



## Weekly News

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2024

**The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
**Knowing, loving and following Jesus**

## Parish Church of St Richard

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### Worship at St Richard's Haywards Heath

Sunday's Mass will be live-streamed onto the St Richard's Facebook page. During the week, the church will also be open most days for private prayer.

Week Commencing 25<sup>th</sup> August

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> St Monica                      Mass    11:00

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> St Augustine              Mass    19:00

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup>                                      Mass    11.00

Beheading of St John the Baptist

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup>                                      Vigil Mass    17:00**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>    Mass    11:00**

*(22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time)*

### Worship at St Mary's Balcombe

Week Commencing 25<sup>th</sup> August

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>    Mass BCP                      08:00**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>    Parish Eucharist              09:30**

*(14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)*

### Foodbank Donations

The church will be open to take donations for the Foodbank on Tuesday at 10:00 – 12:00 and Friday 14:00 – 16:00

### Ric's Bench

Ric's Bench sessions this week are on:

Friday 14:00 – 16:00

Please do come along for a cup of tea or coffee.

### Dementia Friendly Cafés @ Ric's Bench

Our next Dementia-friendly café will be **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 2:00pm**. Following that there will be a café on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 2:00pm. Volunteers are always needed and if you would like to volunteer to help, please see Mary King.

### Walsingham Pilgrimage 2025

The pilgrimage to Walsingham for 2025 will leave on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> August and return on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August. To secure a place please hand to Mel Tucker a deposit of £20 (non-refundable) either in cash or a cheque made payable to 'St Richard's PCC'. An indication as to whether you will be driving and if you would be able to take others, or if you will need a lift will be helpful at this stage. Places are limited.

### Town Day – Save the Date!

On **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September from midday** it will be Haywards Heath Town Day at Victoria Park. St Richard's will be having a craft stall there. If you are able to help to man the craft stall for an hour on the day (12 noon until 4pm) please would you let Mel Tucker know (including which hour you would be available) so that she can put a rota together. Please email or message [meltucker71@hotmail.com](mailto:meltucker71@hotmail.com) 07729 371507.

### Bottle Tombola – Bottles Needed!

We are starting to collect bottles in readiness for the Bottle Tombola at the Craft Fair in November. It will enable us to build up a good stock for the day. Bottles should be given to Emily Jackson or Valérie Broster. (Please make sure the contents will still be in date for the Fair!)

## Fr John's Book Launch

On Sunday 8 September we will be joined by townsfolk at the end of 11am Mass for the launch in the notices around 12 Noon of Fr John's new book 'Celebrating Haywards Heath: Heart of Sussex - with South Downs & London rail trails'. There will be a book signing afterwards in the Hall until 12:30pm. To order a signed book in advance email him at [john@twisleton.co.uk](mailto:john@twisleton.co.uk) The book costs £9.99 cash or BACS and is available on Kindle £8.99.

### ***Of your charity please pray for those in need:***

Frank Phillips, Peter Atthis, Karen Newes, Audrey Padginton, Michael Paterson, Jean Calomne, Vivien Littlewood, Jean Padgham, Marianne Retornaz, Sheila King, Ian Walker, Douglas Surrey, Sr Christina (OP), Fr Lambert and Ivy, Dcn Rebecca, Adam, and Mark.

### ***Those who have died recently:***

Patricia Richardson, Phillip Dyson (pr)

### ***and those whose anniversary fall around this time of year:***

26<sup>th</sup>) Malcolm Wennyss, Gladys Sherlock, Denis Tapp, 27<sup>th</sup>) Cuthbert Morgan, Doon Whyte, 28<sup>th</sup>) Mary Brown, Geoffrey Hadden (pr), 29<sup>th</sup>) Ann Finch, 30<sup>th</sup>) Sr. Mary Jean, Arthur Backshall, David Mitchell, Michael Ockenden, Tracie Griffy, 31<sup>st</sup>) Harry Went, Geoffrey Hadden, Clare Austen, Jill Jones, Peter DeAth (pr),

*If you would like anyone added to the prayer list, or would like someone prayed for, but **not** added to the list, please submit your prayer details using the form on the website [www.strichards.co.uk/prayer](http://www.strichards.co.uk/prayer)*

## Fr David's Sermon

Today's Gospel passage presents us with a moment of crisis among Jesus' disciples. After hearing Jesus' teaching on the Bread of Life, many of His followers find it difficult to accept His words, and some even decide to abandon Him. This passage invites us to

reflect on our own faith, particularly in times of difficulty, doubt, and misunderstanding.

Jesus' discourse in this sixth chapter John's gospel, where He identifies Himself as the Bread of Life, is central to our faith. He speaks of giving His flesh for the life of the world, and that those who eat His flesh and drink His blood will have eternal life. For us, this points directly to the Eucharist, the source and summit of our Christian life.

However, for many of Jesus' listeners, this was a "hard teaching." The idea of eating His flesh and drinking His blood was not just difficult to understand; it was offensive and scandalous. They could not grasp the profound spiritual reality Jesus was revealing. And so, many of His disciples grumbled and ultimately walked away.

This reaction should not surprise us. Even today, the teachings of Jesus, particularly about the Eucharist, can be difficult to accept. The mystery of the Real Presence—Christ's Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity under the appearances of bread and wine—is a deep and profound truth that challenges our human understanding.

As Jesus observes the departure of many of His disciples, He turns to the Twelve and asks them, "You do not want to leave too, do you?" This question is both poignant and personal. It is a question that Jesus asks each of us in moments of doubt and difficulty: "Will you also leave?"

Simon Peter's response is a beautiful expression of faith: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God."

Peter's words remind us that faith is not just an intellectual assent to a set of teachings. It is a relationship of trust and love with the person of Jesus Christ. Peter and the other apostles had come to know Jesus, not just as a teacher, but as the Holy One of God, the source of eternal life. Even when they did not fully understand His words, they trusted in Him.

The Eucharist is the great mystery of our faith. In it, we encounter Jesus truly present—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. This teaching is indeed a challenge to our human reason, but it is a mystery that we embrace in faith because we trust in Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that the Eucharist is the "source and summit" of the Christian life (CCC 1324). It is in the Eucharist that

we are most intimately united with Christ, receiving His very life into our souls. This is why the Church teaches that the Eucharist is not just a symbol, but a true and substantial presence of Christ.

In times of doubt or difficulty, when the teachings of the Church seem hard to accept, we are called to echo Peter's words: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." Our faith in the Eucharist, and in all the teachings of Christ, rests not on our understanding, but on our trust in Him who is faithful.

The departure of many disciples in today's Gospel also teaches us about the importance of perseverance in faith. There will be times in our spiritual journey when we are faced with challenges, doubts, or misunderstandings. We may not always comprehend God's ways, and there may be moments when our faith is tested.

In those moments, we are called to hold fast to Christ, just as the apostles did. The decision to remain with Jesus, even when it is difficult, is a testament to our faith and love for Him. It is in persevering through these challenges that our faith is deepened and strengthened.

Today's Gospel calls us to a deeper faith in Jesus, especially in the mystery of the Eucharist. Let us remember that our faith is not based on our ability to understand everything perfectly, but on our relationship with Jesus, who has the words of eternal life. When we are faced with difficult teachings or moments of doubt, let us turn to Jesus with the same trust and love as Peter, saying, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

May this and every Eucharist be the source of our strength, the nourishment of our souls, and the foundation of our faith. And may we always remain faithful to Jesus, who is the Holy One of God.