



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

Second Sunday of Advent

7 December 2025



Dr Scott Hahn reflects on the coming Kingdom

"The kingdom of heaven is at hand," John proclaims. And the Liturgy today paints us a vivid portrait of our new king and the shape of the kingdom He has come to bring.

The Lord whom John prepares the way for in today's Gospel is the righteous king prophesied in today's First Reading and Psalm. He is the king's son, the son of David—a shoot from the root of Jesse, David's father (see Ruth 4:17).

He will be the Messiah, anointed with the Holy Spirit (see 2 Samuel 23:1; 1 Kings 1:39; Psalm 2:2), endowed with the seven gifts of the Spirit—wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord.

He will rule with justice, saving the poor from the ruthless and wicked. His rule will be not only over Israel—but will extend from sea to sea, to the ends of the earth. He will be a light, a signal to all nations. And they will seek Him and pay Him homage.

In Him, all the tribes of the earth will find blessing. The covenant promise to Abraham (see Genesis 12:3), renewed in God's oath to David (see Psalm 89:4,28), will be fulfilled in His dynasty. And His name will be blessed forever.

In Christ, God confirms His oath to Israel's patriarchs, Paul tells us in today's Epistle. But no longer are God's promises reserved solely for the children of Abraham. The Gentiles, too, will glorify God for His mercy. Once strangers, in Christ they will be included in "the covenants of promise" (see Ephesians 2:12).

John delivers this same message in the Gospel. Once God's chosen people were hewn from the rock of Abraham (see Isaiah 51:1–2). Now, God will raise up living stones (see 1 Peter 2:5)—children of Abraham born not of flesh and blood but of the Spirit.

This is the meaning of the fiery baptism He brings—making us royal heirs of the kingdom of heaven, the Church.

If you have inadvertently taken Mass cards or booklets home from CTK or St Joachim's, please bring them back.

The new kitchen in the parish hall at CTK just needs finishing touches, and we're able to use the hall for events. Thank you to everyone who was displaced during the work. **Unfortunately we're unable to offer refreshments after the principal Mass at CTK this weekend** as there's the Community Lunch: we've catered for everyone who signed up by last weekend.

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

Christmas Raffle: Tickets are 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 have started at Our Lady of Ransom Church at 6:30am on Fridays during Advent (5–19 December inclusive). The Mass is

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.

An Advent Course, *Mary and Joseph speak to us today*, is being run on Tuesdays after Mass at CTK and on Wednesdays after Mass at St Joachim’s. All are welcome to either session.

CTK Seniors Christmas lunch takes place on Wednesday (10 December) at the Smugglers Inn, Pevensey. We look forward to seeing all who have booked: please arrive at 12:00 for a 12:30 start.

A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be held at St Joachim’s this Saturday at 3pm. Raise your voices in festive song, enjoy the warmth of community, and savour delicious mince pies and mulled wine afterwards. A good way to look forward to Christmas — all are welcome!

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 at CTK. Bring your gift and place it under the tree **by next Sunday** (not 21st as previously requested). 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 both 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; if you are interested please put your name on the list at the back of either church.

Weekly parish newsletter: Following changes requested in order to standardise across the Deanery/New Parish, we’re no longer distributing the *Sunday Message*. However we are still producing this local 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. This month’s is purple and available in all churches: please take a copy.

Last weekend, the fifteen churches in the Deanery of Guildford became Guildford Catholic Parish. **Today** it’s the turn of Weybridge Deanery to form a new parish. The Catholic Parish of Eastbourne and St Leonards is expected to be inaugurated in early summer.

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/ABnewslist> or point your smartphone at the QR code here.



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. This week we pray especially for Luke Roarty RIP.

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 baby Autumn.

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.

Ordinate 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 Ordinate who liaises with local dioceses is Fr Simon Ellis. He can be emailed at safeguarding@ordinate.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://eastbourneordinate.org.uk>

Facebook page: /eastbourneordinate

Banking

Eastbourne Ordinate 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.

Second Week of Advent

(Year A) (Year II)

Day	Location*		Intention
Sunday 7 December SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Vigil Mass of Sunday NO	5:00 pm CTK	For our Community
	Mass NO	9:30 am St Jo	Patsy Harber RIP
	Sung Mass DW	11:30 am CTK	Past pupils of Sr Mary Rose Bracuti
Monday 8 December IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF OUR LADY	Mass NO	11:00 am OLR	Fr Bruno: Anniversary of ordination
	Private Mass		Late Obinna Sylvester Obikwelu RIP
Tuesday 9 December <i>S Juan Diego Cuahtlatatzin</i>	Mass NO followed by Advent course	10:00 am CTK	Late Alphonsus Anene Obikwelu RIP
Wednesday 10 December Our Lady of Loreto	Mass NO followed by Advent course	10:00 am St Jo	Derek Brand RIP
Thursday 11 December <i>S Damasus I Pp</i>	Exposition; confession: Holy Hour		
	Mass DW	5:30 pm CTK 7:00 pm CTK	For priests Agostinho Jorge Alvez RIP
Friday 12 December <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	Rorate Mass NO	6:30 am OLR	As announced
	Exposition; adoration	10:00 am CTK	
	Mass NO	12:00 noon CTK	Reena Sabu RIP
	Exposition, confession until 2pm	CTK	
Saturday 13 December S Lucy VM	Nine Lessons and Carols	3:00 pm St Jo	
	Exposition; confession	4:00 pm CTK	
	Vigil Mass of Sunday NO	5:00 pm CTK	Late Lolo Edith Uche Obikwelu RIP
Sunday 14 December THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Mass NO	9:30 am St Jo	Samantha Curry
	Sung Mass DW	11:30 am CTK	Bridget Smith RIP

Christmas 2025:

Wednesday 24th	Children's Liturgy	4:30 pm CTK	
	Vigil Mass of Christmas NO	6:00 pm St Jo	Derek Seton-Smith
	Vigil Mass of Christmas NO	8:00 pm CTK	Mannix family
	Midnight Mass DW	11:30 pm CTK	Harry Rock RIP
Thursday 25th	Sung Mass DW	10:30 am CTK	Graham & Sharon Pegley
26 Dec; 29 Dec–2 Jan	All Masses will start at	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