

## PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

30.08.2020

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

Presbytery 01903 242624 / Church repository 01903 506890

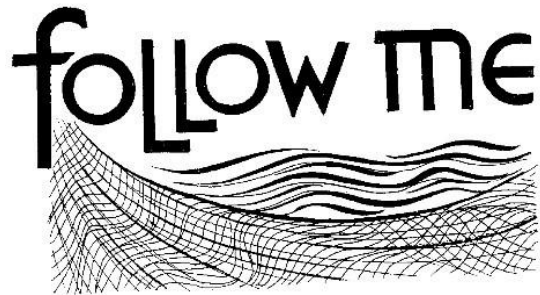
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Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

Arundel & Brighton Diocesan Trust is a Registered Charity No: 25287

### The Twenty-Second Sunday of the Year

Saturday	29 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Ann Bandy RIP
Sunday	30 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Eamon McClusky RIP
Monday	31 <sup>st</sup>	9.30 am	NO MASS
Tuesday	1 <sup>st</sup>	9.30 am	Yvonne Carter RIP
Wednesday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30 am	Stephen Fitzgerald RIP
Thursday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30 am	Michael Butler RIP
Friday	4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Intention of Helen Gillespie
Saturday	5 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Albert Davitt RIP
Sunday	6 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 am	Canon Peter Phillips RIP
		10.30 am	Michael Butler RIP
		6.00 pm	Polish Mass



**SATURDAY:** Reconciliation: 10.15–10.45 am & 5.15 - 5:45 pm

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Jeremiah 20:7-9, St Paul to the Romans 12:1-2, Matthew 16:21-27

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Ezekiel 33:7-9, St Paul to the Romans 13:8-10, Matthew 18:15-20

**COLLECTIONS: Church: £353 Thank you for your generosity.**

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Father Chris Ingle, Eileen Beech, Ian Threlfall, Thomas Duggan, Len Argent, Sister Catherine Lai, Maithé Bennett, Justin Gould, Rose Little, Lelia Murray, 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, Roni Horstead, Ronnie Tyler, Jenny Begley, Bill Hogg, Breda Schlimgen, Michaela Finn, Winifred Lyons, Yvette Allen, Kerry McStravick, Lydia Van Melsen

**2. THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY: PETER SIVYER, BRIDGET AITKINHEAD and those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Nora Puttock, Canon Eric Flood, Isobel Shepherd, Helen Gates, Veronica Wood, Francis Vooght, Kathleen Leech, William Turner, Cassia Denne, Peter Edwards, Irene Stephens, Michael Butler, Frank Foy, Veronica Brown. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

**3. ENGLISH MARTYRS IS MOVING FORWARD!** This weekend our organists return and although we are still not allowed to sing hymns it will be lovely to hear the organ again. Next week – Thursday and Friday – the church will be open to visitors to see the ceiling and all our other treasures but this will have to be by appointment only in order to comply with Coronavirus guidelines. Likewise the Barn will be reopening to some of our regular users.

**5. COULD YOU ASSIST AT A WEEKEND MASS?** For many weeks now a very small band of volunteers, under the age of 70 years, have been Stewards and Ministers of Holy Communion at the weekend Masses. Such a small band that some are called upon every weekend. If you could volunteer to be a Steward or are a Minister of Holy Communion and are now ready to return to Mass please contact the Office – 01903 242624

**6. THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** Father Liam will be hearing Confessions in the Reconciliation Room. The kneeler and chair have been moved and so you may either stand in front of the screen or facing Father Liam. Face masks to be worn.

**7. APF RED BOX HOLDERS** please return your red boxes for counting. You can leave them in the Front Porch for Teresa to collect and count. If you have difficulty bringing the box to church please phone 243401 and we will arrange collection

**FATHER LIAM SAYS:** Ten years after Henry VIII had been given the title of 'Defender of the Faith' by Pope Leo X he had begun planning a schism – breaking the Church in England away from allegiance to the Pope. Henry had written his book 'The defence of the Seven Sacraments' in opposition to the teachings of Martin Luther and ever since English monarchs have used that title. It is still on our coins. F D stands for Fidei Defensor – Defender of the Faith. What caused Henry to break away from Rome was the King's desire that Rome should declare his marriage to Catherine of Aragon, null and void.

By June 1529 the English bishops, with the exception of John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, had all signed and sealed the document declaring Henry's marriage to be null and void. The cause was now referred to Rome, so the official involvement of Fisher in the case had come to an end. As a member of the House of Lords, Fisher warned Parliament that its attacks on the authority of the Church could only lead to the end of the Church in England.

In 1530 continued legal moves against the Church led Fisher with the Bishops of Bath and Ely to appeal to Rome. The King forbade such appeals and arrested the bishops but held them for only a few months. In 1531 The Convocation of the Clergy met and were forced to pay £100,000 – a sum equal to about £35 million today – to buy the King's pardon for having recognised Wolsey's authority as Papal legate. The King demanded that they recognise him as 'Supreme Head of the Church in England.' Fisher insisted that the phrase 'so far as the law of Christ allows' was added to the Act. Speaking against the Act of Supremacy, Fisher said that accepting it would be to renounce the unity of the Christian world and so leap out of Peter's ship, to be drowned by the waves of all heresies, sects, schisms and divisions. Fisher became ill. There was an attempt to poison him. He went back to Rochester and was not invited back to the Parliament. The King now demanded that the tax formerly paid to the Pope should now be paid to him and he declared that the Convocation of the Clergy should be summoned only at his pleasure and discuss only the matters he approved.

In May 1532 Archbishop Warham with 12 other bishops and 4 Abbots signed the 'Submission of the Clergy'. More immediately returned the great seal of England, the symbol of his office as Chancellor, knowing that this was the death in England of the Church's freedom. Fisher was now placed under house arrest in Lambeth. A year later a new Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer, annulled the marriage to Catherine, allowing Henry to validly marry Anne Boleyn. In the most controversial act of his life, Fisher now appealed to the Emperor Charles V who was a nephew of Catherine of Aragon, to overcome Henry by physical force, saying that such a work 'must be as pleasing in the eyes of God as were attacks upon the Turk'. The Emperor was involved in fighting the Turks as part of the Crusades and did not accept Fisher's invitation. This would, technically, make Fisher guilty of treason against Henry. Catherine was totally against the idea of opposing the King by force of arms. She would 'consider herself damned eternally were she to consent to anything that might provoke war'.

The Emperor Charles, who was the King of Spain, was far from happy about events in England. He wrote secretly to More suggesting that he leave England to become First Minister of Charles Holy Roman Empire. In 1534 Parliament declared that Henry's marriage to Catherine had been unlawful and said that anyone who maliciously wrote against 'the lawful matrimony' between Henry and Anne Boleyn was a traitor. An oath was required of people to the Act - including rejecting Papal authority. Parliament also made it treason to 'maliciously wish, will or desire' to deprive the King of any of his titles. This was the first time the law had been applied to thought crimes.

More refused the oath required by the Act of Succession and was sent to the Tower – where he was kept for 15 months. He devoted his time to writing spiritual works including The Sadness of Christ, a meditation on Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. It was never published as the warders took him to the block just as he was writing about Jesus' arrest. Many attempts were made to persuade More to bow to the King's will while in prison. As a traitor, all his lands and property were forfeit and his family were reduced to poverty. His favourite child, Margaret, pleaded with him to take the oath, saying she had taken it herself. Both More and Fisher were lied to by the King's councillors, telling each that the other had taken the oath. They managed to send gifts and messages to one another. In his cell Fisher wrote to Thomas Cromwell, the new Chancellor, asking for warmer clothes and devotional books and a priest for confession. His requests were refused. Bishops were sent to him to try to change his mind. His health broke down. In May 1535, the new Pope, Paul III, thinking that it would help Fisher's case, created him a Cardinal. In fact this hastened his death. Henry forbade the Cardinal's hat to be brought from Rome and said 'I will so provide that head he shall have none to set it on'.

In June Fisher was charged with treason in Westminster Hall for denying the King to be head of the church in England. He was tried by jury rather than the Lords and was sentenced to be hanged, drawn and quartered at Tyburn. This was commuted to beheading on Tower Hill. Mounting the scaffold he said he was dying for the faith of Christ's Catholic Church 'And I pray God save the King and the Realm and hold his holy hand over it.' For 3 days afterwards his headless body stripped naked was left on the block. It was buried at the King's orders without Rites or shroud. His head was stuck on a spike on London Bridge alongside those of the Carthusian martyrs, who had suffered two months earlier. More had seen these Carthusian monks being dragged to execution on hurdles and said to his daughter Margaret 'Do you not see that these blessed fathers be now as cheerfully going to their deaths as bridegrooms to their marriage'.

On 1<sup>st</sup> July 1535 More was tried for treason in Westminster Hall. When the Lord Chancellor reminded More that the bishops and all the most scholarly men in the realm had agreed to the Act of Supremacy he said he didn't doubt that 'but if I should speak of those that are already dead I am very sure it is the far greater part of them that, all the while they lived, thought in this case the way I think now'. As in the case of Fisher Henry extended the 'King's mercy' commuting the sentence to beheading. More said 'God forbid the King's mercy should befall any of my friends. On 6<sup>th</sup> July he was beheaded. John Fisher and Thomas More were canonised in 1935.