

## Parish OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

27.12.2020

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## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Saturday	26 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Intention of Nora & Thomas O'Toole and Family
Sunday	27 <sup>th</sup>	8.15am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Mary & Jack Haugh RIP
Monday	28 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Holy Souls
Tuesday	29 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Intention of Dori Cooper
Wednesday	30 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Holy Souls
Thursday	31 <sup>st</sup>	9.30 am	Intention of Mary Murphy
Friday	1 <sup>st</sup>	9.30 am	Intention of Eamon Charles McClusky
Saturday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	6.00 pm	Intention of Anne Steere
Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	8.15 am	Peter Sivyer RIP
		10.30 am	The Parish
		6.00 pm	Polish Mass



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

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Hebrews 11:8, 11-12,14-19; Luke 2:22-40

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

**COLLECTIONS:** Church: £388 Homestart £400 Thank you for your generosity.

**Contributions to the Christmas Crib will be sent to Christian Schools in the Holy Land**

**NEXT SUNDAY there will be a second collection for 'Turning Tides' (Worthing Churches Homeless Project)**

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** 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** and those whose anniversaries occur about now. Mary Walton, Patsy Mannion, Michael Jarvis, Ernest Hare, Cyril Woodgar, George Welch, Mark Zenkteler, Gordon Daniel, Elsie Butlin, Margaret Simpson, Harold Birch, Peter Giles, Veronica Parker, Effie Downs, Catherine Brooks, Ted Bellenger, Giulia Grainger, Father Enda Naughton, Lilian Willmoth, Marion Hack, John Bennett, Vivienne Clarke, Agnes Clarke, Phyllis Spratt, Thomas O'Meara, Janine North. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

**3. YOUR OFFERINGS AT THE CHRISTMAS MASSES** are your personal gift to Father Liam (Gift Aid applies). If you are not Gift Aiding, special envelopes are available in both porches that you might like to use to make your gift either beforehand or afterwards as we are unable to take up collections.

**4. CRIB DONATIONS:** We will be sending crib donations to Friends of the Holy Land. Every penny will help the poorest Christian families, especially in and around Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza and Israel, with education, employment, health or housing costs and initiatives. FHL is non-political and ecumenical. As we are unable to have our crib this year there is a basket in the West Porch for your donations.

**5. HOME START:** This Christmas is certainly 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 have not been 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. **We have Gift Aid envelopes available in the church for those who prefer to donate in cash or by cheque.**

**6. USED POSTAGE STAMPS FOR THE MISSIONS:** As the Christmas Cards start arriving please remember to rescue all those beautiful stamps, leaving about half an inch of envelope around the edges, (no more than this please as it makes them expensive to forward to the Missionary Society) and put them in the box in the Front Porch

**7. MARY'S MEALS:** There will be a special collection in January.

**10. TURNING TIDES:** Your donations are always very gratefully received. Many thanks for your continuing support

**FATHER LIAM SAYS:** I hope that Christmas Day went well for you – at least as well as could be expected in the circumstances. 'The Christmas Season' of course continues for two weeks more, though we won't be hearing any carols on the radio. I don't think there were many this year. There are Masses every weekday during Christmastide at 9.30 am, even on Bank Holidays. We are hoping that those who feel unable or insecure about coming to Sunday Mass might consider taking part in a weekday Mass where it is far easier to achieve social distancing. Even in 'Tier 4' we may continue with daily worship.

Pope Francis was not very pleased with the life-size nativity scene in St Peter's Square. The figures are pillar-like (and stand apart, respecting social distancing rules). One of them is an astronaut and another an executioner, to represent the death penalty. We, on the other hand, have representations only of Jesus, Mary and Joseph – we ourselves are the supporting cast!

Pope Francis has designated the Year 2021 as the Year of St Joseph. It is 150 years since St Joseph was declared Patron of the Universal Church and Pope Francis wishes to mark that anniversary. In an Apostolic Letter entitled 'With a Father's Heart' he encourages us to discover in St Joseph an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. These are times of great trouble to countless people all over the world. No doubt Pope Francis thought this would be a good time to place Joseph before us as we continue to cope with the difficulties that the pandemic is causing. Pope Francis has a great devotion to St Joseph and he wishes that we all might be more mindful of him.

The Pope celebrated the Mass of his inauguration as Bishop of Rome on the Feast of St Joseph -19<sup>th</sup> March he was pleased at the happy, having been elected on 13<sup>th</sup> March/. 19<sup>th</sup> March was the day that his Pontificate officially began. He didn't exactly choose the Feast of St Joseph as the occasion to begin his pontificate. Circumstances would have dictated that but no doubt he was pleased at the happy coincidence. He largely devoted his homily at that Mass to exploring the significance of St Joseph in the lives of the Church and in the life of all mankind who live on our planet and need to protect it. He emphasises the role of Joseph as protector of the Holy Family, Protector of the Church and protector of the environment.

As the New Year unfolds no doubt Pope Francis will suggest ways in which we might mark the Year of Joseph. He will find innovative ways in which to continue to bring Joseph to our attention and influence our devotional life and our environmental efforts. Some of you will remember that we had hoped to have had a new statue of St Joseph in our church. It was one of the ways in which we sought to mark the Fiftieth Anniversary of our church. We commissioned a statue to be carved in wood by the same firm that carved the beautiful image of Mary and the Christ child. The new statue of Joseph would match that statue in material and size and it will!

Like so many plans that Covid-19 has derailed, our statue of St Joseph has been delayed. We have on more than one occasion reminded them of the project and we have given them another reminder when the news of the Year of St Joseph was announced. Our hope is that it will be ready by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March – the Feast-day of Joseph. About a year ago we received a substantial cash donation anonymously towards the cost of the statue of St Joseph. I acknowledged it in the Newsletter at the time but, of course, could not personally thank the donor. No doubt that good person will be particularly pleased when the statue of St Joseph takes its place beside that of Mary and the Child. A renewed word of thanks to that donor. Maybe some more will follow the example set!

Pope Francis' remarks on the fact that St Joseph often goes un-noticed. 'St Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and gratitude is due to them all'. As Mary's husband and guardian of the Son of God, St Joseph turned 'his human vocation to domestic love into a super-human offering of himself, his heart and all his abilities, a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home'. Francis says that St Joseph's unconditional acceptance of Mary and his decision to protect her good name, her dignity and her life' even though he was troubled at first by her pregnancy, all serve as an example for men today. 'Today in our world where psychological, verbal and physical violence towards women is so evident, Joseph appears as a figure of a respectful and sensitive man.

The Apostolic Letter of Pope Francis continues: 'The Holy Family had to face concrete problems like every other family, like so many of our migrant brothers and sisters who today, too, risk their lives to escape misfortune and hunger. In this regard. I considered St Joseph the special patron of all those forced to leave their native lands, because of war, hatred, persecution and poverty. Christ's earthly guardian is also an example for both workers and those seeking employment and the right to a life of dignity for themselves and their families.

**Special thanks** to all those who worked so hard in keeping our church open as much as possible this year: Video recordist, Ministers of Holy Communion, Readers, Organists, Choir, Flower arrangers, Cleaners, Church decorators **and** all of you for being with us both in person and on-line.! A personal word of thanks for your kind Christmas greetings and your generous Christmas Offerings.