass this Sunday December 3rd and enjoy some delicious food delights from the Philippines. This is an event raising funds for the much needed new hall kitchen.

Christmas Raffle - Roll up, roll up! It’s Christmas raffle time! Tickets are now available to purchase; please see David Cockett, Amanda or Dominic. Tickets are £2 a strip, or 5 strips for £5. Two fabulous hampers and some smaller gifts are all to be won; look out for the festive display coming soon at the back of the church. The raffle draw will take place on Sunday 17th Dec after the morning Mass.

Epiphany Celebration. Our Epiphany celebration takes place on Sat 13th Jan 2024 at York House Hotel. Bookings are now being taken. Please take a leaflet from the back of the church and complete your details clearly with your food choices. Return it with FULL PAYMENT and place it in the labelled box at the back of the church on SUNDAYS ONLY when these will be collected.

Advent Taize Service on December 17th at 4.00pm at St Thomas of Canterbury Church, St Leonards on Sea. See notice at the back of the church.

Advent Service of Light will take place at CTK next Saturday at 4.00pm before Mass on Dec 9th; all welcome as we journey through the season of Advent as part of our preparation for the Christmas season. The service will include scripture readings, hymns, the rosary and reflections.

Men’s Rosary walk on Friday 8th Dec, meet in CTK parish room at 7.00pm. All welcome.

Brown Scapular. If you would like to be enrolled in the Brown Scapular, please collect a form with full details from the back of the church. Enrolment will be on 8th and 10th December.

Kairos Prayer Group meets on Wed 6th Dec at 7.30pm-9.00pm in OLR hall; join us for an evening of praise, teaching, worship. All

Parish Clergy :
Fr Neil Chatfield
Tel. 01323 760048 or in an
emergency - 07718123304
priest.ctlk@icloud.com

Rev’d Deacon Eugene Adams
Tel. 07917276140
deaconctlk@hotmail.com

Safeguarding
Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator
Deacon Eugene Adams
Contact: 07917 276140
Diocesan Safeguarding Team
Contact: 01293 651148

For enquiries for baptism, first
communion, confirmation, and
marriages please speak
to either Fr Neil or
Deacon Eugene; also ring the office.
01323 760048

Parish Hall Bookings
Enquiries: 01323 760048

Website :
<http://christthekingeastbourne.org>

Facebook page: Christ The King
with St Joachim, Eastbourne

Banking Matters

We have shortened the name of the bank account for those who wish to set up standing orders for Christ the King. CTK main account details : Sort Code : 40-05-20 A/C No : 91127012; CTK Building Account No : 61256130. A/C Name : RCD A&B Christ the King Eastbourne. St Joachim’s A/C. Sort Code : 40-05-20; A/C No : 51077058.

Votive Candles. Would you like to sponsor a weekly candle for a personal intention or a special individual, by the Blessed Sacrament tabernacle, the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham or the statue of St Joseph by the church porch? This week the candles are for Pamela Chatfield RIP, and Ken Stroughair RIP. There are forms available at the back of the church if you would like to sponsor a candle.

Make a donation on-line to the parish today! Scan the QR code below, select our parish and add Gift Aid if you pay tax. Also see the poster at the back of the church.



| First Sunday of Advent | | Mass Intentions |
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| Sat. Dec 2nd | CTK. : 4-4.45pm. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament CTK. : 5.00pm | People of the parish |
| Sun Dec 3rd | St Jo's : 9.30am. Mass | Marian Moulding RIP |
| First Sunday of Advent | CTK. : 11.30am Mass | Michael Barry Snr RIP |
| | CTK. : 4.00pm Mass (DW) | People of the Parish |
| Mon Dec 4th St John Damascene | No Public Mass | (Michael Doyle RIP) |
| Tues Dec 5th | CTK Mass : 10.00am | Harry RIP |
| Wed Dec 6th St Nicholas | St Jo's : 10.00am. Mass | Bridget Doyle RIP |
| Thurs Dec 7th St Ambrose | CTK : 5.30pm-7.00pm : Exposition and Holy Hour for Priests 7.00pm. : Mass | Eileen Doyle RIP |
| Fri Dec 8th | OLR. 6.30am | Rorate Coeli Mass |
| Immaculate Conception of the BVM | CTK. 12noon Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 12.30pm-5.00pm. | Hannah Levy RIP |
| Sat Dec 9th | 4-4.45pm. CTK : Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament CTK : 5.00pm Mass | Deceased members of Simon family |
| Sun. Dec 10th | St Jo's : 9.30am Mass | Cecilia & Rasto. RIP |
| Second Sunday of Advent | CTK : 11.30am Mass | Basia |
| | CTK : 4pm Mass (DW) | People of the Parish |

We pray for: Emma Raper, Eithne Lloyd, Peter Champion, Chris Gimmons, Stuart McCarthy, Helena Sagnelia, Frankie Farrell, Daisy Kelly, Sue & Mick O’Driscoll, Rene Cook, Jan Blake, Sandra McMeekin, David Dwyer, Diana Smith, Sr Mary Keiley, Jane and John Hollands, Kirina Blaty, Moira Morrison, Philip Duffy, Theresa Kitchener, Betty Donovan, Marie Williams, Terry Swales, Pauline Solis, Alexandra Waters, Lucas Mack, Zachary Hurst (age 3 years) Daniel Markham, Maria P Veras, Alison J Thomas, Mary Ayling, Alan Calivas, Fr Laurence Quin-Morris, Maria Rosa Ferro, Deacon Dave Turner, June Neville

For the recently deceased: Daniel Henry Lynch, Philip Drake, Lilian Mary Kiely, Gary Isles, Melvin Moulding, Fr Gerald Vann, Pamela Chatfield

welcome.