

Parish OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

12.12.2021

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

Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday	11 th	6.00 pm	Mary Murphy-Sopp RIP
Sunday	12 th	8.15am	Joan Williams RIP
		10.30 am	Ester Park RIP
Monday	13 th	9.30 am	The Parish
Tuesday	14 th	9.30 am	Intention of John Meagher
		7.00 pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	15 th	9.30 am	Bill O'Keeffe (Jnr) RIP
Thursday	16 th	9.30 am	Nora Murphy RIP
		1.30 pm	REQUIEM FOR ANNE McNAMARA RIP
		7.00 pm	SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION
Friday	17 th	9.30 am	Reg Marshall RIP
Saturday	18 th	6.00 pm	Roma & John Morey RIP
Sunday	19 th	8.15 am	Maureen Murphy
		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: Zephaniah 3:14-18, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:10-18

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Micah 5:1-4; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-44

COLLECTIONS: Church: £304 Digital collection £35 Thank you for your generosity.

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 and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Desmond Monaghan, Mary Doran, Louis Hofmann, Raymond Dew, Frederick Franklin, Doris Dowling, Lilian Mutton, Mary Mackay, Ethel Baker, Margaret Mattingley, Noel Melling, Norah Murphy, Margaret Wadsworth, Inge Carey, Edna Turberville, *May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

3. CURRY & CAROLS EVENING and LUNCH IN AID OF THE PARISH PROJECT. Many thanks to all those who prepared and cooked such a delicious meal and to those who supported the evening and lunch in any way. An amazing £874 was raised for Kalingalinga

4. THE ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE will be held here **next** Thursday, 16th December at 7.00pm. There will be a choice of confessors as there will be at the other Services in the Deanery. These are listed in both porches

5. CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Friday 24 th December	- 6.00 pm - First Mass of Christmas especially for children
	- 9.00 pm - Mass preceded by Carols from 8.30 pm
Saturday 25 th December	- 8.15 am and 10.30 am Mass
Sunday 26 th December	- 8.15 am and 10.30 am

6. HOMESTART ARUN, WORTHING AND ADUR: are once again unable to receive the gifts we used to leave under the Christmas tree in the church. However their work continues and they need funds to cover costs over the Christmas period. Please donate on-line via their website home-startawa.org.uk or send a cheque to Home-Start Arun, Worthing & Adur, Unit 5c Park Farm, Chichester Road, Arundel, West Sussex BN18 0AG

7. KEEPING CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS: Worthing Knights of St Columba have provided Christmas posters, available in both porches, and ask that they are displayed as an act of Christian witness.

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.

8. 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, and put them in the box in the Porch so that they can be used to raise money for the Missions

9. 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 on 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 from 4.30 – 5.30 pm

10. 8.15 am MASS GOERS - after Mass next Sunday, 19th December, tea, coffee and mince pies will be served in the Barn. Everyone is very welcome.

11. 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 \(abdiocese.org.uk\)](https://www.abdiocese.org.uk) or contact Tessa Ricketts at Tessa.Ricketts@abdiocese.org.uk

12. 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 in January.

13 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: Today the mood of the Church changes. In the middle of Advent there is a brighter tone as we gather together. On this third Sunday of Advent the favoured liturgical colour is not purple but rose. The tabernacle veil and the priest's vestments today reflect this more joyful note as does the candle we light today on our Advent wreath. The name given to this Sunday is Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word for 'Let us rejoice'.

Our first reading today begins: 'Shout for joy, daughter of Zion. Israel shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart.' This is all easier said than done. We are all feeling apprehensive, as we have been for a considerable time. There is the Coronavirus pandemic still active and many are worried about the climate crisis and economic uncertainties and no doubt we also have other concerns that weigh us down. The people that the Prophet Zephaniah was directly addressing had certainly much to worry about as well as have the people of every age. But Zephaniah tells us why we should rejoice. 'The Lord, King of Israel is in your midst'. The response to today's Psalm has the same message: 'Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.' Emmanuel, God with us, is the Saviour beyond anything that Zephaniah or the Psalmist could imagine.

The four Gospels are the brief books that open the New Testament where they are the first writings placed before us. They are not the first New Testament writings to have been written. This honour belongs to the Letters of Paul but the Gospels are the writings that have most influence on the lives of Christians, so they have always been placed at the beginning of the New Testament. The first Gospel of the four that opens the New Testament is the Gospel of Matthew, though Mark's Gospel was the first to be written. It was thought to have been written around the year 60 AD.

The Gospels attributed to Matthew, Mark and Luke are known as the Synoptic Gospels because they can be looked at together. They are similar in content and in the order they place the events they narrate. The fourth Gospel attributed to John is the last to be written and differs from the other three to a far greater extent than they differ from one another. The Gospel at the last Mass of Christmas Day comes from John though he gives us no infancy scene.

People sometimes think of the Gospels as biographies of Jesus. But the Gospels tell us very little about Jesus' childhood, his family background, his education or even what he looked like. What all the Gospel writers were seeking to achieve can be summed up in the words that come at the end of John's Gospel: 'These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life in his name (John 20:31).

The various writers of the Gospels arranged the material that they had about Jesus in order to portray him in a way that people could understand and come to know him, love him and serve him as their Lord and God. They wrote their Gospels between the years 60 and 100 AD or so. The designations that we find in the New Testament, such as 'The Gospel according to John' are the result of late second century scholar's attempts to identify the authors of works that had no identification. No Gospel writer indicated who he was. The closest we come to that in the Gospels is the indication in John's Gospel that 'the disciple whom Jesus loved' was the source of what is written in that Gospel (John 21:24) but the Gospel never identifies who the beloved disciple is.

The first and the last of the Gospels to be written begin with the start of the public life of Jesus. It is only in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke that we have the infancy narratives and the narrative they put before us differs one from the other. But all they wrote was designed to help us to believe 'that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God and that believing this we may have life in his name'.

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