

Fr Hugh writes:

I know Jeremy Slaughter and Family would like to thank you all for the great help on Monday last for Jo's funeral. It was, as expected a full house, but all worked well. Thank you to you all. Should you wish, Jo's grave is in the new part of the cemetery.

Our Churches Together lunch is next Saturday (25th) and we need to have your booking this weekend please, with £5 to cover costs.

This Sunday is Peace Sunday and we shall take a collection for the work of Pax Christi. Envelopes are available in the narthex for your offerings (not Gift Aid). For more information go to paxchristi.org.uk

Deacon Paul writes:

It was in a former life (Birmingham, before 2016) that in preaching a homily I referred to a verse from Psalm 32(33):

*A king is not saved by his army, nor a warrior by his strength.
A vain hope for safety is the horse; despite its power it cannot save.*

Some time after, I bumped into a parishioner in the street. In the course of her friendly greeting, she commented that she had loved the 'sermon' I had preached, two or three weeks previously. I needed a reminder: "You know, the one about horses", she prompted me. Well, you never know what people will pick up on; I am quite sure that my one passing reference to the Psalm was the only equine reference I made in the seven or eight minutes of preaching! Never mind, it had clearly made some sort of pleasing impact, and I can only hope that it will have helped her in the divine scheme of things.

But to turn to what the Word is telling us through the psalmist's words, they are a useful reminder that we do not find salvation through our own qualities and efforts, even though in this world they may seem to give us security; our strength, ability, knowledge, power, money or whatever, may well be useful in getting us through (and, where called for, in performing God's will) in this life, but riding them like a trusty steed on which everything depends cannot get us to the next. We know, but need frequently to remind ourselves, that our salvation comes through riding the love and power of Jesus Christ.

A horse is a wonderful creature, which might (if I could ride!) be able to rescue me from danger in this world, but despite all its evident power, and speed, and beauty, it is quite unable to carry me to salvation.

Homilies! Would anybody like to have a chance to get together with others to talk about the Sunday homily? Whoever gives it has put in quite a lot of hard work to prepare it, and maybe (just maybe!) it might sometimes be usefully thought-provoking. Whether it is a heartfelt cry of "rubbish", or an interested "what did that mean?", or (perish the thought) a request of "tell us more", does anyone think it would be nice to have the chance to say it? If so, what could we arrange?

Housegroups: this week we have the 'Lectio Divina' Group meeting at 7.45pm on Thursday (23rd) at 35 Meadow Drive.

Visit to Parkminster: I have been invited to be given a tour of Parkminster (St Hugh's Charterhouse, just up the road) and the invitation is extended to others. Unfortunately, men only! Would anybody like to come? Please let me know if you would be interested.

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Notices:

WANTED: we need to strengthen the team that prepare the prayers of the faithful (bidding prayers) as well as those who read them at Mass on the principal days/feasts. You are not writing prayers but selecting subjects to call us all to prayer. Just now, for example, the needs of the many people homeless in and around Los Angeles. They should be brief and simply call us to pray for the intention.

Arundel Cathedral, Worth Abbey and St Joseph's, Guildford have all been designated as places of pilgrimage where Holy Year Indulgences may be gained. You can read the details on the diocesan website or e-bulletin. (*see below*)

Mass Intentions: To request a Mass for a particular intention please write the details on an envelope with, if you wish, an offering inside, then hand it to Fr Hugh.

Applications for this summer's **Pilgrimage to Lourdes** (25th to 31st July by air or 24th July to 1st August by coach/jumbulance) are now open on the A&B website. [Visit our website](#) to make your online application and find out more.

Young Adult's Pilgrimage to Rome, 28th July to 4th August 2025, (Cost £995 inc. flights, half-board and event entry). A pilgrimage for young adults (18-30) with other like-minded people in the beautiful city of Rome, with opportunities to pray with Pope Francis. [Click here](#) to find out more.

A&B Diocese Festival of Hope – Saturday 20th September 2025

Join us for a Diocesan Celebration of the Jubilee year and the 60th Anniversary of Arundel & Brighton. Taking place at the South of England Show Ground, 1,200 tickets will be allocated proportionally to Parishes according to Mass attendance.

The Diocese sends out a **weekly E-Bulletin newsletter** which includes Bishop Richard's Weekly Reflection and details of events taking place across the Diocese and our wider Catholic community. Please do sign up, it's a great way to stay in touch! You can click on the link to sign up mailchi.mp/7529e811ae63/joinourlist

Dates for your Diaries

Thursday 23rd January – 'Lectio Divina' House Group
7.45pm at 35 Meadow Drive

Saturday 25th January – Churches Together Lunch
12.30pm, our Church Hall

Sunday 9th February – Holy Hour after Mass, 10.45am to 11.45am
and every following second Sunday of the month

Sunday 11th May – Celebration for Fr Hugh's 40th Anniversary of Ordination
12noon Mass at St Peter's Church, Henfield
Followed by lunch at The Henfield Hall, booking details nearer the time.

Saturday 20th September – 60th Anniversary of A&B Diocese
Details and ticket availability nearer the time