

Bishop Richard reflects on this Sunday's readings.

This Sunday, the Roman Missal provides us with a wonderful Entrance Antiphon, commonly known by its Latin beginning: Rorate Caeli. The text is taken from Isaiah: "Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour." The reference to dew takes us back to the Book of Exodus, where we find the manna that fed the people, falling like dew from heaven. As we read these texts, we can see a prophetic reference to the Eucharist, the Bread of Life who gives Himself to us in the Eucharist. Eucharistic Prayer II picks up this theme: it speaks of the Holy Spirit coming "like the dewfall" upon the gifts that have been offered, that they become the Body and Blood of the Lord.

The Word Made Flesh comes to us in mystery, in gentleness. We see this in this Sunday's Gospel as the Angel Gabriel visits Mary and tells her that she is to be the mother of the Saviour. Mary does not understand the implications of this visit – but she accepts. Her fiat – her "yes" – is the model for our own welcoming of the Lord.

St Cyril of Jerusalem, in the 4th century, wrote of the Lord's coming in two ways: at His birth and at the end of time. Picking up the theme of dewfall, he wrote that the first coming of Jesus was "unperceived, like the dew falling on the fleece." The second coming we await, but it will not be a coming that is hidden away, quietly, in the cave of Bethlehem – the house of bread. This second coming will take place "before the eyes of all."

Mary's response to Gabriel is our model for both these two comings of Jesus. We rejoice at the celebration of His birth. We celebrate it. Living lives, as Mary did, of openness to the Lord's call to us – which will include times of difficulty, since we must take up the cross and follow Him – will make us ready to say "yes" once again. "Yes, Lord, I am here, waiting for You, the Master, to return."

Let us prepare this Advent to rejoice at our celebration of the Word Made Flesh and, through lives lived in saying "yes" to Him, be ready when He comes again.

God Bless, Bishop Richard.

Thank You. Fr Neil and Deacon Eugene would like to thank you for your gifts and cards over the Advent and Christmas season. Thanks to all who helped to make the church services such a special occasion.

Christmas Raffle. Thanks to all who bought tickets for the Christmas raffle. £200 was raised for parish funds. Ticket number 317 can also collect their winning prize at the back of the church.

CTK Church cleaning rota : the next rota is now available at the back of the church. Thanks to those who are helping at present; could you spare 1 hour every few months to clean the church? See Amanda or Dominic.

Deanery Newsletter: Please take a copy of the new deanery newsletter which gives details of the events happening in the other parishes in our deanery. It also includes an update of the moderated parish by Fr Kevin, and an article by Deacon Eugene about the role of the deacon.

Feast Days in the coming week. Thursday is the feast of St Stephen, the first Christian martyr. On Friday we celebrate the feast of St John the Apostle, the Beloved Disciple and author of the Fourth Gospel. On Saturday, we celebrate the Holy Innocents, which is a special day of prayer for all those affected by abortion. Please note there is no Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Thursday or Friday and Mass is at 10.00am on those days.

Hospital Mass : Tues 31 December, 12.00 noon in the Hospital Chapel, which is on the 3rd floor next to Michelham ward. All welcome as we pray for the patients, staff and their families. If you are in hospital or have a friend who would like a visit from the clergy, or you are going for surgery and would like to be anointed in advance, please let Fr Neil and Deacon Eugene know.

Hymns : 4th Sunday of Advent

Open : CTK (516). 'The Angel Gabriel'
St Jo's (686). 'The Angel Gabriel'
Off : CTK : (243) 'In bread we bring'
St Jo's. (140). 'Daily daily sing to Mary'
Close : CTK (401). 'O little town of Bethlehem'
St Jo's. (540). 'O little town of Bethlehem'

Epiphany Lunch 2025. After our thoroughly enjoyed Epiphany Lunch last January, we will be gathering for a lunch again on Sat 11th Jan 2025. This year it will be held at the Alexandra Arms, Seaside, 12noon for 12.30pm. The cost varies according to your food selection. A leaflet is available at the back of the church for those interested to add their choice of menu. Cash will need to be collected beforehand and all orders must be in by December 29th.

Matthew 25 Mission, a local charity for the homeless and disadvantaged, is helping a growing number of clients during this cold spell; they are in need of dry and canned food items - especially tinned vegetables and fruit, long life milk, pasta, tea/coffee. Any winter clothing for men or women is very welcome. Leave contributions at the back of the church in the M25M box. There is also a collection box if you would support the charity financially.

CRIB OFFERINGS will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society A&B Crisis Fund providing emergency grants to support children and their families in our diocese who are facing a crisis in their lives. Funds can be donated either via the box by the crib or online or via the gift aid envelopes in the porch. Every single penny donated will be given out via these grants.

Jubilee Year. Pope Francis has decided that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee with the theme "Pilgrims of Hope". The beginning of the Holy Year is being marked by the celebration of Mass in every Cathedral Church in the world on Sunday 29 December, with Mass at Arundel Cathedral celebrated by Bishop Richard at 11am. In order for everyone to share in the celebration of the Holy Year, the following diocesan churches have also been designated as special places of pilgrimage, where Holy Year Indulgences may be gained: Arundel Cathedral, Worth Abbey and St Joseph's, Guildford.

Assisted Dying Bill, what next?: please visit www.righttolife.org.uk/ASvote to find out how your MP voted, ask them to vote against the Bill at 3rd Reading. Analysis after the vote showed at least 36 MPs who supported the Bill have concerns that mean they may vote NO at later stages. Just 28 MPs switching to a NO vote would ensure it is defeated at the 3rd Reading. Do not delay - make sure your MP know your wishes.

Parish Clergy :
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Rev'd Deacon Eugene Adams
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deaconctk@hotmail.com

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation
The Sacrament of Confession is available at CTK on Thurs 6-6.45pm, Friday, 12.45-2.00pm Saturday, 4-4.45pm. And on-call. Contact Fr Neil.

For enquiries for Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, and Marriage, 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: A/C Name : RCD A&B Christ the King Eastbourne.** Sort Code : **40-05-20** A/C No : **91127012; St Joachim's A/C. Sort Code : 40-05-20; A/C No : 51077058.**

Votive Candles. Would you like to sponsor a candle for a personal intention or a special need at CTK? This week the candles are for Harry Rock RIP and Clarke Johnson RIP. There are forms available at the back of the church if you would like to sponsor a candle.

DONA Contactless payment card machine is available at the back of CTK. Payments using the machine have increased over recent weeks; thanks to those who are using it.

	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Mass Intentions
Sat Dec 21st	CTK : 4.00pm-4.45pm. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament CTK. : 5.00pm Vigil Mass	Pad McCormack RIP
Sun Dec 22nd	St Jo's. 9.30am 4th Sunday of Advent CTK 11.30am (DW)	People of the parish Basia's Intentions.
Mon Dec 23rd	No Public Mass today	(Ted Sutherland RIP)
Tues Dec 24th	CTK : 4.00pm St Jo's. 6.00pm. Mass CTK. : 8.00pm. Mass CTK. 11.30pm Midnight Mass	Children's Liturgy Maria Scothern RIP Raphael Kochu Pilo RIP Harry Rock RIP
Wed Dec 25th	CTK. : 10.00am Mass of Christmas Day	James McStraw RIP
Thurs Dec 26th	CTK. : 10.00am Mass. (DW)	Geoffrey & Norah Stalker
St Stephen		
Fri Dec 27th St John	CTK. : 10.00am Mass	Fr Gerard
Sat Dec 28th	CTK. : 4.00pm-4.45pm : Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament CTK : 5.00pm Vigil Mass	Eugenia Stanczak RIP
Sun Dec 29th Holy Family	St Jo's. : 9.30am Mass CTK. : 11.30am Mass (DW)	Ryszard Wolski RIP People of the parish

We pray for all the sick of the parish, and especially : 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 Hollands, Kirina Blaty, Moira Morrison, Philip Duffy, Theresa Kitchener, Betty Donovan, Marie Williams, Terry Swales, Pauline Sollis, Alexandra Waters, Zachary Hurst, Daniel Markham, Maria P Veras, Alison J Thomas, Alan Calivas, Maria Rosa Ferro, Sylvia Brady, Sue Davies, Lucas Mack, Samantha McLoughlin, Graham Pegley, Enogue G Peixoto, Val Williams, Elenilse Martins, Alberto & Maria Nobrega, Antonio Lazo, Alicia Fillos, Sofia Rodrigo, Alicia Nobrega, Carlos Nobrega, Maria Adilia, Octavio Gomes, Bryan Santos, Maria Conceicao Silva, Antonio Rodrigues, Nanda Pacheco, Paula Alves, Neidilane Emerch

For the recently deceased: For the repose of the souls of : Elias Peixoto, Patsy Harber