

THE CATHOLIC CHURCHES OF

SS Anthony & George, Duncton
The Divine Motherhood & St Francis of Assisi, Midhurst
The Sacred Heart, Petworth

Sunday August 1st	Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	The Parish of Petworth & Midhurst
5.00pm (Sat) Petworth	Confessions	
5.30pm (Sat) Petworth	Mass (First Mass of Sunday)	Parish Priest
8.00am Duncton	Mass	Fr Peter Newsam
9.30am Midhurst	Mass	peter.newsam@abdiocese.org.uk
11.00am Petworth	Mass	
	Sally & Rowland Thomas RIP People of the Parish	
Monday August 2nd	Feria	Parish Office Email
No Mass		petworth@abdiocese.org.uk
Tuesday August 3rd	Feria	The Presbytery,
9.30am Petworth	Mass	Angel Street, Petworth, West Sussex GU28 0BG 01798 342169
Wednesday August 4th	S. John Mary Vianney	
9.30am Midhurst	Mass	
Thursday August 5th	Feria	Chair of Finance Committee
9.30am Petworth	Mass	Alasdair Shaikh
Friday August 6th	The Transfiguration of The Lord	Pastoral Lead
6.00pm Petworth	Confessions	Charles Sommer
6.30pm Petworth	Mass	charles@sommer-holdings.ltd.uk
Saturday August 7th	Our Lady on Saturday	Website
9.30am Midhurst	Mass	petworthcatholic.org
10.00am Midhurst	Confessions	or
5.00pm Petworth	Confessions	midhurstcatholic.org
5.30pm Petworth	Mass (First Mass of Sunday)	
	Neil Macdonald RIP People of the Parish	
Sunday August 8th	Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
8.00am Duncton	Mass	
9.30am Midhurst	Mass	
11.00am Petworth	Mass	
	Robert Churchill RIP Wellbeing of Teresa Meynell	

"We are striving to be followers of Christ, loving the Lord, loving his Church, and loving his world; committed to growing together in faith and friendship, and to serving one another and the world around us."

Sunday Newsletter There will now be a small number of printed copies available at the churches each week, for those who do not have access to the internet. The newsletter will continue to be emailed out, and available on the website, so please only take copies from church if you have no other access to it. The general posting of Newsletters will not continue BUT if anyone has no way to collect one, and no family/friends to bring them one, call the office and we will arrange to get one to you. **Items that are new, or amended, are headed in red.**

A daily time of Prayer and Friendship Anyone who wishes can join in the daily parish prayer time online from Monday to Thursday at 6pm
The Zoom log in is 850 3492 8671 or
Dial 0203 4815237 followed by Meeting ID:
850 3492 8671#

Saturday morning Zoom prayer meetings After more

than 16 months we will pause the Saturday morning Zooms over the summer, now that it is possible for everyone to get back to Mass, and after the summer holidays we will give some thought to how we might use this way of being together in the future. Thank you to everyone who has taken part - and most of all to Alasdair, whose idea it was in the first place and who has hosted these sessions.

Carolyn Luck RIP Please pray for the repose of the soul of Carolyn, who died recently.

Parish Finance Committee Paul Mellings has asked to step down as Chair of the Parish Finance Committee, which is entirely understandable given the amount of time and energy he has given to that role over the last few years. He is a busy man with lots of other commitments. This has not been an easy time to have this role, as he has overseen not only the merging of the two parish finance committees but also the

introduction by the Diocese of new accounting software. There have been many challenges, which Paul has dealt with so well that many people will barely have noticed them. Paul has been very generous with his time and skill, and we owe him a great debt of gratitude. I am so glad that he will be continuing as Parish Treasurer. I have appointed Alasdair Shaikh, who is well-known throughout the parish, to take Paul's place as Chair of the Finance Committee and on the Parish Leadership Team. I know that we will all want to offer him our support as he takes on this important role. Thank you to everyone who works on our finance and buildings, we are so grateful for all that you do! Fr Peter

Day for Catechists Saturday 25 September, Worth Abbey. A gathering of Catechists from around the Diocese, to share our experiences and offer support and resources. The day ends with mass with Bishop Richard. To book contact ruth.gerun@abdiocese.org.uk

Reclaim our Common Home In November the UN 'COP 26' climate talks take place in Glasgow with a gathering of world leaders. As hosts, the British Government have a real chance to influence the world. CAFOD is running a petition that you can either sign using one of the bright green cards at the back of our churches, or by going online to <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Reclaim-our-common-home>

Diocesan Youth Service – 40th Anniversary Celebration – 4 September 2021 - Arundel Cathedral -
We are delighted to be able to celebrate our Youth Service, which has impacted many people in the last four decades and we want to invite anyone who has ever attended an event hosted by the service to come along and join the festivities. Everyone will be welcome to give thanks for all that has been done and to pray for the success of the Youth Service in the future. Reminisce with old friends, and meet new friends in person (not just on a screen!). A thanksgiving Mass will be said by Bishop Richard, followed by a chance to chat over refreshments. Please click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Anniversaries Mass: Taking place at St Joseph's Guildford, on Saturday 9th October, at 11.30 am, with Bishop Richard. For couples and their families celebrating a landmark or significant anniversary. Numbers limited to 150. Parking off site. You can sign up by clicking [here](#). Or contact

Please continue to pray for the sick, amongst them: Ellen Duguid, Sister Giles, Sue Bull, Margaret Daley-Dawson, Denise Cronin, Christopher Browne, Rosemary Grinstead, Tessa Bohane, Michael Rawlins, Philip Henstock, Kathleen Behan, Tristan Pye, Sister Ancilla and Josh Vaughan.

Katherine Bergin, Marriage & Family Life Adviser at katherine.bergin@abdiocese.org.uk

COVID-19 Step 4 in our Parish

+ Although face coverings are no longer mandatory, please continue to wear them in our churches at present;
+ Please continue to use hand sanitiser on entering and leaving the churches;

A Prayer Group meets at the Sacred Heart Church each Monday at 6pm for 30 minutes shared silence in the tradition of the World Community of Christian Meditation. For further details contact charlesmarriott3@gmail.com or 01798 867733

Redundant iPads and Laptops are desperately needed by the Gatwick Detainees' Welfare Group. An IT company has agreed to 'clean' devices to remove any data. These devices can enable a person whether in detention or after release, to help themselves; to access classes for speakers of other languages, to communicate with friends, family, our staff, their volunteer visitor and to access resources such as Food Banks and to join our post detention services. Contact Josie at: josie@gdwg.org.uk. Thank you.

Beginning Experience Weekend If you are single again following divorce, separation or the death of your partner, a residential weekend to help you to heal will be held from 8th to 10th October 2021 at the Sion Community, Brentwood, Essex. If you would like more details, please ring Freda 01322-838415 or Maura 07795-498445 or email besouthofengland@gmail.com.

Please pray for the recently departed, as well as for Pat Lee and all those whose anniversaries fall this week.

Newsletter Please make sure that items for the Newsletter reach Fr Peter by 9am on Thursday. As a rule they should not be more than 100 words long.

Giving to the Parish with Internet banking
Please enter in the reference field the reason for the transfer - 'offertory' or 'Mass stipend' or whatever. Thank you so much for your generosity.

A/c name Petworth Sacred Heart
Sort code 40-05-20
Account number 11076612

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The website of our Diocese:
www.abdiocese.org.uk

Fr Peter's Message for August 1st 2021

I will show you the way to Heaven'

My Dear Friends,

On a dull winter's day in 1818 a young priest stopped by the roadside to ask a child for directions to his new parish. Everything was hidden by the mist, but the young lad pointed the priest in the right direction, and after kneeling for a few moments to pray, the priest continued on his way. There is a statue now on the spot where this took place, just outside a small village in France, and around the base of the statue are the words the priest spoke to his young helper: *'You have shown me the way to Ars; I will show you the way to Heaven'*. The priest, of course, was St John Vianney and this tiny village of barely more than 200 people was to be his home for the next 40 years. It wasn't the most promising of appointments. Not only was it very small, but it was a place where love for the Lord had grown clod; one early biographer of S. John Vianney says appointments to this area were the Bishop's version of sending a priest to Siberia! As he set off for his new appointment the Vicar General said to him *'There is not much love for God in that parish, you will bring some to it'*, and that, really, was the life's work of S. John Vianney.

'You have shown me the way to Ars; I will show you the way to Heaven'. These words which, depending on how you arrive at the village, might be the first ones you see today, express S. John Vianney's vision of priesthood: showing people the way to Heaven. It was never S. John Vianney's vision that he stand there and say to people *'that's the way to go'*, and send them on their way. He did something much more significant than that. He said, in effect, *'this is the way we need to go, so let us set off together'*.

'I will show you the way to Heaven'. Every one of us, every human being, has a longing for Paradise. We may not realise this, or we may articulate it in lots of different ways, but it is there within each one of us. Every time we long for a better life, or for a fairer world, or for beauty and truth to triumph over ugliness and violence and selfishness, that is a way of saying *'I long for Paradise'*. For many people this is confusing, because they feel they ache within, but have no idea how to satisfy it. Some people try and satisfy this longing by shopping more and acquiring more goods, or working harder, or by becoming famous in the hope that this will feel so good that it be a bit like paradise; but of course it never is. Other people try and satisfy the longing for paradise by trying to make it real here on earth. S. John Vianney, who grew up at the time of the French Revolution would have known all about this: if only we can silence all the people who disagree with us we can create a nation where everyone gets on and lives together in freedom, equality and fraternity. But these efforts also fail, and can be very dangerous

indeed, because often the only way to create such an earthly 'paradise' is to dispose of everyone who disagrees with you (and so the guillotine blade just keeps falling) or silence them. They may have their own vision of paradise, but I want them to buy into mine, and if necessary I will make them do so by force. Both these ways of satisfying the deep hunger for paradise fail, and fail at great cost. Others conclude that the longing cannot be met, or even that it is a sort of weakness to admit to it, and so they look for ways to silence the little voice within that keeps saying 'I was made for something greater than this'. So much human unhappiness is down to the attempt to silence the vocation we all have to be citizens of Paradise.

When S. John Vianney, who would eventually be declared a saint and made patron of parish priests, promised that young boy that he would show him the way to Heaven, he spoke deep into the child's heart. Really that is what we all want, someone to show us the way to Heaven. All of us are called to live there, but also all of us are called to lead one another there. I suppose that we could say a parish is a community of people who are working together to show one another, and those around them, the way to Heaven. It requires the help of God's grace to achieve this. Those fraudsters wealth, power, fame and so on that pretend to be the key to Paradise shout very loudly; and the temptation not to listen to that voice that whispers 'I was made for something greater than this' can be very hard to resist.

So let us set out on the path together. Let us all set out to help one another find the way to Heaven.

S. Jean Vianney, the Curé of Ars, is celebrated on August 4th.

Have a wonderful week,

Fr Peter