Parish of Effingham and Fetcham
Our Lady of Sorrows and Church of the Holy Spirit

Parish Team:
Fr Charles Howell and **Deacon Ian Wells**

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Live-stream on YouTube "Effingham and Fetcham Catholic Parish":
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFLGeHumF6yae4QGCSVg0UA

A very warm welcome to parishioners and visitors

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Co-Patron of the Diocese)

Sundays: Cycle A Weekdays: Year II 16 August 2026

Today we celebrate the glorification of Mary. Since she shared the life, passion, and death of Jesus on earth, it is fitting she should share his glory in heaven. But we mustn't think that everything was easy for her. The opposite would be nearer the truth. When Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth, she said to Mary, *'Of all women you are the most blessed.'* Great praise indeed. It might have gone to Mary's head. But what happened? Did she deny it? No, not at all. She accepted it graciously, but attributed everything to God and his goodness to her: *My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord…the Almighty has done great things for me.'* But Mary had to live her life in the darkness of faith. For her there were no short-cuts. She had not only to hear the word of God, but to do it. We are all called to share in the glory of Jesus. Mary, who is our spiritual mother, will help us in moments of discouragement and failure. Just because she is in heaven doesn't mean that she can't help here on earth. It is precisely because of where she is now with God, that she can help us.

God bless
Deacon Ian

This Week

PRAYER FOR OUR BISHOP-ELECT

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 a spirit of counsel and fortitude,
a spirit of knowledge and piety,
so that he may gently and courageously sanctify, teach and govern
the Church of Arundel and Brighton as we work together to build up the kingdom of heaven.
May he be a shepherd after your own heart,
who, with compassion and wise discernment, will care for
and lead your people with the joy of the Gospel.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Parish Office will be closed from Friday 14th – Monday 31st August inclusive. Fr Charles will be in residence and will attend to any urgent matters.

SAVE THE DATE: Fr Charles's Final Weekend in the Parish.

Fr Charles will be leaving the parish after the weekend of 17th/18th October. To mark this occasion, he will be saying farewell at all the Masses, including a **Farewell Mass and Reception** on Saturday 17th October at OLOS – Mass at 6 pm followed by a reception in St Alphege Hall, and also at coffee following the 11 am Mass at HS.

Parish Walking Group. Our next walk will take place on Saturday 22nd August. We will be meeting at 9.30 am at Holy Spirit carpark for a car share to nearby Norbury Park. We look forward to seeing you.

Annette and Kathy

In Time of Drought

O God, Lord of all creation,
By whose power the whole earth came to be,
look upon our parched land, we pray,
and bestow upon it abundant rain,
that pastures, fields and paddocks
may by your goodness thrive once more.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Mass Intentions

The Mass intention diary is nearly full up until Fr Charles' departure in mid-October, and after this it is currently unclear how many Masses per week will be celebrated in the parish. Until things become clearer we are, therefore, only accepting Mass intentions for urgent needs: recent deaths, first anniversaries, sickness, major life milestones (e.g. golden wedding).
If you have additional intentions that we cannot immediately accommodate, please approach another parish of your choice.
We are sorry for any distress this may cause but under Church law we are not allowed to accept more intentions than can be celebrated.

Advance Notice: Invoices and Reimbursements

Please submit invoices and reimbursement claims by the end of August wherever possible. Urgent claims during the first three weeks of September will need to be sent by the parish office to the diocese for payment authorisation. In order for this to happen, claimants must collect and complete a special diocesan form, then submit it to the parish office with all receipts. Normal payment arrangements should resume after 24th September. Thank you for your understanding.

Please Contact Your MP to Oppose Assisted Suicide

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill is back in the House of Commons and seeks to legalise assisted suicide. It will have its Second Reading and vote on Friday, 11 September 2026. Please write to your MP to make your voice heard and oppose the Bill.

Our parishioner, Baroness Sheila Hollins, will speak to us at all Masses on the 29th/30th August. Her advice for those who plan to write to their MP is to keep your message as brief and powerful as possible, even if you have written using one of the pre-prepared letters available on the internet.

To find your MP online, please just click on the link: Find your MP - MPs and Lords - UK Parliament

Forthcoming

Csanád's Farewell Mass and Reception on Thursday 10th September.

As Csanád prepares to begin formation for the priesthood at St Albans Royal and Pontifical College, Valladolid, we gather in thanksgiving for this new chapter and to offer our prayers and support.

7 pm - Our Lady of Sorrows, Effingham, Holy Mass. Votive Holy Mass for St John Vianney – for all seminarians, 7.45 pm - celebratory drinks and food in St Alphege Hall.

Please continue to pray for Aalrin, Csanád and all the other seminarians entering this year, as well as all of our other diocesan seminarians.

If you plan to attend the reception, please add your name to the sign-up sheet at the back of church. We need to know numbers for catering purposes. Thank you.

PLEASE DO NOT PUT FOREIGN COINS INTO THE COLLECTION!

Although it is tempting to toss your surplus foreign coins into the collection on your return from your foreign holiday, it causes havoc with our counting system if the counters do not spot them. Foreign coins not only confuses our counting machine but if we get to the post office with a foreign coin it will be rejected and the paying in documents will have to be amended at the counter which is very irritating. Please do not put foreign coins in the collection as they will not be accepted by the post office and will create difficulty for all concerned.

SURREY CHURCHES PRESERVATION TRUST

Surrey Churches Ride & Stride on Saturday 12th September

Ride or Stride and raise money for our own churches and the Trust. Your contribution will be divided equally between the two. If you would like to cycle or walk to raise funds, or simply assist on the day, please see poster at the back of the church.

www.SurreyChurchesPreservationTrust.org

Please pray for all those in our Parish who are sick:	
Emile Aboud	Joanna Mills
Imogen Bisgood	Ann McEntire
Marie Bliss	Jim Morgan
Christopher Browne	Brenda Parker
Judith Carson	Maureen Rennison
Mary Doran	Bernard Shaw
Brede Hassard	Jenny Smith
Mary Hefford	Peter Stevenson
Maddy Hewitt	Maggie Thomas
Valeria Kucharsky	Ian Williamson

This Week's Services and Mass Intentions

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY				
Saturday Vigil	15 Aug	6.00 pm	OLOS	Aboud Family - Wellbeing
Sunday	16 Aug	9.00 am	OLOS	People of the Parish
Sunday	16 Aug	11.00 am	HS	Jean Wood - Thanksgiving
Monday	17 Aug	NO MASS		NO MASS
Tuesday	18 Aug	9.15 am	OLOS	Frank & Noreen Landers - RIP
Wednesday	19 Aug	9.15 am	HS	Anna & Aleksander - RIP
Thursday	20 Aug	9.15 am	OLOS	Fr Charles' Private Intention
Friday	21 Aug	NO MASS		NO MASS
Saturday Vigil	22 Aug	6.00 pm	OLOS	Clare Moon - RIP
Sunday	23 Aug	9.00 am	OLOS	People of the Parish
Sunday	23 Aug	11.00 am	HS	John & Odile Roberts – 60th Wedding Anniversary

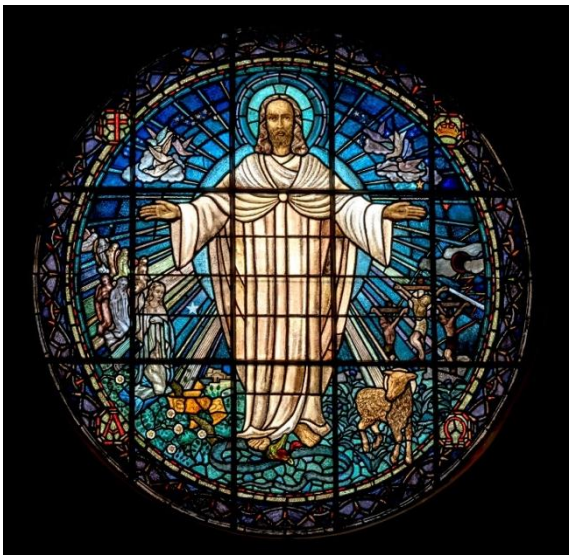
HS = Holy Spirit, Fetcham OLOS = Our Lady of Sorrows, Effingham

Most Masses from both our churches are live-streamed on YouTube at "Effingham and Fetcham Catholic Parish" https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFLGeHumF6yae4QGCSVg0UA

Confessions	**Saturdays** 5.00-5.30 pm OLOS, Effingham **1st Sunday of the month** after 11.00 am Mass HS, Fetcham
Adoration	**Thursdays** following OLOS 9.15 am Mass to Noon, then 2-6 pm (**NOT in August)**
Children's Liturgy	**1st & 3rd Sundays of the month** in term time at HS, Fetcham 11.00 am

Next Week: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 22:15, 19-23 | Psalm 138(137):1-2a. 2bc, 3. 6, 8bc. R.8bc | Romans 11:33-36 | Matthew 16 :13-20



Please get Newsletter items to the Parish office by 10.00 am Wednesday

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