

Parish OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

18.04.2021

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

Presbytery 01903 242624 / Church repository 01903 506890

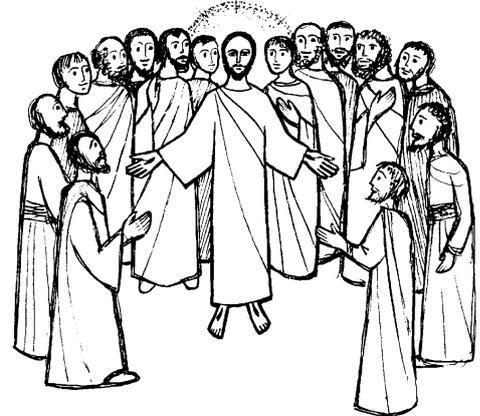
Email: emgoring@english-martyrs.co.uk Website: www.english-martyrs.co.uk

Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

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

Third Sunday of Easter

Saturday	17 th	6.00 pm	The Parish
Sunday	18 th	8.15am	Winifred Aherne RIP
		10.30 am	Intention of Cathy Hatton
		6.00 pm	Polish Mass
Monday	19 th	9.30 am	Maria Petter RIP
Tuesday	20 th	9.30 am	Mary Haugh RIP
Wednesday	21 st	9.30 am	Holy Souls
Thursday	22 nd	9.30 am	Michael Brazil RIP
Friday	23 rd	9.30 am	Intention of the Davitt Family
Saturday	24 th	6.00 pm	The Parish
Sunday	25 th	8.15 am	Winifred Aherne RIP
		1 0.30 am	Intention of Christopher (ill)



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

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19, 1 John 2: 1-5, Luke 24:35-48

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 4:8-12, 1 John 3:1-2, John 10:11-18

COLLECTIONS: Church: £301 Thank you for your generosity.

Next weekend there will be a Second Collection for The Education of Future Priests (Gift Aid)

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Norma Markham, Pat Duggan, Anne O'Halloran, Tony Grana, Sister Raymond, Liz Harvey, John Smith, Mick Brouder, Eileen Beech, Ian Threlfall, Thomas Duggan, Len Argent, Sister Catherine Lai, Justin Gould, Rose Little, Lelia Murray, Mary Murphy, Anne Steere, 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, Bill Hogg, Breda Schlimgen, Michaela Finn, Winifred Lyons, Yvette Allen, Kerry McStravick, Lydia Van Melsen

2. THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY: MAUREEN HOLLAND and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Max Welton, Joan Briggs, Jim Corcoran, Marie Stovold, Win Coughlan, Edna Catley, Hilda Goldrick, Ruth Evans, Pamela Axworthy, Mary Lambrou. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

3. CONFIRMATION 2021 will be celebrated in the Autumn. If you are in Year 10 or above and are considering joining the Confirmation course, via zoom, please email the Office (emgoring@english-martyrs.co.uk) for an Application Form. The course started last Thursday.

4. WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Sandy Curd has been The English Martyrs representative on the Ferring/Goring area committee of the International World Day of Prayer for many years. She feels that the time has now come for someone with fresh ideas to take over this role. If you would like to know more about what is involved please phone her on 01903 241236

5. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2021 CLASSES will resume **next** Tuesday 20th April in the Barn.

6. DONA CONTACTLESS AND ONLINE CHURCH DONATIONS: A steady decline in cash donations in recent years has been further exacerbated by the effects of the lockdown. At the suggestion of the Diocese we will, therefore, be introducing a new **cashless donation system** to the parish. This will enable you to make Chip & Pin or Contactless donations instead of cash. We hope to see it roll out within the next four weeks. Further information will be available shortly.

7. CAFOD: Thank you for your generous donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day during Lent. We featured Marian and her son Svondo in Zimbabwe in Lent 2018. The community vegetable garden that your donations helped provide is growing well and during the pandemic the family has survived on the vegetables. Your support has also helped to provide soap and handwashing stations in the garden and in family homes. This is just one of many long-term development projects that CAFOD has funded with the money from that Fast Day. Thank you for your steadfast support.

8. TURNING TIDES (WCHP): Items needed: Cereal bars, Tinned Meats, Gravy, Tinned Rice, Tinned Custard, Cooking Sauces, Tea, Coffee, Washing Powder, Shampoo, Shower Gel, Pump Hand Soap, Sanitizer Sprays, Floor cleaner, Toilet Bleach, Washing-up brushes, Men's razors, Deodorants, Sleeping Bags Many thanks to those who are so generous in their donations.

FATHER LIAM SAYS: One of the positive things from the past year of Covid has been the pleasure so many people have derived from appreciating more than before the wonders of nature. The singing of the birds has struck many people with a new force. They seem to have been singing louder than usual! There has been considerably less background noise, with less traffic on the ground and in the skies and many people have spent more time at home so we were more conscious of the music of the birds that has always been on the air.

Our eyes too have been opened to the beauty of the flowers and the trees and all the furniture of nature. One of the greatest English poets was Gerald Manley Hopkins, who was a tremendous admirer of nature and who constantly alerted us to its fragility. He bemoaned the contempt that we all too often show to the world around us and the damage we inflict on it. He was very much a poet for our time who calls us to see the grandeur of God displayed in his handiwork. He died in 1889 at the age of 45 but his poems were not published until 1918 – 29 years after his death. Like all works of art his poetry deserves much attention. In 'Binsey Poplars' he expresses his dismay that his "aspen dear" are 'all felled, felled, are all felled'. 'O if we but know what we do when we delve or hue Hack and Rack the growing Green'. Shall we look at his 'Grandeur of God'.

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed. Why do men then now not reckon his rod?
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs —
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

Hopkins is very conscious of the fact that human behaviour often falls far short of the ideal. He is painfully aware in 'God's grandeur' how in a scramble for wealth, generations have despoiled the world around them. 'All is seared with trade, bleared, smeared with toil, and wears man's smudge and shares man's smell'. He laments that 'the soil is bare now', expressing deep concern with environmental pollution. Despite this nature – given an opportunity – has the capacity to be renewed, despite our abuse: 'And for all this nature is never spent, There lives the dearest freshness deep down things'. Just as surely that daylight disappears 'off the black West' morning springs from the East, so too new life can emerge from the disfigured earth: 'Because the Holy Ghost over the bent World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings'.

Hopkins has a deep faith in the Holy Spirit. The 'bent world' might refer to the curvature of the earth as the sun turns night into day, but he certainly is referring to the pathetic state of a world 'bent over' by human folly. He pictures the Holy Spirit hovering with a warm, tender presence, lovingly nurturing new life into our world at all levels. He uses the image of a bird gently hatching her chicks and powerfully protecting them with her bright wings.

Gerald Manley Hopkins was born in London in 1844 and studied at Balliol College, Oxford where he struck up a lasting friendship with the poet Robert Bridges. Hopkins followed John Henry Newman into the Catholic Church in 1866 and was ordained a Jesuit Priest in 1877. He taught at the Jesuit's School at Stonyhurst and in 1884 he became Professor of Greek at University College, Dublin. He was not happy there and felt himself to be an abject failure. He was very disappointed that his Jesuit Superiors would not allow him to publish his poetry. He writes of not knowing whether to blame 'dark heavens' baffling ban for this or 'hell's spell'. His poetry, which was 'the wisest his heart breeds' he had to 'hoard unseen'. In Ireland he feels estranged from everyone – 'To seem the stranger lies my lot, my life'. His family 'are in Christ not near' as he was the only one to have become a Catholic. It was his friend Robert Bridges who – just over 100 years ago – published his poetry.

In the last years of his short life he suffered from declining health and depression. In his poem 'Thou art indeed just Lord' he tries to make sense or to describe the 'non sense' of his own life. He is trying to come to terms with the situation of not being able to find a means to be heard: 'Why do sinner's ways prosper? And why must disappointment all I endeavour end'. In his poem 'No worse there is none, Pitched past pitch of grief' he cries out 'Comforter, where, where is your comforting? Mary, mother of us, where is your relief?' The awful depths of darkness and despair that engulf him are captured in the lines: 'O the mind, mind has mountains; cliffs of fall, Frightful, sheer, no-man fathomed.' He writes of 'the black hours, hours I mean years, mean life'. He hints that his whole life is like a troubled sleepless night. He compares himself to the damned. 'The lost are like this, and their scourge to be as I mine, their sweating selves; but worse.' Hopkins has become a source of inspiration for so many who like him wait in hope 'for unforeseen times' when God will for them 'light a lovely mile'.

Shall we conclude with some lines from 'Spring':

I am indebted to an article by P. Brennan

Nothing is so beautiful as Spring –
When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush;
Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush
Through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring
The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing;
The glassy pear tree leaves and blooms, they brush
The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush
With richness; the racing lambs too have fair their fling.