

Parish OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

2.01.2022

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

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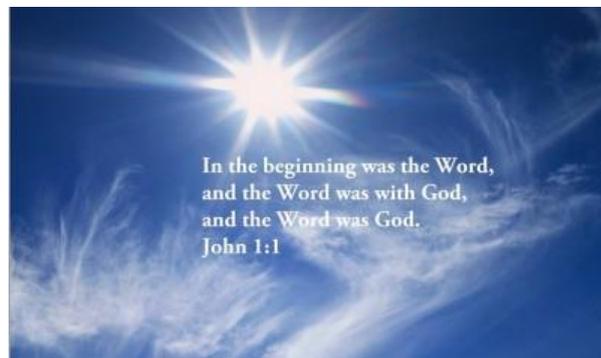
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Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

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

The Second Sunday after Christmas

Saturday	1 st	6.00 pm	Sr Elizabeth Campbell RIP
Sunday	2 nd	8.15am	Joan Williams RIP
		10.30 am	The Parish
		6.00 pm	Polish Mass
Monday	3 rd	9.30 am	No Mass
Tuesday	4 ^h	9.30 am	Private Intention (MM)
Wednesday	5 th	9.30 am	Stephen Holbrooke RIP
Feast of the Epiphany	6th	9.30 am	Antonio Maccarrone RIP
Friday	7 th	7.30 pm	Reg Marshall RIP
Saturday	8 th	9.30 am	Holy Souls
Sunday	9 th	6.00 pm	Michael O'Driscoll RIP
		8.15 am	Charles Hayes RIP
		10.30 am	Kathleen Herron RIP



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

The Feast of the Epiphany on Thursday would normally be a Holy Day of Obligation

TODAY'S READINGS: Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2,8-12; Ephesians 1:3-6,15-18; John 1:1-18

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah: 40:1-5,9-11; Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7, Luke 3:15-16,21-22

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

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

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Ken Harvey, Sienna Coates, Kathleen Brennan, Chris Judge, Brian Caplin, Valerie Halley, Pat Duggan, Tony Grana, Sister Raymond, John Smith, Mick Brouder, Eileen Beech, Ian Threlfall, Thomas Duggan, Len Argent, Sister Catherine Lai, Justin Gould, Rose Little, Lelia Murray, Mary Murphy, Margaret Birch, Lita Yong, Patrick Ryan, Brenda Peazold, Mary Wessel, Gina Palermo, 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: ANTONIO MACCARRONE and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Agnes Clarke, Phyllis Spratt, Thomas O'Meara, Janine North, Bob Carey, John Donald, Maureen Barrass, Patricia Wyant, Charles Simpson, Herbert Foreman, Beryl Snadden, Brenda McDonald, Donald Perriman, Peggy Smith, Fiona Hague, Kathleen McCarney, Mary Castanes, Anna De Vido, Catherine Bennett, Anna Rofe, Lilian Shaw.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

3. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2022: Is your son or daughter in Year 3 this term? If so, they are at the age where they can start the preparation course for First Holy Communion. Please collect a letter and application form from the Sacristy and return it to the Parish Office as soon as possible. The first meeting for parents will be **next Thursday 6th January** at 8.00 pm in The Good Shepherd Chapel and the first lesson for the children will be on Tuesday 11th January

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.

5. CHILDRENS' LITURGY is back up and running! Bring your young children to the 10.30am Sunday Mass and join us in the barn for our liturgy, which is suitable for all ages, until they have made their 1st Holy Communion. Volunteers are desperately needed to join the rota for delivering the Childrens' Liturgy. All resources are provided, and it would only be once every 4-6 weeks, depending on how many volunteers come forward. Catch Peter Clarke after 10.30am Mass for further details.

6. THE 'CAFOD AUCTION' AND SUPPER will be held in The Barn on Saturday 22nd January 2022 at 7.00 pm. Please remember to save any 'surplus' gifts or unused items for the Auction. For collection/information call Charles on 01903 505546 Tickets for sale next weekend.

PLEASE REMEMBER to follow the COVID rules, masks, hand-sanitiser, social distancing, taking all papers away with you, hymn books returned to either porch AND, most importantly, going to Holy Communion row by row – out one end of the bench and back by the other end.

7. SYNOD MEETINGS have had to be curtailed due to the virus. We hope to conclude them in January.

8. WHAT IS YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION? Or should it be '**YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU!**' We are a busy parish with many good things happening in it but these only can happen if you are prepared to join in. At the moment help is needed with Readers, Children's Liturgy and Flower Arranging. At the beginning of April we open again to the public who wish to come and view the ceiling and our lovely stained glass windows. There is much to do but we really do need you to come and help where you can. Please contact Anne in the Parish Office for further information and with your offers of assistance.

9. JUSTICE & PEACE ASSEMBLY WEBINAR: 'To a Safer Shore?': 15th January, from 9.45 am for 10 am to 1 pm, will now take place online. More details and to book go to 'To a Safer Shore? Spotlights refugees, highlighting what we can do to help.' | Arundel & Brighton Catholic Diocese (abdiocese.org.uk) or contact Tessa Ricketts at Tessa.Ricketts@abdiocese.org.uk

10. MARY'S MEALS: We are still waiting for the backlog to ease and so you are asked to continue to keep all your generous donations to Mary's Meals until the problems have been overcome. However, between now and the end of January all financial donations will be doubled and so we will hold a Second Collection on 15th/16th January.

11. TURNING TIDES (WCHP): Items needed: Tinned Vegetarian Meals, Tinned Meals, Horlicks, Hot Chocolate, Coffee, Cooking Oil, Cling Film, Small Tents, Sleeping Bags, Hand Warmers, Drinking Flasks, Mattress Protectors, Pillow Protectors, Men's Jeans, Jogging Bottoms, (Small/Medium) Men's Boxers (New please), Men's Fleece (Small/Medium) Waterproof Coats, Fingerless Gloves, Trainers Sizes 8 – 12. Small Armchairs, Chest of Drawers, Single Bed Frames, Single Mattresses, Bedside Cabinets. Many thanks to those who are so generous in their donations.

FATHER LIAM SAYS: All the gospels were written to get us to know Jesus and to recognise him as the Son of God. The first words of Mark's Gospel tells us of the beginning of the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, Son of God, and it goes on to tell us of the Baptism of Jesus at the beginning of his public ministry when a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, the Beloved. In you I am well pleased.' Matthew and Luke begin with the account of events that led to the birth of the child Jesus. The first two chapters of these gospels are devoted to telling us about what happened before and after the birth of Jesus.

Today we have the opening verses of John's Gospel, John reaches back even before creation to identify Jesus as the Word who was God. 'In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God and the Word was God.' There is no clearer understanding of Jesus in the New Testament than these words of John's Gospel. This Gospel reading in today's Mass was said at the end of every Mass for many years. It was called 'The Last Gospel' and very many of us remember it – though, of course, it was in Latin. Being in Latin meant that the purpose of having it said was rather undermined. It tells us who Jesus is that has come to live among us and that he was largely rejected. 'The world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him.'

Luke conveys the same message in his infancy narrative. When he tells us that at Bethlehem 'there was no room for them at the inn' when Mary and Joseph were searching for a place where their child could be born. Matthew speaks of the rejection of Jesus much more graphically when he tells of the scheming of King Herod to destroy the child. John goes on to emphasise, as do Luke and Matthew in their own way, that Jesus was never without those who believed in him and in his triumph over suffering and death. 'To all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God. Our Gospel reading today has the reassuring message: 'The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory.'

There is a story told of a little boy who wanted to meet God. He heard it was a long way to where God lived so he packed his rucksack with biscuits and with cans of Coke and he set off on his journey. He had not gone very far when he saw an elderly lady. She was sitting on a park bench, watching the pigeons. The boy sat down next to her and opened his rucksack. He was about to take a drink of Coke when he noticed that the little old lady looked hungry, so he gave her a few biscuits. She gratefully accepted them and smiled at him. Her smile was so wonderful that he wanted to see it again, so he offered her a can of Coke as well. Once again she smiled at him and he was delighted. They sat there for some time, eating and smiling without saying a word. As it began to grow dark, the boy realised how tired he was and thought that it was time for him to go home. He got up to leave but before he had gone any distance he turned around, ran back to the lady and gave her a big hug. She gave him her biggest smile ever. When the boy arrived home, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked: 'What has made you so happy today?' He replied: 'I had lunch with God.' Before his mother could say a word he went on: 'And you know what? She's got the most beautiful smile in the whole world.'

The lady too returned to her home, radiant with joy. Her son was stunned by the look of peace on her face. He asked: 'Mother, why are you so happy?' She replied: 'I ate biscuits and drank Coke with God in the park today.' And before her son could reply she added: 'And you know he is much younger than I expected'.

Not everybody recognises Jesus when he comes to us.

I wish to thank you all for your good wishes and very generous Christmas offerings. May I also take this opportunity to thank you all for your magnificent support for the Parish, as always. We ask God to continue to bestow his blessings on us all as we move into 2022.

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