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

DOUBLE ISSUE – SUMMER EDITION

21st Sunday in OT 23-08-2026 and 22nd Sunday in OT 30-08-2026

Sundays: Cycle A Weekdays: Year II

Who do you say I am?

In this week's Gospel we have an early example of an opinion poll! And it was Jesus himself who conducted it. The question Jesus raised with the apostles was not a trick one or a trivial one. It was a very serious question. It is a question that resounds through the entire Gospel. It is in fact the main question of the Gospel. It concerns the identity of Jesus. Everything hinges on this. It was a question that was on the lips of everyone. 'Who is this man Jesus?' Having heard what others were saying, Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, And you, who do you say that I am?' No doubt he already knew what they thought. Still, he gave them the opportunity to express it themselves. We can only marvel at how Jesus said nothing to Peter, but waited for the Father to speak to him first. 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' It is important for us to come up with our own answers. To be able to state our own beliefs and values as Christians. It is no longer sufficient to repeat the official answers. We have to make the faith our own. A second-hand faith is a poor faith. The crucial question for each of us: Who is Christ for me? Is he the Son of the living God for me? And, if so, how does this belief affect the way I live?

God bless

Deacon Ian

This Week/Next 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 is closed. It reopens on Tuesday 1st September. Fr Charles will be in residence and will attend to any urgent matters.

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.

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.

The next **Coffee and Cake** will be in St Alphege hall on Sunday 6 September after the 9 am Mass.

Forthcoming

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 after coffee following the 11am Mass at HS.

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

Csanád's Farewell Thursday 10th September.

*******UPDATE: Any parishioners kindly willing to contribute a plate of nibbles or finger food please contact Rosann Miller direct or via the parish e-mail address.*******

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.

7pm – OLOS, Votive Mass of St John Vianney 7.45pm - 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.

Taizé Prayer at St Lawrence's Church Effingham Sunday 6th September 2026 at 6.00pm

You are warmly invited to this reflective, quiet, contemplative service of Bible readings, prayer and praise in the style of the Taizé Community.

St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Leatherhead. Prospective Parents Open Morning will be on Tuesday 10th November and Tuesday 17th November at 9.30 a.m. Please email the school office to book your place: office@stpeters-leatherhead.surrey.sch.uk

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 the repose of the soul of former parishioner **Roma Stirling-Gallacher RIP** who died recently. Funeral details to follow.

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 (23rd August) Services and Mass Intentions

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 Robert – 60th Wedding Anniversary
Monday	24 Aug	NO MASS		NO MASS
Tuesday	25 Aug	9.15 am	OLOS	Joyce Downer - RIP
Wednesday	26 Aug	9.15 am	HS	Vlada & Roman - RIP
Thursday	27 Aug	9.15 am	OLOS	Stefan & Jadwiga - RIP
Friday	28 Aug	NO MASS		NO MASS
Saturday Vigil	29 Aug	6.00 pm	OLOS	Liz Green - RIP
Sunday	30 Aug	9.00 am	OLOS	People of the Parish
Sunday	30 Aug	11.00 am	HS	Margaret Clarke - Thanksgiving

Next Week's (30th August) Services and Mass intentions

Saturday Vigil	29 Aug	6.00 pm	OLOS	Liz Green - RIP
Sunday	30 Aug	9.00 am	OLOS	People of the Parish
Sunday	30 Aug	11.00 am	HS	Margaret Clarke - Thanksgiving
Monday	31 Aug	NO MASS		NO MASS
Tuesday	01 Sept	9.15 am	OLOS	Celebrant's Intention
Wednesday	02 Sept	9.15 am	HS	Andrew Wilson - RIP
Thursday	03 Sept	9.15 am	OLOS	Family of Founders - RIP
Friday	04 Sept	NO MASS		NO MASS
Saturday Vigil	05 Sept	6.00 pm	OLOS	Jermiah O'Connor - RIP
Sunday	06 Sept	9.00 am	OLOS	People of the Parish
Sunday	06 Sept	11.00 am	HS	Wood & Daly Families - RIP

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

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

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