

Parish OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

8.11.2020

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

Presbytery 01903 242624 / Church repository 01903 506890

Email: emgoring@english-martyrs.co.uk Website: www.english-martyrs.co.uk

Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

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

32nd Sunday of the Year

Saturday	7 th	Michael Murphy RIP
Sunday	8 th	Colette Devlin RIP
Monday	9 th	The Parish
Tuesday	10 th	Seamus Barret RIP
Wednesday	11 th	Holy Souls
Thursday	12 th	Martin FitzPatrick RIP
Friday	13 th	Holy Souls
Saturday	14 th	The Parish
Sunday	15 th	Vera Musto RIP



SATURDAY: Reconciliation: 10.15–10.45 am

TODAY'S READINGS: Wisdom 6:12-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6; Matthew 25:14-30

COLLECTIONS: Church: £358 Thank you for your generosity.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Sister Raymond, Liz Harvey, Mick Brouder, 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: Francis Fisher, Billy McCann, Brian McHale, Phillip Horsfall, Edward Hetherington, Elvira Fleming, Patricia Thompson, Bernard O'Connor, Helenja Kamieniecka, John Biddles, Thomas Eze, Henry Weber, Baby Katie Wright. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

3. THE GOOD NEWS is: our church is still open for one and a half hours every day for private prayer. That is from 9.30 – 11.00 am. Many thanks to those who have already agreed to be present during those times to make sure that everyone stays safe and ensure that all areas used have been cleaned by the person sitting there using the 'Wipes' provided at the entrance. Entrance by the Front Porch and exit through the West Porch, maintaining Social Distancing at all times. It would be helpful if we could have some more volunteers to be Stewards and if you are able to be available at that time any morning of the week please let Anne know in the office 01903 242624

4. FATHER LIAM will say Mass each day in The Good Shepherd Chapel without any congregation present so Mass intentions will continue to be offered in the usual way.

5. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2021: Is your son or daughter in Year 3 this term? If so, they are at the age where they can start the preparation course for First Holy Communion. Please email the Parish Office so that a letter and application form can be emailed back to you. Please return it to the Parish Office as soon as possible. The Parents Meeting will be held on Thursday 3rd December at 8.00 pm, Lessons commence on Tuesday 8th December at 4.30 pm in The Barn and First Holy Communion will take place on Sunday 23rd May 2021.

6. NOVEMBER – IS THE MONTH FOR HOLY SOULS: The usual 'November envelopes' are available in both porches for those wishing to remember their loved ones at the Altar. Any donations will go towards offering Masses for the Holy Souls. Please fill in and return to the Parish Office

7. CONFIRMATION 2020/21: If you are in Year 10 or above and considering being Confirmed next year you are invited to join our preparation programme that will be starting in January. Please email the Parish Office so that an application form can be emailed back to you. Please return it to the Parish Office as soon as possible

8. GODLY PLAY is a creative and engaging way of praying with children, young people and even adults! Telling stories helps us explore God's story, Bible stories, our own story, and where we fit in to it all. Are you involved with, or interested in Godly Play? Join members of the Diocesan Formation Team on Zoom, on Saturday 21st November at 10.30am. Please contact rosie.read@abdiocese.org.uk for booking information.

9. THE DIOCESAN WEBSITE has been updated and the new address is: www.abdiocese.org.uk

10. ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL is looking to recruit a practising Catholic to join our Governing Body as a Foundation Governor. The Governing Body work as a team in co-operation with the Headteacher to ensure legal responsibilities are met and to preserve the Catholic character of the school. Lack of experience should not deter you from expressing an interest if you have a genuine desire to serve the school by devoting your time & expertise. The Governors of English Martyrs School Community are committed to a working environment that is diverse and all inclusive. For further information please contact the school on 01903 502868.

11. MARY'S MEALS: We are now in particular need of Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Soap and Flannels. Many thanks

12. TURNING TIDES (WCHP) WISH LIST: Many thanks to all who so kindly donated in recent weeks for the Harvest Collection. It was much appreciated. Please could you donate: Squash, Sugar, small Juices, Tinned Meats, Corned Beef, Tinned Rice Pudding. Peanut Butter, Sandwich Spread, Instant Noodles, Mayonnaise, Cereal Bars, Microwave Rice, Tinned Custard, Instant Mash, Crisps/Sweets and Jam. There is a blue box in the West Porch for your donations. Many thanks in advance

FATHER LIAM SAYS: The Crimean War (1853-56) was known at the time as the Russian War and it arose from Russian ambitions to expand westwards and southwards into the Ottoman Empire. Britain, France and Turkey resisted these efforts but at terrible costs. Florence Nightingale's role in the war is better known perhaps than any other participant in the struggle. There is a painting of Florence Nightingale in the National Portrait Gallery but the title given to it is 'The Mission of Charity'. With Miss Nightingale there are army doctors, Turkish dignitaries and many others greeting the straggling line of wounded soldiers returning from the Crimean battlefields. The focus of the picture is not on Florence Nightingale but on a nun standing beside her. This Sister of Mercy is Mother Mary Moore – hence the title of the painting – 'The Mission of Charity', With four other Sisters of Mercy she volunteered together with other Catholic and Anglican sisters to help the casualties of the war. Mary Moore was born in Dublin in 1814 and at the age of 14 was among those who helped Catherine McCauley – the Foundress of the Sisters of Mercy – to look after homeless women and children in Dublin. In 1853, as Mother Superior of her community in Bermondsey, she volunteered with four of her community to help the war wounded in the Crimea. They were based in the Barrack Hospital in Scutari which was infested with lice, fleas and rats. One of the sisters wrote: 'Our home rats would run if you hushed them but Scutari rats would not take the least notice.' The number of patients varied between 1,900 and 2,500 during the Winter of 1854–5. The Bermondsey sisters were given charge of two of the wards and a corridor – a total of 150 beds.

As Winter set in, frostbite took its toll. Cloth froze to the soldiers' flesh and their boots sometimes had to be cut away, piece by piece. It was only after their work, late at night at Christmas 1854, that the sisters could celebrate the feast by kneeling before a little picture of the Christ child to sing a carol in hushed voices. From early 1855 cholera added to the miseries of the troops. One of the sisters in a letter home described it as 'the very worst type, the attacked man lasted only four or five hours. Oh, those dreadful cramps, you might as well try to bend a piece of iron as to move the joints.' Survivors were rare. Graves were shallow and there were no coffins. The air was putrid.

Winter gave way to the overpowering heat of Summer. Flies plagued the hospital by day and mosquitoes by night. Army doctors became concerned about the sisters' health. Lack of personal space was an additional torment. Mother Clare was placed by Florence Nightingale to be in charge of linen stores and the kitchen. Her main preoccupation was processing supplies. She wrote: 'I should have more comfort were I allowed to attend to the poor men who are sick or wounded – but I feel very happy in my present employment, which scarcely leaves me one moment all day long.'

Florence Nightingale herself was an administrator rather than a nurse. Her reputation as 'The Lady with the lamp' stemmed from her routine of late-night ward rounds. Mother Clare did the same. She wrote: 'our going about in our religious habits has done much good. We are constantly told of the many lives we have saved or that the wounds have gone on improving.' Another sister wrote: 'You would be surprised – the men never utter a bad word, nor an oath before us. If any chance to say what the others think too free in our presence, the whole ward cry out 'hush'.'

A second party of Sisters of Mercy in December 1854 left from Liverpool, Chelsea, Dublin, Cork and Carlow. The group was referred to as 'the Irish Sisters' to distinguish them from the 'Bermondsey Sisters'. Three more 'Bermondsey Sisters' arrived early in 1856. Now illness forced Mother Clare to leave for home. Florence Nightingale wrote to her: 'Your going home is the greatest blow I have had yet...I do not presume to express praise or gratitude to you, Reverend Mother, because it would look as if I thought you had done work not unto to God but unto me. You were far above me in fitness for the general superintendency, both in worldly talent of administration, and far more in the spiritual qualifications which God values in a superior. My being placed over you in our unenviable reign of the East was my misfortune and not my fault... My love and gratitude will be yours, dearest reverend Mother, wherever you go. I do not presume to give you any other tribute but my tears... But I should be glad that the Bishop of Southwark should know and Dr Manning... that you were valued here as you deserved and that the gratitude of the Army is yours,, Florence Nightingale.'

They always referred to one another as Miss Nightingale and Reverend Mother according to the etiquette of their day. They had a great friendship for each other though they were very different in personality. 'I am not like my dear Reverend Mother' Florence later wrote of her, 'who is never ruffled.' When Florence Nightingale came home in July 1856 she went directly to the Bermondsey Convent at 8.00 am before taking the train back to Lea Hurst where she lived and remained a constant visitor and correspondent for the next eighteen years.

In contrast to the adulation surrounding Florence Nightingale the Sisters received no honours until Queen Victoria bestowed a belated Royal Red Cross on the surviving Crimean Sisters at the Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 1897 –

thirteen years after Mother Clare's death. She died of pleurisy on 14th December 1874 aged 61. She had been busy about the opening of the school for poor girls in Eltham and had been travelling back and forth in bitter cold weather to buy clothing and furniture. The Parish Priest said at her funeral: 'There were no trumpets or headlines for Mother Moore. Hers was a humble, unobtrusive life, doing far more for God and suffering humanity than the accumulated acts of many others who with much noise and stir win the applause and glory of the world.'

From an article by Sister Penny Roker in a book entitled 'English Catholic Heroines'

FURTHER THOUGHTS: It strikes me that a hymn for our times is 'Lead Kindly Light' by John Henry Newman. As a young, Anglican priest in 1833 he had visited Italy where he tells us he visited many Catholic churches but did not attend any religious services. He was very anxious to get back to England and to his duties. He was becalmed for a whole week in the Straits of Bonifacio and it was then that he wrote the lines 'Lead Kindly Light' 'in no time at all', he says. Owen Chadwick, the Cambridge historian, refers to several publishers in England and the United States who included it in their Nineteenth Century hymn books but they altered it to suit their assessment of the market. Addressing God as 'Kindly light' was much too obscure or metaphysical for some, so they wrote 'Lord' or 'Saviour' to make it more Christian. Others felt that congregations might not be familiar with the term 'garish' but their attempts to use alternative words lacked the nuance of the original. Newman thought that the poem would not work as a hymn. With or without amendments it became hugely popular with Christian congregations of all denominations. At least four composers, including Sir Arthur Sullivan, set it to music.

An extra verse was added by Edward Henry Bickersteth in 1870. It seems he wanted something more assured in faith than the stanzas Newman wrote. He also wanted to make the hymn more suitable for singing at funerals so he added this, giving no indication that the extra verse was not part of the original.

'Meantime along the narrow, rugged path
Thyself hath trod.
Lead, Saviour, lead me home in childlike faith,
Home to my God,
To rest forever after earthly strife
In the calm light of everlasting life.'

The saintly Newman took Bickersteth to task in a remarkably restrained letter for representing this stanza as Newman's work. In a later edition of his hymnal in 1890 – the year of Newman's death – Bickersteth consigned this stanza to an Appendix but the damage had been done. His failure to clarify its origin in the first place had left Newman in the position of having to deny authorship of the stanza repeatedly in subsequent years

I think that Bickersteth's stanza, if not his behaviour, is excellent!

May God's Kindly Light
lead us all to
unity and peace
Fr. Liam.