

PARISH NOTICES

Welcome to St John's If you are new to the church, please make yourself known to one of the clergy or the welcomers. After the Parish Mass refreshments will be served at the back of church. Please stay if you can.

Today's readings We are told many times in the Scriptures that God needs messengers. That is what the readings for this Sunday are all about, and they tell us that this is a task laid upon us all.

The 1st reading tells how God calls Isaiah to be his prophet - probably one of the most familiar passages in the Old Testament, not least because Isaiah's experience is very dramatic. He sees an astonishing vision, and in words that are spoken he hears the voice of God. But the most important aspect of this encounter is not what he sees and hears but the way Isaiah responds: his five short and simple words: 'Here I am. Send me.'

St. Paul's conversion and calling to be God's messenger (his experience on the road to Damascus) was also very dramatic. In today's 2nd reading he tells how he has carried out the responsibilities God laid upon him then, but emphasises that the task he has been given is not his own (it is God-given); and is one he can only undertake because God enables him to do it.

Drama again in the Gospel as St Luke tells of the calling of the first disciples. They respond immediately, literally drop everything and follow Jesus. But then we hear how one of them, Peter, reacts. Aware that he is in the presence of someone who is very holy, he is also conscious of his own shortcomings. That may (probably will) be the same for any of us if we become aware of God calling us to do something. But Jesus's reply to Peter is our reassurance too: 'Do not be afraid'.

Parish Bible Study All are welcome tomorrow (Monday), 3 pm in the café area in church, to study the scriptures for next Sunday, the 6th Sunday of the Year:

Jeremiah 17: 5-8 1 Corinthians 15: 12,16-20 St Luke 6: 17,20-26

A new **Electoral Roll** has to be prepared this year. If you haven't yet completed a form please do so within the next few weeks.

To contact the clergy:

Fr Roger 01903 268295 07814 765990 burmateak@aol.com
Deacon Rachel 07810 350098 rachelbennett@talktalk.net

THE PARISH OF ST JOHN THE DIVINE, WEST WORTHING

9th February 2025

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8.00 am Mass

10.00 am Parish Mass (Hymns CHE 285, 259, 143, 257, 184) Intention: The Parish

6.00 pm Evening Prayer and Benediction

Monday 10th February 10.00 am Mass God's blessing on family life
St Scholastica

Tuesday 11th February 6.30 pm Mass Pilgrims
Our Lady of Lourdes

Wednesday 12th February 11.00 am Mass Christian living
Feria

Thursday 13th February 9.00 am Mass Faithfulness in prayer
Feria

Friday 14th February 10.30 am Mass at St Andrew's Europe
St Cyril and St Methodius

Saturday 15th February 9.30 am Mass Devotion to Our Lady
Feria

Next Sunday: Mass at 8 am; Parish Mass at 10 am; Evening Prayer & Benediction at 6 pm

Please pray for:

The sick: Wendy Oakeshott, Jack, Reg Parker, Ros Cole

The recently departed:

Those whose anniversaries occur this week:

9 Elizabeth Chandler, Lilian Gale, Joan Morgan, John Sutherby, Susie Webb,
Thomas Stanford

10 Annie Ellis, Rebecca Norman, Dorothy Warmington

11 Frederick Flood, Wilhelmina Walton, Lily Matthews

12 Alice Crawley, Olive Beale, Florrie Houghton

14 John Campling *priest*, Pandelis Menglides, Joy Dunlap

15 Bert Saunders, Lucy Gudgeon, Martin Linskill *priest*