

Parish OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

4.12.2020

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

The Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday	5 th	6.00 pm	Michael O'Driscoll RIP
Sunday	6 th	8.15am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Colette Devlin RIP
		6.00 pm	Polish Mass
Monday	7 th	9.30 am	Intention of Mary Angela Aitken
Tuesday	8 th	9.30 am	Holy Souls
		4.30 pm	1 st Holy Communion Class (Barn)
		7.00 pm	Maria Petter RIP (Mass)
Immaculate Conception Of Our Lady		7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	9 th	9.30 am	Ester Park RIP
Thursday	10 th	9.30 am	Holy Souls
Friday	11 th	9.30 am	Bernard Bandy RIP
Saturday	12 th	6.00 pm	The Parish
Sunday	13 th	8.15 am	Toni Judd RIP
		10.30 am	Intention of Sharon McClusky



SATURDAY: Reconciliation: 10.15–10.45 am and 5.15 – 5.45 pm

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11, 2 Peter 3:8-14, Mark 1:1-8

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11, St Paul to Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Peter Williams, 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: EILEEN KAVANAGH and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Angela McGowan, Bridget Daly, David Mitchell, Margaret Mould, David Mitchell, Chris Boucher, Nancy Leonard, Harry King, Cesare de Nero, Ida Crowley, Evelyn Foster, Ester Park, Daphne Day. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

3. THE VERY GOOD NEWS: Public Masses will have resumed. Entrance through the Main entrance and exit through the West Porch.

4. CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Thursday 24 th December	- 6.00 pm - First Mass of Christmas especially for children STRICTLY BY TICKET ONLY
	- 9.00 pm - Mass preceded by Carols from 8.45 pm
Friday 25 th December	- 8.15 am and 10.30 am Mass (10.30 am STRICTLY BY TICKET ONLY)
Saturday 26 th December	- 6.00 pm
Sunday 27 th December	- 8.15 am and 10.30 am Mass
Monday 28 th December	No Mass

TO OBTAIN A TICKET FOR THE 6.00 pm VIGIL MASS AND 10.30 am MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY: From next weekend please give your name and telephone number to one of the Stewards at the Sunday Masses and they will hand you a ticket(s) for each member of your family who will be attending. The tickets must be handed in at the Vigil Mass and the 10.30 Mass and are not interchangeable.. Alternately collect a ticket from the Parish Office Monday – Friday between 10.30 am – 12.30 pm. There are 70 tickets in total for each of these Masses and will be distributed on a first come basis.

5. 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. The closing date for applications is 15th January 2021.

6 THE REPOSITORY will be open following the 10.30 am Mass on Sundays for the sale of Christmas Cards and small Christmas gifts

7. THE EDGE YOUTH GROUP is now meeting ONLINE. Anyone in school Year 7 and up are warmly invited to join us for fun, faith exploration, and prayer. Our next meeting will be SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER 7 - 8pm Contact Niall for details and the Zoom link: nfarrell@stromeros.co.uk

8. 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 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.

9. 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 or call 08006981212

10. 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: In today's Mass we have the opening words of St Mark's Gospel: 'The beginning of the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, The Son of God.' There is no reference in the text itself as to who wrote it. It is by far the shortest of the four gospels that form part of the New Testament and it is generally accepted to have been the first of them. The Gospels are the books most revered by Christians of all the writings of the Bible. 'Gospel' is the old English word for 'Good News' and Mark invented this form of literature. The Gospels are the accounts of some of the deeds and words of Jesus written from the conviction that he died and rose again to save us and that he is the 'Son of God. The followers of Jesus had passed on by word of mouth what he said and did but it was not until Peter and Paul had been put to death in Rome during the fierce persecution of Christians begun by the Emperor Nero in 64AD that the urgent necessity of having an authentic written account was first seen. Mark is thought to have been a co-worker of both Peter and Paul. Before any of the Gospels had been written Paul and others had hand-written letters of encouragement to various infant Christian communities; some of these too in time became recognised as having been inspired by the Holy Spirit and were acclaimed to be part of the Divine Scriptures.

Who decided which books were part of the Bible? The Bible itself does not give us a list. There were many revered books about Jesus but who could authoritatively state which were inspired? It was Pope Damasus who was elected Pope in 366. On Bible Sunday we have a lot to thank St Damasus for and his great spiritual helper, St Jerome.

We also thank our present Pope. Pope Francis has written a book in response to the pandemic – the first book ever written by a Pope in response to a major world crisis. It is entitled 'Let us Dream: The Path to a Better World Future'. It is published by Simon & Schuster at £10.99. Please don't buy me a copy as I already have one! But you might like to buy one for yourself and perhaps for others. In his reflection on the Covid-19 Pandemic he pays tribute to women as frontline workers and he suggests that female leaders had handled the crisis better than their male counterparts. 'A sign of hope in this crisis is the leading role of women. Women have been at the same time among the most affected and the most resilient in this crisis'. 'affected, because they are more likely to be on the front line of the pandemic – about 70% of all those working in health care world-wide are women – but also because they are harder hit economically while working in the informal or unpaid sector. The countries with women as Presidents or Prime Ministers have on the whole reacted better and more quickly than others, making decisions swiftly and communicating them with empathy.'

Pope Francis poses the question: 'Could it be that in this crisis the perspective women bring is what the world's needs at this time to face the coming challenges? The 83 year old Pope argues that female economists offer fresh thinking and a possible blueprint for the new kind of economy the crisis has shown the world needs. 'For me it's clear: We must redesign the economy so that it can offer every person access to a dignified existence while protecting and regenerating the natural world.' He highlights the work of Mariano Mazzucato and Kate Raworth who are seeking to overhaul models obsessed with growth in gross domestic product as the single over-riding goal. 'I see them advocating a more 'material' economy, one that is not focused solely on growth and profit but asks how economies can be geared to helping people to participate in society and thrive.' He says that qualified women should have equal access to leadership, equivalent salaries and other opportunities. The right to these has been one of the great social gains of modern times.

Pope Francis is very aware that much more should be done in the structure of Church governance to promote the involvement of women. He has made advances in securing this in the workings of the Vatican but he realises that progress is far too slow. He is meeting with much opposition by those operating the levers of power but he certainly has not abandoned his efforts. He himself is showing extraordinary resilience. The fact that he is not as successful as he would like does not prevent him from pressing on with reforming the Curia and at the same time trying to encourage necessary changes in the wider world. He 'sees this crisis as a threshold moment' according to the English journalist, Austen Ivereigh, who has facilitated this book 'in which we can choose or refuse change.' Covid-19 Francis says has unmasked other pandemics, such as the virus of indifference towards the elderly, the poor, the homeless, those on the margins of society.' He speaks of the anti-racist protests sparked by the death of George Floyd and the abuse crisis in the Church and the parallels with the # Me Too movement. He speaks of periods of crisis in his life that profoundly changed him. He challenges people to think about what they want a post-Covid world to look like so that this time the crisis might be used to make a better world. It is significant that there are four women in President Elect Biden's economic team

'Let us Dream' is about how God enters history, above all at times of suffering and crisis. It is about how we can open out to receive the Holy Spirit and the graces a merciful God holds out to us in tribulation, which we must be careful to seize and not resist. Austen Ivereigh who suggested to Pope Francis that he should write this book, felt that it read naturally and fluently. He told Francis that this would be the first book written by a Pope in which the Bishop of Rome would not sound slightly weird in English. Francis was pleased to hear it!

We wish the Pope a happy 84th birthday on 17th December

Perhaps if you are worried that a Christmas visit might pose a risk to you or to loved ones it might be wise to forego it this once. Like many priests, living far from their place of origin, I haven't spent a Christmas or New Year with my family since ordination – in my case 54 years. I don't think I was missed! But I do hope that those who are ill and frail can see their loved ones this Christmas. And what about Christmas Mass? People might ask your advice. Could I suggest that if people haven't been coming to Mass since March, Christmas would not be the right time to start again. Numbers are greatly restricted and we have to observe all the precautions about face-hands-space and ventilation. The church might be draughty as we are told to keep doors open to allow fresh air to circulate. Keep safe and keep one another safe!

May God bless you,
Fr. Liam,