

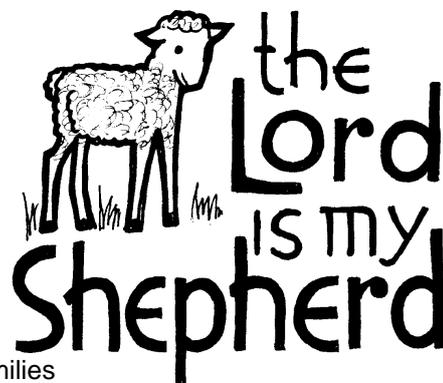
## Parish OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

25.04.2021

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

### Fourth Sunday of Easter

Saturday	24 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	The Parish
Sunday	25 <sup>th</sup>	8.15am	Winifred Aherne RIP
		10.30 am	Intention of Christopher (ill)
Monday	26 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Maureen Corrigan RIP
Tuesday	27 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	John Smith RIP
Wednesday	28 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Holy Souls
Thursday	29 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Margaret Dunne RIP
Friday	30 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Intention of L & J Adams
		<b>11.00 am</b>	<b>REQUIEM OF MAUREEN HOLLAND RIP</b>
Saturday	1 <sup>st</sup>	6.00 pm	Deceased Members of the Murphy & Staunton Families
Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Lily O'Brien RIP
		6.00 pm	Polish Mass



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

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

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Acts 9:26-31, 1 John 3:18-24, John 15:1-8

**COLLECTIONS: Church: £363 Thank you for your generosity.**

**This 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** and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Stella Broadhead, Bernard Joyce, Mike Begley, Monica Day, Bernard Stone, Roy Jacobs, Margaret Dunne, Anne Wesley, John Field  
*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, in the Barn, please email the Office ([emgoring@english-martyrs.co.uk](mailto:emgoring@english-martyrs.co.uk)) for an Application Form. The course has already started..

**4. 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. **A short introduction video is available to view on the front of the parish website.**

**5. CAFOD Parliament in your Parish** is about engaging with our MP's to plan a better post-COVID world. This year the UK hosts both the G7 meeting of rich countries, discussing overseas Debt & Aid, and the Cop26 Climate Summit. It's important to hold our politicians accountable after the Pandemic to rebuild in a way that addresses the world's most pressing ecological and social issues. Pope Francis in his recent document 'Fratelli tutti', calls and urges us to be involved in the politics of 'renewing our troubled society'. In response to that call we are inviting Catholics of all ages from Worthing, Rustington, Lancing, Shoreham Parishes to join us in a Zoom meeting with our MP's Sir Peter Bottomley & Tim Loughton, to just listen to or join in a discussion on climate change, debt, Aid budget, and to encourage our MPs to take any actions we, or they, may think appropriate. Please email: [rod.504t@ntlworld.com](mailto:rod.504t@ntlworld.com) if you would like to be included and the name of your MP, and we will keep you informed. The Zoom link to be sent when date is confirmed. For more info. see <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Reclaim>

**6. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2021 CLASSES** have resumed on Tuesdays in the Barn.

**7. 10-16<sup>th</sup> MAY IS MARRIAGE WEEK**, a time for us to celebrate the joy and blessings of marriage. Pope Francis reminds us that "Marriage is like a plant. It is not an armoire, which is placed there, in the room, and it's enough to dust it every once in a while. A plant is alive, and it needs to be cared for every day: to see how it is doing, to give it water, and so it goes. Marriage is a living reality: the life of a couple should never be taken for granted, in any phase of a family's journey." *Pope Francis, 21<sup>st</sup> December 2015* Why not take some time this week to really find some time to talk to your spouse and nurture your marriage.

**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:** Pope Francis frequently laments the prevalence of clericalism in the Catholic Church. Clericalism means clergy having an excessive influence on the lives of the people of God. It is the situation where priests and bishops are placed, or place themselves, on a pedestal where they are considered to be above scrutiny and whose views carry an inordinate weight. He encourages us to see ourselves as belonging to a wounded Church at the service of all God's fragile children. He uses the image of a field hospital after battle. Recognising our brokenness enables us to constantly turn to the Lord for healing in a spirit of humility and compassion for others. He wants to encourage a collaborative form of leadership, not vertical and clerical but more horizontal and co-operative. In every diocese most of the consultative bodies are composed entirely of priests – the Deans, the Canons, the Council of Priests among others. The great majority of the members of the Church are not given the opportunity to really be full and equal members of the Church, which the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation accords them. Pope Francis sees us as being called to walk together. This is the meaning of a synodal church. It means a church where we strive to have a servant leadership. This is the kind of leadership Christ himself showed: 'The Son of Man has come not to be served but to serve and to give his life for the salvation of all.' 'I am among you as one who serves' he says. It is the kind of leadership he encouraged his apostles to adopt: 'Whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant and whoever wants to be first among you be servant to all.' (Mark 10: 44-45)

The next Synod of Bishops of the worldwide Church will be held in Rome in October next year. The theme will be 'For a Synodal Church, Community, Participation and Mission'. Pope Francis wants to create a more decentralised Church, giving more responsibility back to the dioceses and to the people in the pews. A Synodal Church is one where we walk together and seek to explore together the challenges we encounter and the remedies we should employ. There are regular Synods of Bishops of the world-wide Church, sometimes a Conference of Bishops suggests there should be a synod for their area of the country. There will be a Synod for the Irish Church in the next three or four years. Preparing and consulting have already begun. It is not just the event that is important but the whole process of preparing. This is how synodality develops – by being exercised. As part, no doubt, of a very large agenda, the decision about a new Lectionary will be taken syndally in Ireland. The Catholic Church in Ireland has been languishing for a very long time. The hope is that a healthier and renewed Church will emerge. Sometimes a decision is taken to have a synod in individual dioceses. There have been some synods at diocesan level in England and Wales. It would not be surprising if the Bishops of England and Wales decided to consider having a National Synod. It would be surprising if they did not consider it. So many changes have already begun to take place in our society for a variety of reasons including, of course, the pandemic. Our church will be a different church when we emerge from the clutches of Covid-19. We are being told how important it is to build better back. This may very well be a good time to take synodality seriously/

Synodality is the medicine the Church needs to combat clericalism, which has too strong a stranglehold on the Church. There has been great emphasis on the role of bishops to be teachers. There has not been enough thought given to the importance of them being listeners and learners. In the Church we must all listen to, and learn from, one another and the Lord.

Whether there is a national synod or not; whether there will be a diocesan synod or not, there will be a need for conversations to be had at parish level beginning later this year when, please God, the pandemic will have receded and we begin to see the new lie of the land. We must develop a greater sense synodality in our own patch as we hesitantly take up the challenge of walking together into an uncertain future. But then the future is by definition uncertain. So the challenge before us is the challenge faced by those who have travelled this path before us. Our parish is under the patronage of the English Martyrs. If we ask them to help us, they will not be found wanting. Recently the International Theological Commission produced an important study on 'Synodality in the Life and Mission of the Church', which was approved by Pope Francis. Speaking of parish life, it acknowledged that 'there is a need to overcome the obstacles resulting from the laity's lack of formation and from the lack of recognised opportunities for them to express themselves and be active, as well as a need to counter the obstacles resulting from a clerical mentality, which is in danger of relegating them to the margins of church life.'

In the First Letter of St Peter we are told 'you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people to be a personal possession to declare the qualities of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people and now you are the people of God.' (2:9,19) Pope Francis is encouraging us to be the people God has called us to be, as the early Christians were encouraged in this Letter of Peter.