

## Parish OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

22.11.2020

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### Christ The King



Saturday	21 <sup>st</sup>	Peter Ayre RIP
Sunday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Patrick, Jack & Mary Haugh RIP
Monday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	William Flynn RIP
Tuesday	24 <sup>th</sup>	The Parish
Wednesday	25 <sup>th</sup>	Intention of Thomas Duggan
Thursday	26 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Souls
Friday	27 <sup>th</sup>	Mr Potter RIP
Saturday	28 <sup>th</sup>	Catherine Bandy RIP
Sunday	29 <sup>th</sup>	Roger Davis RIP

**SATURDAY:** Reconciliation: 10.15–10.45 am

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17, Corinthians 15:20-26, 28, Matthew 25:31-46

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1,3-8, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:33-37

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Amelia MacDonald, 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: Richard Carrod, Pat Tasker, Donald MacDonald, Sarah Clarke, Sheila Shave, Francis Sloan, Dennis Bevans, Terry Van Melsen, Anne Hughes, George Maw, Reginald Austin. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

**3. ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL** - For families looking for a place for their child in Reception Class in September 2021, while visits to the school are not currently possible, there is a message from the Headteacher Dr Townsley and an opportunity to virtually look around the school and have a welcome talk from the Early Years teacher by visiting their website <https://www.englishmartyrs.w-sussex.sch.uk/> then Key Information/Admissions. Parents are more than welcome to ring the school on 01903 502868. As well as the WSCC on line application, the school has their own application form, available on their website or by e-mailing the school at [office@englishmartyrs.school](mailto:office@englishmartyrs.school). The closing date for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

**4. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 8.00 pm, Lessons commence on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 4.30 pm in The Barn and First Holy Communion will take place on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021.

**5. HOME START:** This Christmas is certainly going to be different and so Home Start Arun, Worthing and Adur are having to adapt. As in previous years, they still want to make sure every child has a present to open, to provide a Christmas food hamper to each family, and to continue their support through to the end of 2020...thus ensuring some festive joy. To reduce the number of 'hands' touching children's gifts and Christmas food hampers they plan to give the task of buying and wrapping to one member of staff and a small team of volunteers. This means that we will not be able to put gifts for the children under the Christmas Tree in church but they do still need our support – financially. To do this please go on line to [www.cafonline.org](http://www.cafonline.org) to Find a Charity. Enter HomeStart Arun, Worthing and Adur and follow the instructions. In the 'Add instructions for this Donation' box please mention English Martyrs Church and send them a Christmas message. I am hopeful that we will have Gift Aid envelopes available in the church for those who prefer to donate in cash or by cheque.

**6. AN ADVENT GROUP** will be commencing online on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 11.00 am. For further details please contact Dermot or Jane Anne via email on [dermot36@gmail.com](mailto:dermot36@gmail.com) or 07765403883 prior to the 30<sup>th</sup>

**7. CONFIRMATION 2021** will be celebrated in the Autumn. More information will be available in January

**8. MARY'S MEALS:** The Coronavirus pandemic is worldwide and Mary's Meals are unable to ship all the valuable items they have collected because the countries for whom they are destined are not receiving imports. As a result all their warehouses are full and, more locally, so is Tony's house. Therefore, for now please look after your items for Mary's Meals until the ports reopen and the items can be delivered to those very much in need. From now until the end of January our Government is prepared to match any donations Mary's Meals receives. For further information please see [marysmeals.org.uk/doublethelove](http://marysmeals.org.uk/doublethelove) or call 08006981212

**9. 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

**10. 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 please.

**11. 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.

**12. 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 21<sup>st</sup> November at 10.30am. Please contact [rosie.read@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:rosie.read@abdiocese.org.uk) for booking information.

**13. 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:** Some thoughts today about two women, both with strong Sussex connections, who both lived out their adult Catholic lives in the last century. Their journeys of faith – like the journeys of all of us – differed greatly but they both lived their Christian lives in inspiring ways. We don't know if they ever met each other but they were both baptised in Brighton when they were a few years old when their parents were received into communion with the Catholic Church.

Caryll Houselander was a writer and artist. At her birth in 1901 she was not expected to live more than a few hours. Her formal education was woefully mismanaged. In her teens she was sent to St Leonard's School in Mayfield, under the care of the Holy Child nuns. By the time she arrived at this rather grand boarding school she had become so conscious of her own eccentricities and her perceived lack of good looks, that she never really felt at home with other pupils. In her book 'A Rocking-Horse Catholic' she insisted that this was not the fault of the Sisters who showed remarkable patience with her. Their perceptiveness in dealing with her difficulties, she says 'did more than almost anything else in my school life to save my faith.' But for some years during her young adulthood she did not go to church. She developed an interest in Eastern Christianity and Russian culture.

When she returned to the practice of her faith, Caryll developed her artistic gifts and her vocation as a writer. This happened partly because of her involvement with an organisation called The Grail, which encouraged her to write for their journal. She also developed her skills as a woodcarver and a poet. She published 15 books and had a great capacity to convey the faith that she had re-embraced. 'She seemed to see everything for the first time' wrote Monsignor Ronald Knox. 'She seemed to find no difficulty in getting the right word, the telling word, that left you gasping.' In her book of 1941 'This War is the Passion', she sustained her readers through those difficult times by her ability to enter into the darkness with them and remind them of a horizon of hope. This book was published in an amended edition in 1947 under the title: 'The Comforting of Christ'. For Caryll, the war might have been over but the spiritual war was still very much on.

While she was able to write sublimely on Our Lord, his mother and the saints, she herself was far from being in some plaster-cast mode of holiness. For most of her life, Caryll smoked like a chimney, she was apt to swear and she liked a drink. As she grew older she had to exercise patience all the more. Her writing brought her an ever-increasing amount of correspondence to deal with. Many people who wrote to her or even knocked on her door were burdensome. She wrote to a young person towards the end of the war: 'The only thing that I can see that will help you is to learn to love yourself, to forgive yourself, to be kind to yourself, by looking outwards to God, by accepting the fact that you are infinitely loved by Infinite Love and that if you will only cease to build up notions of the perfection you demand of yourself and lay yourself open to that love, you will cease to fear and you will cease to be exhausted as soon as you stop fighting one part of yourself with another.'

Her capacity for insight into the damaged human soul was widely recognised. Dr Eric Strauss, the President of the British Psychological Society, sent a number of his patients to Caryll for what we now may call counselling, thought more closely resembled spiritual direction. 'She loved them back to life' he wrote. Given that in our day a nurse can be

suspended for even offering to pray for a patient, this arrangement seems extraordinary. More than anything else, Caryll knew that the true healer of such radical wounds in the personality is Christ himself.

In a letter to a friend in which she was relating the difficulties of dealing with all kinds of people, their demands and their weird ideas she has something hilarious to say: 'I truly believe that the best way to benefit humanity is to make faces in the bus – slightly mad faces, or putting out of the tongue suddenly at the person opposite. Think of the thrill that gives to countless uneventful lives to whom nothing ever happens. They can tell everyone for weeks that they saw a mad woman on the bus and they can exaggerate this to almost any extent. This form of charity can be practised on the way to work.'

In her early fifties Caryll was diagnosed with breast cancer only a few years after her mother had died from cancer. She worked on through her treatment which came too late; still comforting and cheering those who came to her, still pouring herself out until she was no longer able.

Nearly a million European Jews survived the Holocaust because of the efforts of the Catholic Church under the guidance of the much-maligned Pope Pius XII. There was a huge and generally clandestine humanitarian enterprise in hiding Jews from the Nazis and helping them to escape to safe countries. Leaders of occupied nations were in some instances persuaded to resist Hitler's orders to round up Jews for deportation.

Among those who took part in this gigantic work of charity was an English nun who was living and working in Rome during the Second World War. Mother Mary Richard Hambrough is credited with playing a vital role in saving the lives of more than 60 Jews by smuggling them in to her convent, the Casa di Santa Brigida where they hid from the Gestapo. Mother Mary Richard – known to her fellow nuns as Mother Riccarda – was born Madeleine Catherine in London in September 1887 and was baptised in the Church of St Mary Magdalen in Brighton when she was four years old, after her Anglican parents were received into the Catholic Faith. At the age of 24 she travelled to Rome to become a nun in the Bridgettine order, founded in the 14<sup>th</sup> century by St. Bridget of Sweden. Taking the religious name of Mary Richard she was soon chosen to be the assistant to the Abbess, Mary Elizabeth. At the outbreak of the War the efforts of Mother Riccarda were concentrated on helping the victims of the conflict.

When Italy changed sides in 1943, it became an occupied country and the Nazis began mopping up Italian Jews. In October of that year over a thousand Jews were arrested for deportation to Poland – on one day alone Pope Pius XII secretly ordered the Religious Houses to lift their enclosures and to shelter Jews and others fleeing persecution. This enabled about 5,000 Rome Jews to escape certain death. Hundreds of those were given refuge in the Vatican itself and the Papal Summer Residence, Castel Gondolfo. In monasteries and churches Jews were disguised as priests and given faked Baptismal certificates.

The Sisters at Casa di Santa Brigida under Mother Mary Elizabeth and Mother Riccarda were very much involved in hiding refugees, thus risking their own lives if their efforts were discovered. A year after the war, the chief Rabbi of Rome, Israel Zolli became a Catholic. He took as his Christian name Eugenio after Pope Pius – the previous Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli.

In 1999 Mother Mary Elizabeth, who had been Abbess at Casa di Santa Brigida was declared Blessed by Pope John Paul. She had died in 1957 and was succeeded as Abbess by Mother Riccarda until her own death in 1966 at the age of 79. Both are buried in the convent church where that had hid people from persecution. In 2004 Blessed Mary Elizabeth was recognised by the Jewish body Yad Vashem as one of the Righteous Among the Nations for her work in saving Jews from the Holocaust. It is unlikely that Mother Riccarda will be accorded this honour as it is the policy of the Commission that only the Mother Superior at the time when the Jews were hidden should be honoured in this way.

May God bless you,  
Fr. Liam.