

First Sunday of Advent

30 November 2025



PUBLISHED BY THE EASTBOURNE ORDINariate MISSION FOR ALL THE COMMUNITIES AT CHRIST THE KING AND ST JOACHIM'S

Dr Scott Hahn reflects on "The hour is late"

Jesus exaggerates in today's Gospel when He claims not to know the day or the hour when He will come again.

He occasionally makes such overstatements to drive home a point we might otherwise miss (see Matthew 5:34; 23:9; Luke 14:26).

His point here is that the exact "hour" is not important. What is crucial is that we not postpone our repentance, that we be ready for Him—spiritually and morally—when He comes. For He will surely come, He tells us—like a thief in the night, like the flood in the time of Noah.

In today's Epistle, Paul too compares the present age to a time of advancing darkness and night.

Though we sit in the darkness, overshadowed by death, we have seen arise the great light of our Lord who has come into our midst (see Matthew 4:16; John 1:9; 8:12). He is the true light, the life of the world. And His light continues to shine in His Church, the new Jerusalem promised by Isaiah in today's First Reading.

In the Church, all nations stream to the God of Jacob, to worship and seek wisdom in the House of David. From the Church goes forth His word of instruction, the light of the Lord—that all might walk in His paths toward that eternal day when night will be no more (see Revelation 22:5).

By our Baptism we have been made children of the light and day (see Ephesians 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:5–7). It is time we start living

like it—throwing off the fruitless works of darkness, the desires of the flesh, and walking by the light of His grace.

The hour is late as we begin a new Advent. Let us begin again in this Eucharist.

As we sing in Psalm 122(121), let us go rejoicing to the House of the Lord. Let us give thanks to His name, keeping watch for His coming, knowing that our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

Thank you to Fr Hugh for celebrating Mass on Saturday.

There is no Mass at CTK on Tuesday this week as Fr Neil is at St Richard's College all morning. There is still the 11am Mass at OLR. Fr Neil will say the allocated Mass intention privately.

The new kitchen in the parish hall at CTK is nearing completion but it will still be out of action this week, and all activities usually taking place in the hall will be cancelled or moved elsewhere. Thank you for your cooperation.

Friday Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at CTK now finishes at 2pm.

Br Neil was instituted into the Ministry of Lector by Bishop David Waller during the morning Mass at the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption and St Gregory in Warwick Street London W1 on Saturday morning. This Sunday, he will also be instituted as Acolyte during the 11:30 Mass at Christ the King. These steps mark two of the final stages of his

journey toward Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate. Please continue to pray for him.

Christmas Raffle: Tickets go on sale after all Masses this weekend, and the draw will be made on 23 December. More information later. We need unused gifts and alcohol for the prize hampers. There is a box at the back of the church for donations. Thank you!

Rorate Masses will be celebrated at Our Lady of Ransom Church at 6:30am on Fridays during Advent (5–19 December inclusive). A candlelit Mass of Our Lady greets the dawn to look forward to the Light of the world. The Mass takes its name from the introit, *Rorate caeli*, “Drop down dew from heaven.” Mass is followed by breakfast; it should be possible to catch trains after Mass at 0728 to Lewes and London, and 0731/0744 to Bexhill/Hastings.

First Saturday Devotions and Family Adoration at CTK: Saturday 6 December, 10:30am Mass, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Rosary. Adoration for all the family will follow the Mass, with confessions available during the Exposition.

Community Christmas Lunch on Sunday 7 December after the 11:30am Mass. This will cost £4, or £15 for a family of four. Please take a leaflet to return with cash today.

A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be held at St Joachim’s on Sunday 13 December at 3pm. All are welcome to that service to hear the story of our Fall and Redemption and look forward to Christmas.

CWL Christmas Tree of Giving provides an opportunity to buy a gift for a needy child this Christmas. Pick a bauble containing the name of a child with a gift idea from the Christmas tree in the Lady Chapel. Bring your gift and place it under the tree by 21 December. The designated charity is Warming Up the Homeless, which supports children and families in temporary accommodation..

New Mass times after Christmas at CTK: Friday Mass will be at 10am; Tuesday Mass will be at 12 noon from 6 January.

The Epiphany Celebration Meal will take place on Saturday 10 January at the Alexandra Arms. Cost will be £20–£25 [depending on choices] and forms to book are now available. Bookings must be made by 21 December.

The Repository at CTK has a wide selection of Christian Christmas cards available at reasonable prices as well as handmade candles. The repository is open after weekend Masses.

Matthew 25 Mission is in need of donations at this time of the year. They particularly need tinned and package foodstuffs, long life milk, coffee and tea, dry pasta, as well as men’s and women’s winter clothes.

Pilgrimage to Poland May 2026: the parish is organising an 8-day pilgrimage to Poland at the end of May 2026, including the shrines in Częstochowa, Krakow and Zakopane (with a World Heritage Site church in Dębno) and Kalwaria Zebrzydowska as well as visits to Auschwitz, Wadowice and the Wieliczka Salt Mine. An approximate cost is £1900, which includes the return flights, hotel transfers, half board accommodation. More information from Ilona on 07904 680885.

Weekly parish newsletter: From this weekend (29–30 November) the *Sunday Message* newsletter will no longer be distributed, but we are still producing this leaflet of news, events and weekly Mass intentions at CTK and St Jo’s. And there is still a separate leaflet for Sunday Mass each week with readings and prayers — this is combined with the notices for the 11:30 Sunday Mass. There is also a new monthly newsletter for the seven churches of the West Hub of the new parish, with another for the East Hub.

Crowborough Choral Society presents Mozart’s *Mass in C minor* with the Hastings Philharmonic Orchestra, musical director Anthony Osborne. Saturday 29 November at 7:30pm at All Saints’ Church, Chapel Green, Crowborough. Tickets £20. See the poster at the back of the church.

You can sign up to receive news from the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton, including the weekly message from Bishop Richard. Go to



<https://tinyurl.com/ABnewsletter> or point your smartphone at the QR code at the bottom of the previous page.

You can sign up to receive news

from the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham by visiting their website at ordinariate.org.uk: enter your email address about halfway down the page.



Votive Candles: Would you like to sponsor a candle for a personal intention or a special need at CTK? There are Masses available at both churches. Request forms for candles or Masses are available, which each include a card to give to those being prayed for.

We pray for all the sick of the parish, and especially: Eithne Lloyd, Stuart McCarthy, Marie Williams, Maria P Veras, Sylvia Brady, Alexandra Waters, Neidilane Emerch, Rose Hellyer, Graham Pegley, Serena May, Enogue G Peixoto, Freda Swales, Vicky Ferrera.

And we pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially those who have recently died and those who have no-one to pray for them.

Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham in Eastbourne

FR NEIL CHATFIELD

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Safeguarding matters are dealt with through the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton, who can be contacted on 01293 651148. The Episcopal Vicar in the Ordinariate who liaises with local dioceses is Fr Simon Ellis. He can be emailed at safeguarding@ordinariate.org.uk.

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

Website: <https://eastbourneordinariate.org.uk>

Facebook page: [/eastbourneordinariate](https://facebook.com/eastbourneordinariate)

Banking

Eastbourne Ordinariate Mission:
40-04-09 82035758

Parish of Christ the King Langney with St Joachim Hampden Park

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Diocesan Safeguarding Team: 01293 651148

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

Parish Hall Bookings 01323 760048

Website: <http://christthekingeastbourne.org>
Facebook page: Christ The King with St Joachim, Eastbourne

Banking

Christ the King: 40-05-20 91127012;
CTK Building Account: "RCD A&B Christ the King Eastbourne" 40-05-20 61256130.
St Joachim's: 40-05-20 51077058.

First Week of Advent

(Year A) (Year II)

Day	Location*		Intention
Sunday 30 November FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Vigil Mass of Sunday NO	5:00 pm CTK	For all priests
	Mass NO	9:30 am St Jo	Dermot Neilan RIP
	Sung Mass DW with institution as Acolyte	11:30 am CTK	For our Community
Monday 1 December S Edmund Campion PrM	Mass NO Private Mass	11:00 am OLR	As advertised Michael Brady RIP
Tuesday 2 December <i>Feria</i>	Mass NO Private Mass	11:00 am OLR	As advertised Thanksgiving for God's goodness to Amaka
Wednesday 3 December S Francis Xavier Pr Ember Day	Mass NO	10:00 am St Jo	John & Kathleen Geraghty RIP
Thursday 4 December <i>S John Damascene PrD</i>	Exposition; confession: Holy Hour		
	Mass DW	5:30 pm CTK 7:00 pm CTK	For priests Sheila Hichisson
Friday 5 December Ember Day	Rorate Mass NO	6:30 am OLR	As announced
	Exposition; adoration	10:00 am CTK	
	Mass NO	12:00 noon CTK	Late Chief Alphonsus Obikwelu RIP
	Exposition, confession until 2pm	CTK	
Saturday 6 December S Nicolas B Ember Day	Mass DW , First Saturday devotions		
	and children's Adoration	10:30 am CTK	As announced
	Exposition; confession	4:00 pm CTK	
	Vigil Mass of Sunday NO	5:00 pm CTK	For our Community
Sunday 7 December SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Mass NO	9:30 am St Jo	Patsy Harber RIP
	Sung Mass DW	11:30 am CTK	Past pupils of Sr Mary Rose Bracuti

Christmas 2025:

Wednesday 24th	Children's Liturgy	4:30 pm CTK	
	Vigil Mass of Christmas NO	6:30 pm St Jo	Derek Seton-Smith
	Vigil Mass of Christmas NO	8:00 pm CTK	As announced
	Midnight Mass DW	11:30 pm CTK	Harry Rock RIP
Thursday 25th	Sung Mass DW	10:30 am CTK	As announced
Weekdays after Christmas	Mass	10:00 am	

- DW** Divine Worship (2014)
- NO** Novus Ordo (2010)
- SM** Syro-Malabar Rite (2021)
- TLM** Traditional Latin Mass (1962), when available

* **CTK** Christ the King Church, 3 Princes Rd BN23 6HT
StJo St Joachim's Church, 106 Brodrick Rd BN22 9NY
OLR Our Lady of Ransom Church, 2 Grange Rd BN21 4EU
DGH Chapel, District General Hospital, Kings Dr BN21 2UD
† In the Parish room: enter by the side door