

## Parish OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

13.12.2020

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

### The Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday	12 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	The Parish
Sunday	13 <sup>th</sup>	8.15am	Toni Judd RIP
		10.30 am	Intention of Sharon McClusky
Monday	14 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	John Peeney RIP
Tuesday	15 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Intention of Anne Halloran
		<b>4.30 pm</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Class (Barn)</b>
		<b>7.30 pm</b>	<b>Choir Practice</b>
Wednesday	16 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Nora Murphy RIP
Thursday	17 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Wellbeing of Mary Angela Aitken
Friday	18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Deceased members of the Petter Family
		<b>12.00 noon</b>	<b>REQUIEM FOR EILEEN KAVANAGH RIP</b>
Saturday	19 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	George & Neta Roe RIP
Sunday	20 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 am	<b>The Parish</b>
		10.30 am	Amelia MacDonald RIP
		6.00 pm	Polish Mass



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

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

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16, St Paul to Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38

**COLLECTIONS: Church: £852 Thank you for your generosity.**

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Dawn Copping, Peter Williams, 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: AMELIA MACDONALD** and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Desmond Monaghan, Mary Doran, Louis Hofmann, Raymond Dew, Frederick Franklin, Doris Dowling, Lilian Mutton, Mary Mackay, Ethel Baker, Margaret Mattingley, Noel Melling, Norah Murphy, Margaret Wadsworth, Inge Carey, Edna Turberville, Cyril Marshall, Muriel Day. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

#### **3. CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES**

Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	- 6.00 pm - First Mass of Christmas especially for children <b>STRICTLY BY TICKET ONLY</b>
	- 9.00 pm - Mass preceded by Carols from 8.30 pm
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	- 8.15 am and 10.30 am Mass <b>(10.30 am STRICTLY BY TICKET ONLY)</b>
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> December	- 6.00 pm
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> December	- 8.15 am and 10.30 am
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2020	-9.30 am

**4. TO OBTAIN A TICKET FOR THE 6.00 pm VIGIL MASS AND 10.30 am MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY:** please complete a small slip with your name, telephone number and which Mass you would like to attend. Hand the slip to the Steward and they will write the ticket number (s) on the slip and issue you with your ticket(s) – everyone requires a ticket including children. The slips will be used to compile lists to be used at the appropriate Christmas Mass. The tickets must be handed in at the Vigil Mass and the 10.30 Mass and are not inter-changeable.. 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. SHOULD I COME TO 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. Cardinal Vincent Nichols has suggested thinking of Christmas as 'The Octave of Christmas' and making your return within that time

**6 THE REPOSITORY** will be open following each Mass this weekend for the sale of Christmas Cards and small Christmas gifts

**7. 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 remain hopeful that we will have Gift Aid envelopes available in the church for those who prefer to donate in cash or by cheque.

**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 080069812129

**9. 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:** What we all would like to find is a path to a better future. 2020 has really been a horrendous year. How will the world's economies recover from it? How will the Church adjust to a new landscape? What should each one of us do differently in order to discover something positive from our experience? Pope Francis has been reflecting on these questions and has put his thoughts into print in a new book 'Let Us Dream'. He begins by pointing out that 'for a long time we carried on thinking we could be healthy in a world that was sick.' Covid, he suggests, with all its suffering and pain can be a time 'for sifting, for reviewing the past and where we have gone astray.' He reflects on some events of his life which were like 'Covid' moments and which caused him to review his life. When he was 21 he was fighting for his life as he underwent urgent surgery for the removal of the upper right lobe of one of his lungs. 'I have some sense of how people with Coronavirus feel as they struggle to breathe on ventilators. I had my first experience of limit, of pain and loneliness. It changed the way I saw life. For months I didn't know who I was and whether I would live or die. The doctors had no idea whether I'd make it either.' He had been, in 1957, in his second year of training for the priesthood. He speaks of people visiting him and trying to say helpful things most of which did not help. 'The one who spoke most deeply to me with her silence was Sister Maria who had taught me as a child and prepared me for my First Holy Communion. She took my hand, gave me a kiss, said nothing for a while and then eventually told me 'you are imitating Jesus.' She didn't need to say anymore. Her presence, her silence, was deeply consoling'. He says he came out of the experience 'better, more realistic. It allowed me the space to rethink my vocation.' Rather than train to be a Diocesan priest he decided to join the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) and he learned from Sister Maria how to relate to people who are ill. He speaks of a time much later when he had been in a position of leadership in his Order for some time. He realised that he had been 'very hard.' He was sent to Cordoba for nearly two years 'where they made me pay and they were right to do so.' He hardly ever left the house, just to go to the post office. 'It was a kind of lockdown, self-isolating, as so many of us have done lately and it did me good. It helped me to develop ideas. I wrote and prayed a lot.' The weirdest thing he did during this time when he was 'sent off the football field and put on the bench' was to read all 37 volumes of Ludwig Pastor's 'History of the Popes.' From where I am now I can't help wondering why God inspired me to read them. It was as if the Lord was preparing me with a vaccine. Once you know that Papal history, there's not much that goes on in the Vatican Curia and the Church today that can shock you. It's been a lot of use to me. The Covid of Cordoba was a real purification. It gave me greater tolerance, understanding, the ability to forgive and a fresh empathy for the powerless. And patience, a lot of patience which is the gift of understanding that important things need time. It was a period of growth in many ways, the kind of new growth that happens after a harsh pruning. But I must still be vigilant. That's what I must guard against in my work, that I don't fall back into the defects I had when I was a Religious Superior.'

Referring to the persecutions of peoples such as the Rohingya, The Ulghurs, the Yazidi, the Christians in Egypt, human trafficking, the deaths of hundreds of migrants in sea crossings or Desert tracks, the police killing of George Floyd and others he says 'let it not be said that we failed to act to restore the dignity of the peoples.' He calls for an 'integral economy, an ecology that is about much more than caring for nature. It is about caring for each other and fellow creatures of a loving God and all that implies. In other words, if you think abortion, euthanasia and the death penalty are acceptable your heart will find it hard to care about the contamination of rivers and the destruction of the Rain Forest.' Francis calls for an 'ecological conversion' and a sober, humbler lifestyle 'After all', he says, 'God meant the goods of the earth for all'

I liked Pope Francis imagery of reading all those volumes of Papal history as being like a vaccine, immunising him from succumbing to the shock of ongoing scandals in the Church. Vaccination has been one of the great medical breakthroughs in history. In 1796 an English doctor from Gloucester, Edward Jenner, discovered that injecting a small dose of the Cowpox virus into a healthy person had the effect of protecting that person from the much more serious Smallpox. At the time Smallpox was among the most deadly diseases in the world. If infected there was a 30% likelihood Of death. Those who survived ran the risk of blindness and other problems. Jenner created the world's first vaccine. The name 'vaccine' is derived from the Latin word for cow, linking it to the cowpox virus. He injected an eight year old boy James Phipps with Cowpox matter and then inoculated him with Smallpox and showed that he boy was protected. Within 5 years vaccination was being practised in many parts of the world. Jenner was hailed as the father of immunology long before his death in 1823. In 1853 the Vaccination Act was introduced making the vaccination mandatory in Britain and Ireland. There was much opposition to this as many people felt that their civil liberties were being eroded.

Now a Coronavirus vaccine has been approved and help is coming nearer. For the vaccine to be effective over 70% of the population need to be inoculated. Vaccinations are one of medicines greatest achievements. Most people realise that they are important and safe. But some are rather hesitant, especially when it comes to having their infants injected. We hope that their fears will be sensitively and properly addressed. And we must keep the existing controls in place. There is a concern however, that some people might look for information on-line where they might stumble on anti-vaccine sites which are a source of mis-information. Unfortunately it is easier to plant doubt in certain cases than it is to plant facts. In 1977 the World Health Organisation announced that Smallpox was eliminated – nearly two hundred years after Jenner's discovery. Thank God things move much quicker now.

