

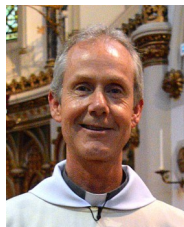


Catholic Deanery of Eastbourne & St Leonards

Deanery Magazine

Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. Is 43:5

Issue 3: Autumn 2026



Fr Kevin Dring,
Dean

Dear friends

A New Beginning

As we begin a new season together, autumn offers a natural opportunity to pause, reflect and look ahead.

Across our churches, this is a time of renewed activity: worship, prayer, formation, service and opportunities to meet and journey with one another.

Our theme for this issue is ***Walking in Faith Together***. It reflects something important about who we are. As a Catholic community, our faith is centred on Christ and nourished through prayer, the Eucharist, the Gospel and the life we share with others. Yet the journey of faith is not something we are expected to make alone. Our Deanery brings together communities from Eastbourne and St Leonards, across to Rye and up to Hailsham and Battle. As we continue our journey of building bridges of cooperation across our communities, we have an opportunity to discover more about one another and to find new ways of working, praying and serving together.

This magazine is **for everyone**. Whether you are a practising Catholic, belong to another Christian tradition, or are simply curious about faith and community, you are warmly welcome among us.

I hope these pages encourage you to discover something new, meet someone new, or perhaps take a small step on your own journey. **Wherever you are on that journey, you are welcome.**

*On behalf of all our deanery clergy,
wishing you every blessing*

Fr Kevin

Images from pxhere.com
and CYMFED



Prayer — moments and opportunities to pause, pray and reflect; see page 11



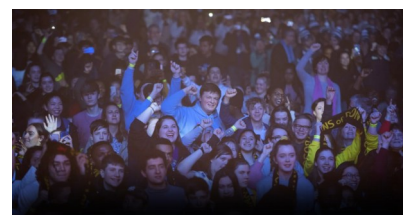
Faith and Formation — ways to explore and deepen faith; pages 6–10



Community — good news stories from across our deanery; pages 4–6



Faith in Action — People putting faith into practice through service and involvement; see pages 10–11



Looking ahead — events, pilgrimages, youth opportunities and ways to get involved; see pages 7–10 in particular. Perhaps this is your invitation!

**You may need
to take this away to read it.**

**Please bring it back,
or leave it somewhere
so others can enjoy it too.**



Arundel & Brighton Diocesan Trust
Registered Charity 252878

www.abdiocese.org.uk

Regular news from our diocese
can be found on the website at:
www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/news

You can also sign up
to the weekly email update.

From the Editor

Welcome to the Autumn edition, and a big thank you to everyone who has contributed. We have received some wonderful stories and photographs from across our communities, and it is always encouraging to see the variety of faith-filled life and activity taking place.

A big thank you too to everyone who sent in suggestions for a new name for this magazine. There are some really interesting ideas, and we will be considering them over the coming weeks.

We've included the suggestions on this page — do take a look and let us know if you have another name idea that hasn't yet been thought of!

Whether you dip into one or two articles or work your way through the whole magazine, I hope you find something here that encourages you in your spiritual growth and helps you discover opportunities for yourself, your family and friends to grow in faith and community as we continue our journey together.

And, as always, please keep your stories, photographs and ideas coming.

Do you have a story, photo or news item for our Deanery readers? Email us at news@eastbourne-stleonards.org.uk (including the hyphen!) Don't wait for the deadline; we may be able to share it online sooner.

The deadline for submissions for our December edition is Friday 20 November.

What should we call our magazine? In the last issue we asked you to help us find a name that reflects the life, faith and mission of our communities. Here are the suggestions received so far: *Anchor; The Living Coast; Made for More; The Way Together; Together in Faith; The Beacon; The Vine; Messenger; The Mustard Seed; Cornerstone; Together in Christ; Firm Foundations; Proclaim*. Each might be paired with a strapline like "Faith, Life and Mission from the Deanery", "Sharing Faith · Building Community · Living the Gospel", or other suggestions. The clergy hope to make the final choice for the Advent edition: do you have any other ideas? Email us! news@eastbourne-stleonards.org.uk

Working towards the new Single Parish

Three of the eleven deaneries in the diocese have already become single parishes — Brighton & Hove, Guildford and Weybridge. In every deanery the clergy and laity are working towards ever greater sharing and collaborating together in good and helpful ways. Our deanery is particularly large, stretching from Eastbourne to Rye, and so is centred in two hubs, West and East.

The West Hub  covers Eastbourne, Hailsham, Hampden Park and Polegate; Battle, Bexhill, Hastings, Rye and St Leonards are in the East Hub .

The diocese has created guidelines to help the transition, allowing the current deanery to form a structure which will work now and should also work well in the new Parish. Because we're not yet a Single Parish, we need to use the title **Deanery** until such time as we become a new parish.

As allowed by Canon Law, the current parish priests will be *pastores in solidum* (jointly and equally responsible) for the whole New Parish, led by Fr Kevin as Moderator. Prior to the new bishop formally creating the New Parish, the clergy in the deanery will work closely together so that common practices can be adopted and taken forward into the New Parish. The **Clergy in solidum** are supported by other clergy within the deanery/New Parish: deacons, retired clergy and other priests.

Helping the clergy with strategic planning is a small group of lay and ordained people. Collaboration and consultation between the laity and clergy is a fundamental principle of the synodality introduced by Pope Francis. This group forms the "Parish Leadership Group" or PLG.

Implementing the PLG's plan is delegated to each hub. The Hub Leadership Teams ("Pastoral Councils") are supported by groups with specialist knowledge in finance, buildings and communications. There are still a lot of "teams" and some names may change.

CLERGY TEAM

All clergy: priests, deacons, active and retired

Clergy "in solidum"

Parish priests

PARISH LEADERSHIP GROUP

Strategic planning, vision building within the Pastoral Plan

Chaired by Fr Kevin

SPECIALIST TEAMS

West Hub Stewardship

(Finance, Buildings)
Gerry Palmer

East Hub Stewardship

(Finance, Buildings)
Solomon Ezobi

Communications

Sandra King

HUB 'PASTORAL COUNCILS'

Overseeing local implementation of the Pastoral Plan

West Hub Council

Nick Woodall

East Hub Council

Sally-Ann Hart

WEST HUB CHURCHES

Clergy Coordinators
Volunteers

EAST HUB CHURCHES

Clergy Coordinators
Volunteers

Although there is a broad hierarchy in the structures, the aim is clearer visibility, better communication and gentle collaboration.

The Pastoral Council in each Hub has started identifying areas to start working on in earnest, with members having volunteered to co-ordinate activity in each church, and there will be updates locally from time to time.

This is an evolving mission. While you may actually be asked to help, if you feel called to help — even in a small way — please step forward. So much of our outreach began with someone simply saying: "I could help there."

One way it's definitely possible to help, and which everyone can do, is to pray! Our Mission Prayer asks God to help us live as a community of communities, reaching out to encourage others into the family of the Faith.

Our Mission Prayer

Loving God,
empower us through our Baptism
to live as vibrant
and welcoming communities,
centred on the Holy Eucharist.

Inflame us with your Holy Spirit
to encourage others
to a personal relationship
with Jesus Christ.

Recognising all things
as your gift to us,
to be treasured
and shared with love
give us a heart for the poor,
a passion for justice,
a concern for creation,
so that all may live
with peace and dignity.

Our Lady and all the Saints
pray for us.
Amen.

*Photo of Bishop-Elect
Fr Stephen Wang, from the
diocesan website*

A new Bishop

As we send to print this Autumn edition, our Diocese is looking forward to an important new chapter. We will soon have a new Bishop!

Following Pope Leo XIV's appointment of Fr Stephen Wang as the sixth Bishop of Arundel & Brighton, his Episcopal Ordination and Installation will take place at Arundel Cathedral on Monday 19 October at 12 noon, the Feast of St Philip Howard.

The Mass is by invitation, with representatives from across the Diocese, including some within our deanery attending. Those without an invitation are still able to be part of this wonderful occasion as it will be livestreamed. We hope many of our parishes and schools will find ways to watch together, or that parishioners will join from home, uniting in prayer as we welcome our new Bishop.

We await Bishop-elect Stephen with great hope and prayer. While meetings and preparation for the formation of the Single Parish continue, with our focus on the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, we look forward to being guided by his spiritual leadership to discern the way forward together.

Please keep Bishop-elect Stephen, our Diocese, our clergy and people in your prayers as this new chapter begins.

Watch the Mass online:

The Episcopal Ordination and Installation of Bishop-elect Stephen will be livestreamed from Arundel Cathedral on Monday 19 October at noon. abdiocese.org.uk/livestream



Mass of Welcome

Following his Episcopal Ordination and Installation, Bishop Stephen will celebrate a Mass of Welcome for people from across the Diocese at Worth Abbey on Saturday 24 October at 11:30am.

This will be an opportunity for us to gather together and welcome Bishop Stephen in person.

Travel arrangements will be organised in each deanery, and further details will be published in your church soon.

Bishop-Elect Stephen at the We Believe festival at Oscott in August this year. Can you identify who he's standing with?



O God, eternal and loving Shepherd,
we bless and thank you for the appointment of your servant, Stephen,
to our Diocese of Arundel and Brighton.
May your Holy Spirit grace him with wisdom, courage and compassion,
that he may faithfully serve and lead your people.
May he be a shepherd after your own heart,
and may we work together in faith and hope to build your Kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



News from our churches and schools

A warm welcome to Fr Mike Muhia SAC

From St Mary Star of the Sea

Around ninety people attended Father Mike Muhia's welcome party in the



At Fr Mike's welcome party



hall of St Mary Star of the Sea Church on a sunny Saturday afternoon in Hastings last June. It was a wonderful occasion to celebrate our new priest and our parish community, with all ages represented.

A playlist of joyous, uplifting Swahili Catholic hymns with infectious rhythms, as recommended by Father Mike, was enjoyed and people relished the chance to mingle and feast on the delicious buffet put together by all parishioners. We had classic English treats like trifle and Victoria sponge, Welsh cakes, an enormous Filipino Mango cake, tasty African and Filipino dishes.

Father Mike told us how he considered Hastings his home and how he had been made to feel so welcome. We remembered Father Emmanuel, who was due to be our parish priest, but who passed away before he joined us. It was a very memorable party, with dancing, songs from our choir and a sense of great joy in our togetherness.



Music, Fellowship and Praise

Parish of the Good Shepherd

On the Feast of St Peter and St Paul, 28 June, the music groups and choirs of the Parish of the Good Shepherd, St Leonards-on-Sea, came together for an afternoon of fellowship and praise.

The idea came from the Parish Synod Group, reflecting the importance of welcoming everyone's contribution and encouraging participation in parish life. There was vibrant singing, a shared lunch and plenty of opportunity to socialise, before the different music groups led some of their favourite hymns.

The African Family Group's worship song was a particular highlight, with its heartfelt and prayerful musicality. The children from the group also performed two energetic dance routines.



Barbara, one of the organisers, said: "As the lead person for the African family community and a parishioner for over 30 years, my experience of the Music Groups Get Together was a joyful one. I enjoyed the event and my highlight was the community spirit that was demonstrated by all." She added: "We had a brilliant opportunity that enabled us to bring on board our blessed gifts of skills and talents through our food, music and dance."

For Linda and Kevin, who are parishioners, another highlight was seeing the different music groups come together: "We are fortunate to have four different Music Groups/choirs to lead our music at our two churches and it was great to have the opportunity to meet in a social setting." They particularly enjoyed seeing the younger members of the community taking part: "A special moment was seeing the multi-talented children and young people from the African Family Group showing their dancing skills as well as their singing skills!"

The afternoon helped strengthen the bonds between the different communities within the parish and celebrated the many gifts that people bring to parish life.



*The Get-Together at the
Parish of the Good
Shepherd*

The Parish's Synod Group was formed in 2021 in response to the worldwide Synod on Synodality. The group meets monthly and welcomes everyone who would like to take part. It has helped encourage greater participation in parish life, including playing an important role in the revival of the Welcoming Ministry.

Margaret Guye, Group facilitator, said: "We have introduced *Lectio Divina* and Conversations in the Spirit in our meetings, from time to time. I really recommend them both, especially

*Fr Mike at his first service
in St Mary Star of the Sea
on Trinity Sunday, 31 May*

Conversations in the Spirit — a prayerful, Spirit-centred way of holding a meeting, enabling everyone to contribute if they so wish.”

The group normally meets on the fourth Saturday of each month, in Holy Redeemer Church Hall, The next meeting is Saturday 24 October, 10.45am–12 noon

Faith, Service and New Beginnings

St Mary Magdalene Catholic Primary School

Term 6 of the last academic year at St Mary Magdalene Catholic Primary School ended with plenty to celebrate. Year 6 pupils put their creativity and enterprise into action by running their own cafés and choosing charities to support, raising money for Barby Keel Animal Sanctuary and Cancer Research. The whole school also celebrated St Mary Magdalene Day, with activities, a special assembly and a whole-school picnic, followed by a prayerful Year 6 Leavers’ Mass with Fr Stephen O’Brien.



The new term has begun with a Beginning of the Year Mass, and pupils are already exploring the school’s new Mission Statement through their work. An RE art competition based on the Mission Statement is also being prepared. Later in the term, each class will lead a Grandparents’ Liturgy, Year 6 will

celebrate their Class Mass, and the school will hold a Harvest Collection for Bexhill Foodbank — continuing the school’s emphasis on faith, service and community.



New Icon of St John Henry Newman

Christ the King Church

A new icon of St John Henry Newman, written by Fr Neil, has been placed in Christ the King Church. Last year, Pope Leo XIV made St John Henry Newman a Doctor of the Church. This is a particularly important honour for Catholics in this country.

The oak tree has links to Oxford, where Newman taught, but the acorn and the old tree also speak of Newman’s thinking on the development of doctrine within the Catholic Church.

The beehive and quill symbolise the wisdom and writings of the Church Fathers that influenced Newman’s movement towards the Catholic Church.

Cor ad cor loquitur is Newman’s famous motto, Latin for “heart speaks unto heart.” And the sun hints at his beautiful hymn, *Lead, Kindly Light*.

Called to Grow and Ready to Go

St Richard’s Catholic College

There were plenty of smiles at St Richard’s Catholic College in August as pupils who had completed Year 11 received their GCSE results — the culmination of years of hard work, friendship and growing together as a school community.

The results were well worth celebrating: 93% achieved Grade 4 or above in Maths, 90% in English and/or English Lit, and 88% in both. Furthermore, 66% achieved Grade 5 or above in both Maths and English, and 30% secured Grade 7 or above, keeping the school’s results well above national averages.

Behind those figures are young people now taking their next steps. Principal Mr Paul Barber congratulated the pupils and thanked the staff and families who supported them along the way.

For a Catholic school, however, education is about more than examination results. As these young people leave St Richard’s, they take with them not only their qualifications but the friendships, experiences, faith and values that have shaped them along the way. We wish all our former Year 11 pupils every blessing as they begin the next chapter of their lives.



Celebrating 25 Years of Service

St George and St Wilfrid Parish

The monthly parish charity breakfast at St George's Church in July was in aid of Care for the Carers, a charity chosen in honour of Deacon John for the 25th



Deacon John Truman cutting his celebration cake, with family and friends, and (with his wife Tessa) receiving gifts at the end of Mass

anniversary of his ordination. Family and friends joined parishioners for bacon and sausage rolls, home-baked cakes and tea breads, along with plenty of good company. The celebration culminated



in a traditional cutting of the cake. The parish thanked Deacon John for his dedicated service, presenting him with an Amazon gift voucher and his wife, Tessa, with a beautiful bunch of flowers. The gifts were presented by children from the parish at the end of Mass.

St George's monthly charity breakfasts take place after the 9am Mass on the last Sunday of the month (arrive by 9:45am if not



Right: Fr Kevin and Fr Charles cutting cakes at Our Lady of Ransom Church

going to the mass). The next breakfasts are 25 October for CAFOD and 29 November for the Royal British Legion. All are welcome — donations only, no fixed prices.

A Century of Prayer and Community

Our Lady of Ransom Church

More than 300 parishioners, clergy and guests gathered at Our Lady of Ransom on 8 July for a special Mass of Thanksgiving marking 100 years since the church was consecrated.

The celebration brought together parishioners, civic representatives, ecumenical guests and friends from across the Deanery and Diocese. Music was led by the parish choir, with pupils from St Thomas a Becket Catholic Primary School contributing a sung prayer to Our Lady.

The celebrations continued in the parish hall with an international

buffet prepared by parishioners, while members of the Eastbourne Deanery West Hub Youth helped serve food and drinks.

Reflecting on the wider significance of the celebration, Fr Kevin Dring welcomed the many guests and spoke of the importance of working with others across the community: "Working with fellow Christians and others across our community is always a fruitful part of parish life... helping to build friendship and a strong sense of being part of the wider community in Eastbourne."

He also paid tribute to the many volunteers who helped make the celebrations possible: "Parish life is a big team effort — the more hands, the better!"

The centenary celebrated not only the history of this much-loved church but the living parish community that continues to worship, serve and welcome today.

The full centenary story and official photographs are available on the Deanery website.



Mission in our parishes

Ten Years of Diaconal Ministry

St Mary Star of the Sea

On 23 July, Deacon Duncan Brown marked the tenth anniversary of his ordination to the permanent diaconate with a Mass of Thanks-giving at St Mary Star of the Sea.

Fr Richard Biggerstaff, Parish Priest of East Molesey and Hersham and a longstanding friend of Duncan and



his family, was principal celebrant. Deanery clergy, parishioners, family and friends joined Duncan and his wife Cathy for the Mass, followed by drinks on the piazza.

A joyful opportunity for the parish community to give thanks for ten years of Deacon Duncan's ministry.



Alex, of the Eastbourne & Bexhill Circle of the Newman Association

Faith seeking Understanding

The Newman Association

What does it mean to be a Catholic who wants to keep learning, questioning and growing in faith?

The Newman Association, established in 1942, aims to promote open discussion and greater understanding within today's Church. Named after St John Henry Newman, it continues his vision of a well-informed and engaged laity — people who take their faith seriously, ask questions, learn together and bring their faith into everyday life.

The Association is open to Christians, with particular reference to the Roman Catholic tradition, and provides opportunities to explore faith, culture and contemporary issues together. Some activities are also available online.

A space to grow

For Alex, a member of the Eastbourne & Bexhill Circle, joining the Newman Association has become an important part of his faith journey.

"It has given me a space to learn, to question, and to deepen my understanding of the Church. Through talks, discussions, and fellowship, I have grown in confidence, in knowledge, and in the quiet strength that comes from a mature faith." Alex describes the Newman Association as a place "where faith meets reason, where tradition meets curiosity, and where conversation becomes a form of discipleship."

For him, this learning has had a personal impact, helping him to become "more reflective, more compassionate, and more grounded in my faith."

In a world where faith can sometimes feel isolated or rushed, Alex believes the Newman Association offers something different: "Time to think, space to grow, and companionship on the journey."

That combination of faith, learning and friendship can be valuable at every stage of life — from university and early adulthood through to later life. Student membership is currently free, and online membership is available for those who are not close to a local Circle.

If you are looking for a place to explore your faith, meet others and continue growing in understanding, the Eastbourne & Bexhill Circle could be a place to begin. For further information, please contact committee members of the Eastbourne and Bexhill Newman Circle by email eastbourne.circle@newman.org.uk

Find out more: newman.org.uk. See page 10 for details on local Newman Association talks in October and November — all are welcome to attend, not just members.

mary's meals

Mary's Meals — The shed that feeds three million

By Edwina Lucani

At Our Lady of Ransom, St Gregory's and St Agnes we collect our left-over foreign currency, together with UK notes and coins that are no longer in circulation for Mary's meals. They turn our forgotten notes and coins, that otherwise end up in the back of a drawer or in a jar, into nutritious meals and hope for a better future for hungry children. More than 3 million children are fed every day in Schools. The School feeding programs are spread across 9 countries including Malawi, Haiti, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Sudan and Ethiopia.

Last year we sent 5kg of notes and coins amounting to £ 200. "School + Food = Hope." It costs 10p per day or £19.15 to feed a child for a full school year.



Flame 2027 – Saturday 6 March

We have tickets to this sold-out event! Express your interest in going — deadline **31 October 2026** — to youth@eastbourne-stleonards.org.uk

Flame CYMFED 2027

Mission in our parishes

It is very easy to set up your own currency collections in your parish. Call Mary's Meals on 0800 6981212 or check out their website for a fundraising pack Marysmeals.org.uk or alternatively I can be contacted via the Our Lady of Ransom parish office.

Mary's Meals charity was founded in 1992 by Magnus Macfarlane-Barrow and was run from a shed in his garden. Magnus met a 14-year-old boy in Malawi called Edward who



expressed a wish that he had enough food to eat and be able to go to School. This inspired Magnus to begin a small, community run School feeding programme called Mary's Meals. Now, Mary's Meals has grown to become a global, hope filled movement.

Learning + meals = a future.

Local communities own and run the programmes, they organise volunteers to prepare and serve meals every School Day, while Mary's Meals provides ingredients, training and ongoing monitoring and support.

Prayer came first in the story of Mary's Meals and prayer continues to guide and protect their work. Committing to support them through prayer is a beautiful way to actively participate in this mission.

Prayer for Mary's Meals

Our Father
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us for the times when we take more than our share
of the bread that belongs to all.
Let us help you fill the starving with good things, not with scraps from our table.
Teach us how to share what is not ours to keep.
Clothe us with your love
that we may complete each good work you created us to do.
Place in our hearts your compassion for each starving child
and use our little acts of love so that they starve no more.
Amen.

Going to Lourdes with an Open Heart

This summer, young people from our Deanery discovered faith, friendship and service on the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton pilgrimage to Lourdes, travelling as Redshirts, Purple Shirts and young Helpers alongside hundreds of other pilgrims.

For some, it was their first experience of Lourdes; for others, a return to a place that has already become an important part of their journey. What they shared was a sense of belonging, prayer and the joy of serving others.



Arundel & Brighton Redshirts in the Offertory procession at Mass



Making pilgrimage possible

Four young people from our Deanery received financial support this year from a £1,000 grant from the National Council of the Knights of St Columba, secured following a request from Bob Waters of St Wilfrid's Parish. Each applicant received £100, with £600 remaining to support young people in future years. Some also raised money through their parishes.



Above: Isabella (third on the left) enjoying a moment with other pilgrims

Below: Oskar



Among those supported were Demelza and Oskar, who travelled as Redshirts. Demelza, from the Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, returned to Lourdes for a second year. She described it as: "genuinely the most amazing experience of my life."

She said the pilgrimage deepened her faith, gave her greater confidence in speaking openly about being Catholic, and helped her discover peace and trust in God. Her mum Catherine described the experience as "life changing", saying it had built Demelza's confidence and deepened her faith.

Oskar, from St Wilfrid's and St George's Parish, combined the Knights' support with parish fundraising to raise the full cost of his pilgrimage. His mum Agata described it as: "a truly transformative experience for him."

He particularly enjoyed meeting new people, attending daily Mass and helping others, experiences she believes will stay with him.

Isabella, from the Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, travelled as a Purple Shirt and hopes to return next year as a young Helper. She described Lourdes as: "an extraordinary and life affirming experience for me."

The daily Masses with Catholics from around the world made a strong impression, as did singing in the choir. But caring for pilgrims was especially meaningful: "Getting to know and care for the different pilgrims was a humbling and also an uplifting experience."

University and beyond

Don't let money be the obstacle

If you are considering Lourdes, don't assume that the cost means you cannot go. Young people can take part as Redshirts, Purple Shirts or Helpers, and there are opportunities for parish fundraising and support from Catholic organisations.

The generosity of the Knights of St Columba towards our Deanery youth is a wonderful example of how one group's support can open the door to an experience that may stay with someone for years. All those who received support would like to express their sincere thanks to the Knights for helping to make their pilgrimage possible.

But pilgrimage is about more than getting there. It is about arriving with an open heart — ready to pray, meet people, learn, serve and help wherever you can.

Applications for the 2027 pilgrimage open in January. If you are interested, speak to your parish priest or youth team now about support and fundraising.

There is a place for you in Lourdes. Come with an open heart.

Read more online: The full feature, with photographs and more reflections from those who travelled from across our Deanery this year, is available on our website. And if you travelled to Lourdes this year, we'd love to hear your story send us an email with your reflections and photographs so that we can continue to add to the online feature and celebrate the experiences of pilgrims from across our Deanery.



This year we mark 800 years since the death of St Francis of Assisi. His feast day falls on 4 October.

St Francis is perhaps best known for his love of animals and creation. His life also speaks of simplicity, peace, compassion and care for all God's creation. On the website, **Fr Terry Martin** reflects on our relationship with the world and the creatures with whom we share it, and on what St Francis might inspire us to do today.

eastbourne-stleonards.org.uk

A new chapter doesn't have to mean leaving faith behind!

Starting university — whether staying at home or moving away — can bring new friendships, ideas and challenges. It can also be an opportunity to discover new ways of living out your faith and meeting other young Catholics.

If you're going to university, look for:

- Your university Catholic Chaplaincy — find out about Mass, prayer, social events and spiritual support.
- The Catholic Society (CathSoc) — many universities have student-led Catholic groups offering friendship, formation and social activities.
- Your local parish — if you are living away from home, introduce yourself and discover what is happening locally.

Don't try to do it alone

Moving away from home does not have to mean leaving your faith community behind. Find the people. Find the parish. Find the chaplaincy. Ask questions. Go along to something, even if you don't know anyone.

Faith grows through friendship, prayer, study, service and being part of a community. For parents, encouraging a young person to make that first connection before or soon after arriving at university can make all the difference.

After university

Wherever life takes you, find your local Catholic community. Seek out a parish, Catholic youth or young adult group, or Catholic association — and get involved. Keep growing in prayer, formation and mission, and look for ways to serve and share your faith.

- The Newman Association — a useful next step as you move from university into graduate and professional life. There is an Eastbourne & Bexhill Circle, as well as online membership.

Useful places to start

University Catholic Chaplaincy: Look on your university website for its Catholic chaplaincy or faith provision.

The Newman Association: Find a Circle or join online (newman.org.uk); student membership is free

The Catholic Union: Local meetings as well as an Annual Gathering — join online (catholicunion.org.uk); student membership is free

Your Diocese: For young adult and diocesan opportunities, start with the diocesan website and your local parish or youth team.

Whatever this new chapter brings, keep Christ at the centre, stay connected to the Church, and give yourself the chance to grow in faith alongside others.



Beauty, Truth and Goodness



Ordinate Festival 2026
Eastbourne
13–15 October

with Professor David Clayton

Ordinate Festival at Christ the King: 13–15 October 2026

Christ the King and the Ordinate Mission are hosting the 2026 Ordinate Festival, which starts at 3pm on 13 October.

The theme of this year's festival, 'Beauty, Truth and Goodness', helps emphasise aspects of the particular gifts of the Ordinate. As the document on the Ordinate from the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith states: "Evangelisation through Beauty... not as an end in itself, but insofar as it has the power to lead us to God." This will be explored at the festival this year.

The festival falls into two parts. First, the talks, Mass, Matins and Evensong are open to all, and all are welcome. The second part, which is fellowship over shared meals and discussions with Bishop David, is limited to Ordinate members, associate members and those who have made their spiritual home within an Ordinate group and have travelled from around the country to be here.

The themes of the festival, however, are of importance to all Catholics and other Christians. Fr Neil encourages you to come along and attend, as it will not only help us grow together as a community of faith, but reveal the true nature of our hospitality as we invite others into our community space.

Full programme:
eastbourneordinate.org.uk

Walk in memory of St John Stone: Saturday 17 October, 10am

Join us for a special walk from St Wilfrid's Catholic Church, South Road, Hailsham, to Michelham Priory, in honour of St John Stone, the

Augustinian Canon martyred for his faith in 1539.

We will arrive at the Priory at around 12.30pm for a short prayer service. Those who wish can then explore the Priory and grounds (entrance £12).

Can't walk? You're very welcome simply to join us at the Priory. *Under-18s must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.*

More information: Gary O'Brien —
garyobrien4@yahoo.co.uk

Newman Association: Autumn Talks

Everyone is welcome — you do not need to be a Newman Association member. All the meetings are 7:00–8:30pm at Our Lady of Ransom Hall, Grange Road, Eastbourne BN21 4EU

Monday 12 October: **What do young people think about the future of the Church?** with Dr Anthony Bracuti — exploring faith, science and the natural world.

Tuesday 20 October **Catholic Social Teaching** with Clare Szanto — exploring the Church's call to social justice and care for the vulnerable.

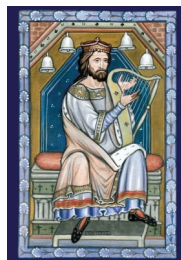
Thursday 19 November **Magnifica Humanitas** with Fr Andrew Pinsent — exploring science, theology and moral formation, joining by Zoom from the USA. Come along to listen, learn and join the conversation.

Catholic Union webinar

Young Catholics: A Conversation on Loneliness, Thursday 15 October, 6pm

A Catholic Union webinar exploring "The Desert and the Polis: Loneliness as Spiritual Crisis and Political Failure." Fr John Church OP and Professor Anna Rowlands will explore loneliness as both a spiritual and structural issue, with particular relevance to students, graduates and young professionals.

To reserve a place: email
info@catholicunion.org.uk



Icons written by
Prof David Clayton,
the keynote speaker at
the Ordinate Festival



Dr Andrew Pinsent



St John Stone

Across our Deanery, Catholic groups continue to bring people together in faith, friendship, prayer and service. Here are a few of the highlights from recent months — and some opportunities to get involved.

Catholic Women's League

The Catholic Women's League (CWL) has enjoyed a busy summer, with the Eastbourne and Bexhill sections sharing several opportunities for fellowship and faith. A highlight was a joint pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation at West Grinstead, including Mass with Fr Neil, a visit to the secret chapel and time for prayer and reflection together.

Members also travelled to London for the CWL's 120th anniversary Jubilee Mass at Farm Street Catholic Church, joining women from across the UK and around the world. The service was followed by lunch and an opportunity to meet and share fellowship with other CWL members.



There have been plenty of opportunities for local fellowship too. Bexhill CWL hosted a strawberry tea at St Martha's, while the Eastbourne section was delighted to join the Eastbourne Catenian Circle's September meeting, where members enjoyed a sumptuous buffet and great conversation with the Catenians and their wives. Both local sections meet monthly and new members are always welcome.

Bexhill: First Monday of the month, 7.30pm, St Martha's Church Hall

Eastbourne: First Wednesday of the month, 7pm, Christ the King Parish Rooms

Catenians

The Catenians bring Catholic men together through friendship, faith and mutual support.

Hastings & Bexhill Circle

The HasBex Circle meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7pm at the Bannatyne Spa Hotel, Battle Road, Hastings. The next meeting is Tuesday 27 October.

Eastbourne Circle

The Eastbourne Circle meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7pm at the Langham Hotel. The next meeting is Thursday 8 October. They also have a men-only social gathering, "Idle Jacks", on the following Thursday — 15 October — at Bibendum from 1pm.



Circle meetings are followed by a meal and social time, with wives and visitors welcome to join the fellowship. Both Circles also hold social activities for members and their families.

All Catholic men are welcome to find out more about their local Circle. For Eastbourne, why not pop along to Idle Jacks and meet the Catenians? To find out more: visit thecatenians.com or hasbex.org.

Knights of St Columba

The Knights of St Columba (KSC) bring Catholic men together in prayer, fellowship and service. Our Deanery is home to two Councils, in Eastbourne and Hastings.

Eastbourne members recently took the opportunity to share something of the life and mission of the Knights with parishioners at Mass. Their gentle invitation to discover more has been warmly received, and three new

members will be ceremoniously welcomed to the Council during the 5:30pm mass on Sunday 11 October at Our Lady of Ransom. They will also be presenting Fr Charles with his Member of Honour certificate in recognition of his great support to the Knights and agreeing to be their Chaplain.

Dates for the diary

Sunday 8 November Mass for the deceased brothers of the Hastings Council, 11:30am, St Mary Star of the Sea, Hastings

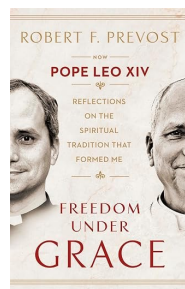
Sunday 15 November Mass for the deceased brothers of the Province, 11am, Arundel Cathedral

Wednesday 18 November — Red Wednesday The Knights will join this day of prayer and awareness for Christians persecuted for their faith.

Sunday 22 November Mass for the deceased brothers of the Eastbourne Council, 10.15am, Our Lady of Ransom

The Eastbourne Council meets on the second Friday of each month at 7:45pm in the Committee Room at Our Lady of Ransom. The Hastings Council meets on the third Tuesday of each month.

Catholic men over 18 are always welcome to find out more contact Flavio Iorio — 07854 932595 or flavio.iorio@intesanpaolo.com



Read, watch, listen

Freedom Under Grace — Pope Leo XIV

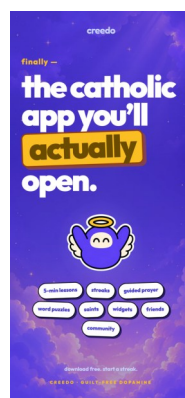
Pope Leo XIV's first book brings together previously unpublished writings from his years as an Augustinian, offering a window into the faith and spiritual vision that shaped him. Drawing on St Augustine, he reflects on community, solidarity, social justice and the Gospel's response to today's challenges. Published by Enliven (Cornerstone Press) at around £20; cheaper as an e-book.

SYCAMORE

Explore the Christian faith through short, engaging films developed under the leadership of Bishop-elect Stephen Wang. *Sycamore* explores questions about God, Jesus, prayer, the Church and the meaning of life, with films designed to encourage reflection and discussion. Watch online: sycamore.fm

Creedo

Build your faith, one day at a time. Creedo offers short daily lessons drawn from Scripture, the Catechism and the wisdom of the saints, alongside quizzes, puzzles and guided prayer. Earn XP, build a daily streak and explore your faith in just a few minutes each day. Try it: creedo.faith



A Rosary for October

October is traditionally the Month of the Holy Rosary — an invitation to rediscover this simple and beautiful prayer and make space for it in our daily lives.

The Rosary can be prayed alone, with family or as part of a parish group. However you pray it, the Rosary offers a simple way to walk with Mary through the mysteries of Christ's life, taking a few moments each day to pray, reflect and draw closer to Jesus.

Look out for Rosary groups and opportunities in your parish newsletter, or use an online resource to help you get started.

Among others, the **Daily Rosary app** works on your phone — on the bus! — and guides you through the Rosary and more, even if you've never prayed it before.



Churches in the Deanery

Our Lady of Ransom, St Gregory & St Agnes (Eastbourne) ^W

Parish Priest: Fr Kevin Dring
 Assistant Priest: Fr Charles Ezejide
 Parish office 01323 723222
eastbourneolor@abdiocese.org.uk
<http://ourladyofransom.org.uk/>

Churches:

Our Lady of Ransom, 2–4 Grange Road, Eastbourne BN21 4EU
 St Gregory, Victoria Drive, Eastbourne BN20 8QY
 St Agnes, 10 Whitley Rd, Eastbourne BN22 8NJ

Weekend Masses:

Saturday 6:00pm at Our Lady of Ransom
 Sunday 9:00am at St Gregory
 Sunday 10:15am at Our Lady of Ransom
 Sunday 11:30am at St Agnes
 Sunday 5:30pm at Our Lady of Ransom
 Polish Mass ^P is held at St Agnes—every 2nd and 3rd Sunday 6:00 pm

St George & St Wilfrid (Polegate/Hailsham) ^W

Parish Priest: Fr Rory Kelly
 Parish Deacon: Revd John Truman
 Parish office 01323 841504
hailsham@abdiocese.org.uk
<https://saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk/>

Churches:

St George, 110 Eastbourne Rd, Polegate BN26 5DF
 St Wilfrid, South Road, Hailsham BN27 3JG

Weekend Masses:

Sunday 9:00am at St George
 Sunday 10:30am at St Wilfrid

Our Lady of the Rosary (Bexhill/Little Common) ^E

Parish Priest: Fr Stephen O'Brien
 Parish Deacon: Revd Simon Kirkdale
 Parish office: 01424 210263
bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk
<https://stmmmbexhill.co.uk/>

Churches:

St Mary Magdalene, Sea Road, Bexhill-on-Sea TN40 1RH
 St Martha's, Little Common, Cooden Sea Road TN39 4SL

Weekend Masses:

Saturday 6:00pm at St Mary Magdalene:
 Sunday 9:00am at St Martha
 Sunday 11:00am at St Mary Magdalene
 Sunday 11:00am at St Martha ^S

St Mary Star of the Sea (Hastings) ^E

Parish Priest: Fr Mike Muhia SAC
 Parish Deacon: Revd Duncan Brown
 Parish office 01424 421263
hastings@abdiocese.org.uk
<http://www.stmarystarofthesea.net/>

Church:

Our Lady Star of the Sea, 1 High St, Hastings TN34 3EY

Weekend Masses:

Saturday 6:00pm
 Sunday 10:00am and 11:30am

The Good Shepherd (St Leonards) ^E

Parish Priest: Fr Mícheál Beatty
 Parish Deacon: Revd Ian Moon
 Parish Office: 01424 602077
stleonards@abdiocese.org.uk
<https://parishofthegoodshepherd.net/>

Churches:

St. Thomas of Canterbury, 31c Magdalen Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea TN37 6ET
 Holy Redeemer, 24 Upper Church Road, St. Leonards on Sea TN37 7AS

Weekend Masses:

Saturday 4:00pm at St Thomas of Canterbury
 Sunday 9:00am at Holy Redeemer
 Sunday 11:00am at St Thomas of Canterbury

Christ the King and St Joachim (Langney/Hampden Park) ^W

Parish Priest: Fr Neil Chatfield
 Deacons: Revd Eugene Adams, Revd Neil Taylor
 Parish office: 01323 760048
eastbournectk@abdiocese.org.uk
<https://christthekingeastbourne.org/>
<https://eastbourneordinariate.org.uk/>

Churches:

Christ the King, 3 Princes Road, Eastbourne BN23 6HT
 St Joachim 106 Brodrick Road, Hampden Park BN22 9NY

Weekend Masses:

Saturday 5:00pm at Christ the King
 Sunday 9:30am at St Joachim
 Sunday 11:30am at Christ the King ^D

Our Lady Immaculate & St Michael with St Teresa of Lisieux (Battle/Northiam) ^E

Parish Priest: Fr Richard Blythen
 Parish office: 01424 773125
battle@abdiocese.org.uk
<https://battlewithnorthiam.parishportal.net/>

Churches:

Our Lady Immaculate & St Michael, 14 Mount St, Battle TN33 0EG
 St Teresa of Lisieux, Horns Cross, Northiam TN31 6JQ

Weekend Masses:

Saturday 6:00pm at Our Lady Immaculate & St Michael
 Sunday 9:00am at St Teresa of Lisieux
 Sunday 11:00am at Our Lady Immaculate & St Michael

St Anthony of Padua (Rye) ^E

Parish Priest: Fr Maximilian McKeown
 Parish Deacon: Revd Simon South
 Parish office: 01797 222173
rye@abdiocese.org.uk
<https://stanthonyrve.com/>

Church:

St Anthony of Padua, Watchbell Street, Rye TN31 7HB

Weekend Masses:

Saturday 6:00pm
 Sunday 8:00am and 10:45am

^E East hub ^S Syro-Malabar liturgy
^W West hub ^D Divine Worship
^P Polish liturgy

Everyone is welcome
 in all of our churches



New to the Parish?
 Ask a welcomer for a
 New Parishioner form to complete

*"Where two or three
 are gathered in my
 name, there am I
 among them"*

Matthew 18:20 (ESV)