

## PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

1.03.2020

Father Liam O'Connor, 37 Compton Avenue, Goring-by-Sea, West Sussex. BN12 4UE

Presbytery 01903 242624 / Church repository 01903 506890

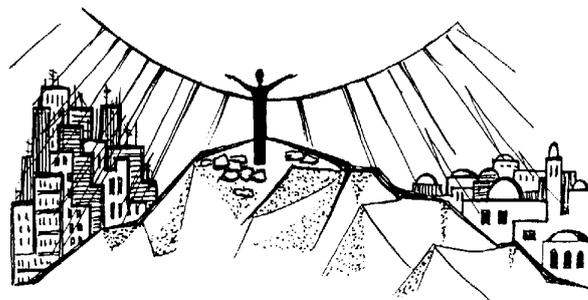
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Arundel & Brighton Diocesan Trust is a Registered Charity No: 252878

### The First Sunday of Lent

Saturday	29 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Bandy Family – Living and Deceased
Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup>	8.15 am	Andrea Pyle RIP
		10.30 am	Antonio Macari RIP
Monday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	6.00 pm	Polish Mass
		9.30 am	Eileen Godfrey RIP
Tuesday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	6.30 pm	<b>Ecumenical Lent Group</b>
		9.30 am	The Parish
Wednesday	4 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	<b>Choir Practice</b>
		9.30 am	In Thanksgiving (CH)
Thursday	5 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	<b>Divine Mercy Lent Group</b>
		7.30 pm	Kevin Healy RIP
Friday	6 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>
		9.30 am	Holy Souls
Saturday	7 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	John Roe RIP
Sunday	8 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 am	Brian Collins RIP
		10.30 am	Margaret Eadie RIP



**SATURDAY:** Holy Hour: 10.00 - 11.00am. Reconciliation: 10.15–10.45 am & 5.15 - 5:45 pm

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Genesis 12:1-4; 2 Timothy 1:8-10; Matthew 17:1-9

**COLLECTIONS: Church: £508**

**Thank you for your generosity.**

**There will be a Second Collection next weekend for CAFOD Lenten Fast Day (See Note 5)  
(Special Gift Aid Envelopes available in both porches)**

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Lelia Murray, Breda Gibson, Mary Murphy, Anne Steere, Anthony Canneaux, Lawrence Brownlee, Margaret Birch, Lita Yong, Patrick Ryan, Brenda Peazold, Mary Wessel, Gina Palermo, Elizabeth Hoskins, Joan Cutmore, Christine Watson, Gordon Milne, Alfred Deacon, Marie Garselis, Roni Horstead, Ronnie Tyler, Jenny Begley, Bill Hogg, Breda Schlingen, Michaela Finn, Winifred Lyons, Yvette Allen, Kerry McStravick, Lydia Van Melsen

**2. THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY:** and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Frederick Wolford, Mary Eldred, Thomas Peeney, Mary Alder, Anna Kelledy, Olive Pickthall, Eileen Godfrey, John Roe, Michael O'Rourke, Brian Jackson, David Davies, Marion Ray

**3. TWO ECUMENICAL LENT GROUPS** will be held during Lent. One starts on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March in the Good Shepherd Chapel at 6.30 pm and the other on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March in The Barn at 2.00 pm. Future Thursday meetings will be held at Bury Drive Methodist church and will be led by a different Minister each week

**4 WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** will be taking place worldwide **next** Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Please join us at the St Richard's, Collingwood Road, Goring-by-Sea at 2.30pm.

**5. CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY**, next Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March, is an opportunity to reach out to some of the poorest, most marginalised of our brothers and sisters around the world. Your donations go to highly trained, highly skilled local experts around the world and support the health of the world's poorest families. Sister Consilia is a nun in an out-of-town health centre in Zimbabwe and a trained pharmacist who saves lives each and every day. Without support like yours, her brilliant work just could not continue as there would not be enough funding to support her. Next Friday can you eat a simple meal in solidarity and give what you save to people like Sister Consilia to continue her life-saving work.? Please collect your Fast Day envelope from one of the porches and give whatever you can.

**6. ST. PATRICK'S NIGHT 'HOOLEY'** in aid of our Parish Project, will take place **on** Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00 pm in the Barn. Irish Step Dancers, three course traditional Irish Supper – Bacon & Cabbage - Homemade desserts, Irish Coffee, Bar, a Sing-a-long and Raffle,. Come and enjoy an evening of fun, good food music and dance. Donations of Raffle prizes would be appreciated. Tickets on sale after all Masses **this** weekend: Adults £7.50, Children £4.00

**7. THE DIVINE MERCY LENT GROUP** will meet weekly in the Good Shepherd Chapel on Wednesdays from 4<sup>th</sup> March to 8<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm. Everyone is welcome

**8. THE LENTEN ALMS BOX** is in the front porch next to the main door. The proceeds are sent to the Contemplative Orders of women in the Diocese

**9. EDGE YOUTH GROUP** will meet again **next** Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March in the Barn, 7 to 8.30 p.m. Year 7 and upwards. An opportunity for food, relaxation and fun. New members always welcome.

**10. HAND-MADE MOTHER'S DAY CARDS** are now available in the Repository. All proceeds go to the Parish Project in Kalingalinga. St Patrick Day cards etc are also available.

**11. MARY'S MEALS:** We are now in particular need of Soap, Toothpaste, Flannels & Serviceable Towels, Pencil cases and Notebooks. Many thanks to all who so generously contribute to these backpacks

**12. TURNING TIDES (Worthing Churches Homeless Projects):** Items needed: Cereals (no Cornflakes or Porridge), Cooking Sauces, Ketchup, Brown Sauce, Salad Cream, Cooking Oil, Squashes, Tea, Coffee, Washing Powder, Shampoo, Shower Gel, Pump Hand Soap, Sanitizer Sprays, Floor cleaner, Toilet Bleach, Washing-up brushes, Hoodies, and Cereal bowls. Many thanks to those who are so generous in their donations

**Father Liam says: The Season of Lent** is an appropriate time to recall the last words of Jesus on the Cross. Reflecting on these words of Our Lord was a devotion that was popularised by the Franciscans ever since they were founded in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century. Various writers had then begun to write harmonious accounts of Jesus' life out of the four gospels. The gospels put before us some of the words and deeds of Jesus, each written for a particular Christian community with its own special circumstances in mind. But it became popular to weave one account of Jesus life from these four sources so as to get an integrated picture of the whole sequence of events from his conception to his resurrection. This brought together the last words of Jesus in seven phrases, which became a popular topic of meditation, especially during Lent.

They are traditionally listed in order as

- 1) 'Father, forgive them for they know not what they do' (Luke 23:34)
- 2) 'Today, you will be with me in paradise' (Luke 23:43)
- 3) 'Woman, behold your son .... Behold your mother' (John 19:26-27)
- 4) 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me' (Mark 15:34)
- 5) 'I thirst' (John 19:28)
- 6) 'It is finished' (John 19:30)
- 7) 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit (Luke 24:46)

Today we think of the three words from Luke's Gospel. An illustration of the first word on the cross is found in Father Laurence Jenco's book, 'Bound to Forgive.' Father Jenco was director for Catholic Relief Services in Lebanon when in January 1985 he was kidnapped with several others and held hostage for more than a year and a half by Iranian terrorists. Shortly before his release he came face to face with one of his captors Sayeed. Sayeed asked Father Jenco if he could forgive him for what he had done to him. Father Jenco said he could and then he asked Sayeed to forgive him.. Father Jenco told his captor: 'Sayeed, there were times when I hated you. I was filled with anger and thoughts of revenge for what you did to me and my brothers. But Jesus said that I was not to hate you, I was to love you. Sayeed, I need to ask God's forgiveness and yours.'

The second – as well as the seventh- of the words of Jesus on the cross also come from St Luke's gospel. Luke is the only gospel writer who tells us about the good thief, though he does not use the word 'thief' but 'criminal'. Nor does Luke call him 'good'. One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all,' he said 'you got the same sentence as he did but in our case we deserved it, We are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,' he said, 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' he replied. 'today you will be with me in paradise.' (Luke 23:39-43) Mark tells us that these two criminals were robbers, which is not quite the same as thievery

The inscription over the cross of each crucified person gave his name and the reason for his death sentence. We do not have the inscription over the crosses of these two criminals but we do know that over the cross of Jesus was written: 'Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews' and John tells us that it was written in Hebrew, Latin and Greek. Crucifixions took place beside main roads leading to the city so that all travellers got the message that the Roman Empire did not tolerate criminality. It was written in Latin because crucifixion was a Roman punishment, though Roman citizens were not crucified. Greek was the language used by most residents in the Empire at the time and Hebrew was used the language of the locals. If the good thief had not known from others why Jesus was being crucified he would have known something about him from the inscription over the cross. The important thing is that he came to believe that Jesus was truly a King and he wished to be part of his Kingdom for ever..

The seventh of the last words of Jesus on the cross comes from Luke: 'Father into your hands I commend my spirit.' Like the first of these words it is addressed to the Father. Jesus can do no more. He has given all to the care of his Father. He turns to the Father and prays. His prayer is from Psalm 31. It is a Psalm of one who is seeking refuge. God is described as a rock and fortress. We too are invited to pray, 'into your hands I commit my spirit.' (31:5) 'My times are in your hands; deliver me from the hands of my enemies and persecutors.' (31:15)

Next week we will look at the words given to us in the Gospels of Mark and John