

Parish OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

1.08.2021

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

Eighteenth Sunday of the Year

Saturday	31 st	6.00 pm	Kathleen O'Halloran RIP
Sunday	1 st	8.15am	Intention of Mary Sullivan
		10.30 am	The Parish
		6.00 pm	Polish Mass
Monday	2 nd	9.30 am	No Mass
Tuesday	3 rd	9.30 am	Maria Petter RIP
		7.00 pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	4 th	9.30 am	Kathleen Keohane RIP
Thursday	5 th	9.30 am	Walter & Kathleen Drohan RIP
Friday	6 th	9.30 am	Special Intention (BM)
Saturday	7 th	6.00 pm	The Parish
Sunday	8 th	8.15 am	Intentions of the Bishop Family
		10.30 am	Michael Murphy RIP

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

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 16:2-4, Ephesians 4:17, 20-24, John 6:24-35

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: 1 Kings 19:4-8, Ephesians 4:30-5:2, John 6:41-51

COLLECTIONS: Church: £213 + £67 digital collection

Thank you for your generosity.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: John Iago, Siobhan Isaacs, Valerie Halley, 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, 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: Brenda Allen, Douglas Kirkby, Doris Smith, Roger Stubbs, Kathleen Winsall, John Flood, Eileen Scott, Rosemary Brown, David Dandeker, Celiska Haslegrave *May they rest in peace and rise in glory.*

3. WELCOME TO ANY VISITORS to our Parish this weekend. We do hope that you have enjoyed your stay

4. AN ACTIVE CHURCH? We certainly were an active church and the time has come to resume activities. We are missing the Little Angels Mother and Toddler Group, the Little Angels Music Group and the Friday afternoon 'Friendship in the Barn'. I am sure that once they are up and running they will be well supported. I am equally as sure that the organisers of these groups will be looking for helpers without whom they will be unable to function. This is an appeal for volunteers for each of these groups. Please contact the office, details above, and I will pass your name on to the leader.

5. OUR CHURCH is looking a little more 'normal' with all the benches now available for use with seat cushions. However, there are signs reminding you that Social Distancing – 1 meter – is still necessary as is the wearing of face masks and the use of hand sanitiser. This week we will have the joy of singing the entrance hymn and the final hymn, words on hymn sheets, but through face masks so you need to sing up! Stewards who have assisted so well for so many months will continue their good work so please watch out for them, particularly during Holy Communion.

6. REDUNDANT IPADS AND LAPTOPS are desperately needed by the Gatwick Detainees' Welfare Group. An IT company has agreed to 'clean' devices to remove any data. These devices can enable a person whether in detention or after release, to help themselves; to access classes for speakers of other languages, to communicate with friends, family, our staff, their volunteer visitor and to access resources such as Food Banks and to join our post detention services. Contact Josie at: josie@gdwg.org.uk. Thank you.

7. WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES MASS will be taking place at St Joseph's Guildford, on Saturday 9th October, at 11.30 am, with Bishop Richard. For couples and their families celebrating a landmark or significant anniversary. Numbers limited to 150. Parking off site. You can sign up by clicking [here](#) or go via the diocesan website's event calendar – www.abdiocese.org.uk

8. MARY'S MEALS: We need Flannels, Colouring Pencils and Crayons and serviceable towels (any size). Received a letter this morning thanking us for the latest 30 packs. Many thanks to all who so generously contribute to these backpacks as they enable children to go to school and be fed a nourishing meal.

9. TURNING TIDES (WCHP): Items needed: Cereal bars, Sugar, Coffee, Small Juices, Cooking Oil, Squash, Carton Milk, Crisps. also Hand Sanitisers, Liquid Soaps, Shampoo, Toilet Rolls, Kitchen Rolls, Toilet Cleaner, Washing Powder, Washing Liquid, Cream Cleaner, Black Sacks, Sandwich Bags, Ante-Bac Spray, Cereal Bowls, Small Tents, Bath Towels. Single Duvets. Men's Jeans, Jogging Bottoms, (Small/Medium) Men's Boxers (New please) Many thanks to those who are so generous in their donations.

FATHER LIAM SAYS: Many people enjoy visiting old churches and there are many interesting and historical ones in all parts of the country. West Sussex has several ancient churches well worth visiting. I just mention a few in the hope that you might be tempted to visit some of them now that we are getting more mobile again. There is such a treasury all around us which perhaps we tend to overlook. Maybe this year when people may not be tempted to holiday abroad we might decide to explore near to hand.

St. John the Baptist church in Clayton is much visited. It has some of the best preserved early medieval wall paintings in England. Christ depicted three times in the chancel, with Christ in Majesty at the pinnacle of the arch, praying for the world. To the left Christ is handing a large key to St. Peter and on the right he is handing a weighty book to St Paul. Most early medieval art in England reveal a strong Byzantine influence. It is thought that the images in Clayton were picked up from icons which were prevalent in early English churches and monasteries and easily transported from overseas. Clayton's paintings might be as early as 1080 and are considered to date no later than the 12th century. The church is Anglo-Norman, built around the time of the Conquest. Like other churches of the time dedicated to the Baptist, the church floor is below ground and you step down into the building mimicking the action of entering water for baptism. The paintings are true frescoes – images painted onto the plaster while it was still wet. The artist had two main colours. Other colours – being more expensive – were used more sparingly. The Postal Code is BN6 9PJ. It is 1.5 km from Hassocks Railway station. The church is in the middle of the small village. It is, I believe, unlocked during the day.

The tiny, unnamed chapel in the tiny hamlet of Coombes, near Lancing, is the unlikely location of some of the finest medieval Christian art in West Sussex. The images are comparable to the wall paintings at Clayton, eight miles away. Chief among them show a young Christ being carried to Egypt on a donkey, led by St Joseph. There is also a well preserved figure propping up the chancel. Dating from the 12th century the paintings have a limited colour range. Some scenes, such as Christ in Majesty over the chancel and are now very faded. The building and setting are an absolute delight – a little Norman chapel half buried in the hillside of a tranquil river valley. You turn off the main Coombes Road at Church Farm and park where the road ends, 100 yards below the church. It is a short but fairly steep walk up the hill. The church, I am told, is unlocked every day. For details www.coombes.co.uk Postcode BN15 0RS. The farm also welcomes visitors.

Hardham, near Pulborough, is one of the best places in England to see how a medieval church would have looked before Tudor monarchs outlawed its images, banned its paintings and imposed a new form of worship. Of around ten thousand medieval churches that survive, fewer than ten per cent retain significant remains of their original wall paintings. Innumerable others have been destroyed. Many were whitewashed out. The ones that survive have been discovered when the whitewash has been removed and now are faded versions of their former selves. Hardham's church of St Botolph indicates how their rich and vivid displays transformed the interior of so many churches with impressive colours and art. Other churches have paintings in better condition but the extent of the surviving artwork makes Hardham special. The church interior would have been overwhelming when seen in its original condition. It has one of the longest portrayals of Christ's life in early medieval English and its frescos of Christ's infancy – the Annunciation, the Nativity, the Magi, the Massacre of the Innocents and the Flight into Egypt. Directly over the altar area Christ is depicted as the Lamb of God. Much of the Chancel is filled with scenes of the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve appear as medieval farmers engaged in tasks that would have been familiar to the congregation. Eve is shown milking a cow and Adam is harvesting fruit. After the fall, they are pictured sitting back to back, lost in regret. They were painted in the 12th century probably by local artists. It has vast differences of style to Clayton's church 16 miles to the west. Hardham is less than a mile from Pulborough, on the A29 down a side road and is open during the day. The church was once dedicated to St George and he is depicted on either side of an entrance door. He is shown fighting infidels rather than a dragon so it is thought that it reflects the First Crusade around the year 1100.

These wall paintings added great colour to people's lives and gave great dignity to the church building as the House of God. They strengthened the Christian faith of the people and strengthened their sense of community. They provided inspiration for their faith and personal devotion. In an age when most people could not read they were powerful reminders of the great truths of Christ's death and Resurrection and of our call to follow him. When the 16th century Reformation swept traditional religion aside, wall paintings were among the many casualties. Like other religious imagery they were suspected of fomenting idolatry and suspicion. Three hundred years later, during the Victorian restoration of many churches, some of these paintings were discovered behind up to thirty coats of whitewash and centuries of grime. Fortunately those at St Botolph's were saved. Too often others were not.

For centuries generations of Catholic worshippers when they gathered for Mass and other services drew hope from the visions of courage and redemption that glowed from the walls of their churches. They were transported from the drudgery and hardships of daily struggle and given new heart. As they gathered for Latin Mass these paintings were far more than objects of art. They helped to bring new vigour and enthusiasm to their lives of faith.

*May God bless you,
Fr. Liam.*