

THE CATHOLIC CHURCHES OF

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

Sunday April 7th	Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)	The Parish of Petworth & Midhurst
8.00am Duncton	Mass People of the Parish	www.petworthcatholic.org
9.30am Midhurst	Mass Lynn McMonagle RIP	
11.00am Petworth	Mass Sir Peter & Lady Roy Forwood RIP	Parish Priest
		Canon Peter Newsam
Monday April 8th	The Annunciation of The Lord	peter.newsam@abdiocese.org.uk
9.00am Petworth	Mass	
Tuesday April 9th	Tuesday after the Second Sunday of Easter	The Presbytery,
9.30am Petworth	No Mass	Angel Street, Petworth,
		West Sussex GU28 0BG
Wednesday April 10th	Wednesday after the Second Sunday of Easter	01798 342169
9.30am Midhurst	No Mass	
Thursday April 11th	Thursday after the Second Sunday of Easter	Parish Office Monday, Wednesday
9.30am Petworth	No Mass	and Thursday 10am-2pm
		07934 479097
Friday April 12th	Friday after the Second Sunday of Easter	petworth@abdiocese.org.uk
6.00pm Petworth	No Confessions	
6.30pm Petworth	No Mass	
Saturday April 13th	Saturday after the Second Sunday of Easter	Chair of Finance Committee
9.30am Midhurst	No Mass	Paul Mellings
10.00am Midhurst	No Confessions	pt.petworth@abdiocese.org.uk
Sunday April 14th	Third Sunday of Easter	Pastoral Lead
8.00am Duncton	Mass Capt Lloyd Goring & relatives RIP	Charles Sommer
9.30am Midhurst	Mass People of the Parish	charles@sommer-holdings.ltd.uk
11.00am Petworth	Mass	
Monday April 15th	Monday after the Third Sunday of Easter	Parish Safeguarding Rep
9.00am Petworth	No Mass	Sister Paula 01730 817221
		sg1.petworth@abdiocese.org.uk
Tuesday April 16th	Tuesday after the Third Sunday of Easter	<i>Our Parish: "We are striving to be</i>
9.30am Petworth	No Mass	<i>followers of Christ, loving the</i>
		<i>Lord, loving his Church, and</i>
Wednesday April 17th	Wednesday after the Third Sunday of Easter	<i>loving his world; committed to</i>
9.30am Midhurst	No Mass	<i>growing together in faith and</i>
		<i>friendship, and to serving one</i>
Thursday April 18th	Thursday after the Third Sunday of Easter	<i>another and the world around us."</i>
2.30pm Petworth	Memorial Mass Iola Christian RIP	
Friday April 19th	Friday after the Third Sunday of Easter	A daily time of Prayer and
6.00pm Petworth	Confessions	Friendship :Anyone who wishes
6.30pm Petworth	Mass	can join in the daily parish
Saturday April 20th	Saturday after the Third Sunday of Easter	prayer time online from Monday
9.30am Midhurst	Mass Patricia Ward RIP	to Thursday at 6pm The Zoom
10.00am Midhurst	Confessions	log in is 850 3492 8671 or Dial
Sunday April 21st	Fourth 'Good Shepherd' Sunday of Easter	0203 4815237 followed by
8.00am Duncton	Mass	Meeting ID: 850 3492 8671#
9.30am Midhurst	Mass Michael Rawlins RIP	
11.00am Petworth	Mass People of the Parish	

Second collection in April Sunday April 21st
 Education of the future priests of our Diocese (CAN
 be Gift Aided)

The Solemnity of the Annunciation, transferred from
 Holy Week, is celebrated this Monday. There will be

Mass at Petworth at 9am

Farm Visit This has become a great favourite among
 our annual events - once again there will be a spinning
 demo to show how fleece becomes yarn you can knit
 with - its really worth getting this in your diary! An

opportunity to get together and meet the lambs at Park Farm, Lurgashall GU28 9EU Saturday 4th May at 2:30pm. All welcome to visit the farm and see and feed some lambs followed by Tea and Cake. RSVP Emma Pearce epearce49@btinternet.com

Silver Jubilee April 23rd is the 25th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood (and also Fr Peter Johnstone's). There will be Mass at Midhurst at 7pm that day, and I do hope you will come and join me in celebrating that. I would like this to be a celebration for our whole wonderful parish family, because you have been so generous, kind and loving in supporting me for almost the whole of my priestly ministry. Please drop Hannah in the office a quick email to let her know you are coming, or write your name on the sheet at the back of the church, so that we have a rough idea of numbers. Fr Peter

Michael Rawlins RIP Please pray for the repose of the soul of Michael Rawlins, who died on Easter Day. His funeral Mass will be at Duncton at 2pm on Friday April 26th

Lent Lunches at Midhurst Many thanks to those who organised these - and to those who supported them. As well as being a good chance to spend some time together, they raised £314.50 for the local Food Bank.

Petworth Area Churches Together Spring Lecture takes place on Friday April 26th at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church, Petworth. Rev Gary Cregeen, the C of E's Rural Officer for East Sussex will talk about challenges and opportunities of rural ministry from an ecumenical perspective

Day for Catechists Save the date - Worth Abbey & School - Saturday 21 September For all Catechists and those involved in Children's Liturgy and Adult Formation - a day of reflection and formation - Equipped for Mission? More details to follow.

Grandparents Pilgrimage to West Grinstead – Wednesday 26 June A day of sharing and prayer with other Grandparents led by Bishop Richard to include Mass, Benediction, Rosary, tours of the secret chapel and lots of chat. Please bring a packed lunch and a travel mug if possible. Arrival from 10.30am for refreshments. As always please car share if possible as parking is limited. Please dress appropriately for the weather. Places can be booked through this link [Grandparents Pilgrimage to West Grinstead \(26-](#)

Please continue to pray for the sick, amongst them: Kerry Callaghan, Mark Chabrel, Clive Wigan, Sister Johanna, John Morey, Jennifer Thomas, Henry Anderson, Ellen Duguid, Sister Giles, Sue Bull, Margaret Daley-Dawson, Christopher Browne, Rosemary Grinstead, Tessa Bohane, Kathleen Behan, Tristan Pye and Sister Ancilla.

[Jun-2024](#) · [ChurchSuite Events](#)

Friends of Arundel Cathedral Lecture by Baroness Caroline Cox, former President of the Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust Arundel Cathedral Centre, Thursday 11th April 12 Noon followed by a light lunch. Tickets £15 (Friends £10) More details & tickets <https://arundelcathedralfriends.uk>

Please pray for all the recently departed, as well as for all whose anniversaries fall in these weeks: John Brannon (10th) Mike O'Kelly (13th) Nora Haines (14th).

These Weeks

Monday April 8th

This is the transferred Feast of The Annunciation
Mass at Petworth at 9am

No weekday Masses

between Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 17th inclusive

Thursday April 18th

Memorial Mass for Iola Christian in Petworth at
2.30pm

Sunday April 21st

Second collection for the Education of Future Priests
(CAN be Gift Aided)

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

OR

You can give to our parish (including any current appeals) at:

<https://donate.mydona.com/sacred-heart-church-petworth>

OR use this QR code:



Fr Peter's Message for Sunday April 7th 2024

On the Monday of this week (8th) we will celebrate the Solemnity of The Annunciation, which commemorates the visit of the angel Gabriel to Mary, in which he 'announces' to her that she has been chosen to be the mother of the Saviour. This is normally kept on March 25th, but that was the Monday of Holy Week. No other celebrations can take place during Holy Week, because the days of that week are all so special in themselves; the same is true of Easter Week, which takes priority over every other possible feast. Ordinary celebrations of saints that occur during those weeks (such as St Isidore, which is normally kept on April 4th) are simply omitted for this year - just as celebrations of saints that, in any given year, clash with a Sunday do. Some celebrations are so important, though, that they must be retained and celebrated on the next available day - the Annunciation is one of these, and so it has been shifted two weeks until the next available day.

Thinking about this feast, it occurs to me that it is not just the feast day itself that turns out to be moveable. In the events surrounding the birth of Jesus, there is a great deal of moving, a great deal of travel Gabriel comes from Heaven to visit Mary; Mary travels to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who is expecting John the Baptist; Mary and Joseph travel all the way to Bethlehem, where Jesus is born, for the census; they also travel to Jerusalem for him to be presented in the temple, and they travel to Egypt to escape the murderous anger of Herod; the shepherds have a short journey from the fields to visit the new born child, but the Magi travel a great deal further. Although the Holy Family will settle down to a fairly static life in Nazareth until the Lord's baptism, and all the travels that will follow that, the time surrounding his birth is surrounded by a flurry of travel. It almost seems as if the incarnation, the birth of God's son, is such a major event that it shakes everything up for a while, like prodding an ant's nest with a stick, and it takes some time for everything to settle down once more.

The Annunciation has often been painted, and in those pictures we can often pick up a sense of a world at rest that is about to be stirred up: the tranquil pond is about to have a very large stone dropped into it. Mary is usually portrayed quietly minding her own business, reading, or praying, or reflecting, while the angel has clearly just arrived from elsewhere: the unseen world and the visible world collide, the earthly and the heavenly, the world of time and the world of the timeless. Sometimes a little more movement is included: sometimes we can see, in the background, Adam and Eve walking tragically away from Paradise, condemned to exile by their own self-indulgence, a condemnation that can, at last, start to be undone by the story being set in motion in the main part of the picture: the coming of Christ, the Saviour.

The coming of Christ stirs up the whole world - just as his death and resurrection will some decades later. We cannot, and should not, expect things to be the same ever again. As we celebrate this feast day this year, we might ask for two gifts - gifts that at first might seem contradictory. We might, first of all, ask for something of the serenity that Mary has, the serenity that allows her to challenge the angel (How can this come about...) but then to accept God's will (Let it be done to me...). Who wouldn't like a little bit more serenity in their life? Mary lives completely in the presence of God, completely under his wing - the grace of God is the very air that she breathes (Hail, full of grace...). We could all do with

some of that. But we could also all do with the grace to allow the non grace-filled part of our lives to be disturbed by the message of the angel. May our secular lives, our worldliness, our compromises and our self-indulgence, be stirred up by this story, as the whole world was when it first happened.

As to what is divine, and holy, and true and beautiful within us, let us have the grace of serenity: as to what is worldly, let that be shaken up and disturbed.

Have a happy feast day, and a joyful week ahead,

Fr Peter



Fra Angelico: The Annunciation