

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

13.09.2020

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

The Twenty-Fourth Sunday of the Year

Saturday	12 th	6.00 pm	David Scard (Ill)
Sunday	13 th	8.15 am	Andre Fisher RIP
		10.30 am	The Parish
Monday	14 th	9.30 am	Holy Souls
Tuesday	15 th	9.30 am	David Scard (ill)
Wednesday	16 th	9.30 am	Intention of B&W Adams
Thursday	17 th	9.30 am	Grace West (90 th Birthday)
Friday	18 th	9.30 am	Bernard Bandy RIP
Saturday	19 th	6.00 pm	John Poe RIP
Sunday	20 th	8.15 am	Kathleen Casey RIP
		10.30 am	Neil Halley RIP
		6.00 pm	Polish Mass



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

TODAY'S READINGS: Ecclesiasticus 27:30, 28:7, St Paul to the Romans 14:7-9, Matthew 18:21-35

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 55:6-9, St Paul to the Philippians 1:20-24, 27, Matthew 20:1-16

COLLECTIONS: Church: £320 Thank you for your generosity.

This Sunday there will be a Second Collection for the Holy Places – please place donations in basket as you leave the church through the West Door

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: John Smith, 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 and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Bob Plumtree, Philip Shave, Kathleen Foley, Richard Barnard, Catherine Mansfield, William Hebdige, Anthony Woodman, Hilda Smith, Alan Soper, Bernard Bleach, Kevin Shiel, James Doyle, Neil Halley, Roy Parker, Stanley Wakeling. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

3. PLEASE OBSERVE THE ONE WAY SYSTEM throughout the church. In order to maintain social distancing it is most important that we all move in the same direction. Entrance is through the Front Porch and exit through the West Porch. When going forward for Communion please leave by one end of the bench and return by the other end. The Repository will now be open after weekend Masses and entrance is from the West Porch through the Shop Office and into the shop. Only three people in the shop at a time please.

4. 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.

5. 40 DAYS FOR LIFE is a peaceful vigil of prayer and fasting outside abortion facilities worldwide, to pray for an end to abortion. The next campaign runs from 23 September to 1 November. Our local vigil will be held at Brighton. For further details please see www.40daysforlife.com/brighton. Please would you consider whether you would be prepared to pray at the vigil. For assistance or for more information, please contact Sheridan Lynch at brighton40daysforlife@btinternet.com or 07803047402.

6. 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

7. MARY'S MEALS: We are now in particular need of Flannels, Soap, Toothpaste and Toothbrushes Many thanks to all who help in this way

8. TURNING TIDES (WCHP) HARVEST APPEAL during which items are requested that can be stored and used as needed throughout the year. Please could you donate: Boxer Shorts, Men's Socks, Dish Cloths, Dishwasher Salt, Dishwasher Tablets, Dishwasher Rinse Aid, Shampoo and Conditioner, Tinned Fruit and Veg, Pickles or chutney, Shaving Foam or Gel, Washing Powder, Razors, Herbs, Liquid Soap. Tinned Meat, Rice Pudding and Custard. There is a blue box in the West Porch for your donations. Many thanks in advance

FATHER LIAM SAYS: The Russian Revolution in 1917 resulted in the seizure of power by the Communist Party and one of the most tyrannical governments in history. The population was terrorised and the Government imposed a policy of anti-religious measures against all faiths. The Anti-God League was formed and ministers of religion were relentlessly persecuted and many put to death.

In 1935 a young priest, Father Wilfred Kelly, was appointed as assistant priest at St John's Parish on Merseyside. He had spent some years as a student in Rome and had observed the rise of Fascism under Mussolini and the establishment of Catholic Action by Pope Pius XI. Father Kelly was dynamic and a man of considerable talent. He wanted to combat the growth of Communism and atheism and he worked to halt the spread of communist doctrines in the Parish. He produced regular leaflets which were distributed by some of his parishioners. Father Kelly's brother, John, was a printer and he organised the setting up of a print room which produced the Parish magazine and other publications. A number of the members of the Catholic Young Men's Society were strongly involved in the venture. The foremost of Father Kelly's helpers was a Londoner, Clement Saunders, who was received into the Church in 1928. He told the priest that received him that Catholics did not do enough to advertise their religion. Saunders wrote: 'I suppose I have many advantages being a convert whereas Catholics from birth believe in the faith, they are not always able to defend it. I argued every point with the priest during instruction because, even though I believed, I was determined to know every detail.' He left London when sent to open a new office of the Cotton Exchange in Liverpool in the early 1930's and lived in St John's Parish on the Wirral Peninsula where Father Kelly ministered. There was a flurry of Communist activity in Birkenhead following the events of the Spanish Civil War. This prompted Saunders to undertake a bout of letter writing in the defence of Christianity in the local paper. These letters aroused a great deal of controversy, so much so that the circulation of the paper increased and the editor urged him to continue writing.

Early in 1938 an Anti-God Congress was planned to be held in London. Father Kelly encouraged a group of parishioners to organise a petition to protest against this event. The print room men of St John's and many others supported the protest petition. In terms of numbers the petition was a success but it did not stop the Congress. Saunders organised transport for 90 people from St John's parish to go to the London protest in a large march of reparation in opposition to the League Against God. He said: 'In thanksgiving for my faith I had to spread the good news.' He saw that such an outburst of support could be channelled into the formation of an organisation that would seek to spread and strengthen belief in God, This would be open to all who believed in God and would issue leaflets to promote those religious beliefs which were common to all believers. This was an early act of ecumenism at a time when such a notion was hardly thought of. When the existence of the League Against God was mentioned, he said, 'Why not a League For God'. There was immediate reaction. All denominations, Catholics, Protestants, Jews and anyone who believed in God were welcome to join. Clement Saunders elaborated on his thinking and wrote many of the leaflets explaining basic Christian teaching which was written in a way which would appeal. The articles were short, colloquial and dealt with only one point. Father Kelly also wrote a number of leaflets. Clement Saunders wrote the first leaflet which was entitled 'Have you ever wondered?' It used one of the proofs of the existence of God put forward by St Thomas Aquinas. Leaflets were produced every month and they were distributed by the parishioners of St John's Parish. A member adopted a road, paid for his own leaflets and prayed for the people on that road. A Platter type printing machine coped with the increasing demands for leaflets which came from many quarters.

In 1939 Father Kelly's bishop gave him his permission to be released from Parish duties and reside in a private house in Higher Babington to enable him to devote himself entirely to the work of the League For God. Soon the work spread throughout the British Isles and among the armed forces, including Royal Air Force and Royal Navy ships as well as prisoner of war camps in Germany. 300,000 leaflets a month were being distributed. There was also a Junior League For God. At one point they were worried by a debt of £34 and thirteen shillings – then quite a large sum. They considered whether they should give up and repay the debt, or should they print another leaflet and trust to providence. As St Teresa was patroness of the League they decided to put the matter into her hands and print another pamphlet. By the end of the week more money came in and this covered the debt. From time to time visits were made to various towns where volunteers had offered their services. They would help set up distribution and encourage them generally.

When the Second World War broke out in September 1939 Clement Saunders was told that he must take up work of 'National Importance'. It was suggested to him by the authorities that he should work on a full-time basis for the League For God as its National organiser. He rented rooms in Birkenhead for the offices of the League. The war hindered progress although the work continued as best it could. During the war Father Kelly was appointed Parish Priest of Hoylake where he remained until early 1945 when he went to the office in Birkenhead to continue the work of the League. He gave the religious broadcasts for ten minutes before the 8.00 am news. Towards the end of the war Clement Saunders was asked to return to his pre-war employment. He had to go to London where he continued producing leaflets. The League continued its work throughout the war with great difficulty but it was wound up in 1947 by Father Kelly when he was appointed parish priest at Lyme, Cheshire.

