

## Parish OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

19.12.2021

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

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday	18 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Roma & John Morey RIP
Sunday	19 <sup>th</sup>	8.15am	Maureen Murphy
		10.30 am	The Parish
		6.00 pm	Polish Mass
Monday	20 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Thomas Foley RIP
		<b>12.00 noon</b>	<b>REQUIEM FOR FATHER ROBERT ELLIS RIP</b>
Tuesday	21 <sup>st</sup>	9.30 am	<b>Intention of Anthony Kelly</b>
		<b>7.00 pm</b>	<b>Choir Practice</b>
Wednesday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30 am	Lottie-Mae
Thursday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30 am	Charlie Gillespie RIP
Christmas	24 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Kieran Forde RIP
Eve		9.00 pm	The Parish
Christmas	25 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 am	Dick Cleere RIP
Day		10.30 am	Roger Davis RIP
Sunday	26 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 am	Father Robert Ellis RIP
		10.30 am	Mary & Jack Haugh RIP



**TODAY'S READINGS:** Micah 5:1-4; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-44

**NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:** 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 John 3:1-2,21-24; Luke 2: 41-52

**COLLECTIONS:** Church: £348 Digital collection £30 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: Cyril Marshall, Muriel Day, Hetty Smith, Kathleen McDonagh, Margaret Turner, Mamie Devine, Lionel Foster, Eileen Oxendale, Peggy Moutrie, Patrick Taylor, Helena Sparrow, Margaret Goldsworthy, Jim Flynn, Joan Foley. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

**3. 8.15 am MASS GOERS** – Refreshments after Mass has been cancelled for this week but will reappear in the New Year!

**4. YOUR OFFERINGS AT THE CHRISTMAS MASSES** are your personal gift to Father Liam (Gift Aid applies). If you are not Gift Aiding, special envelopes are available in both porches that you might like to use to make your gift either beforehand or afterwards as we are unable to take up collections.

**5. 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.

**6. 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.

**7. 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 over the Christmas period. Please donate on-line via their website [home-startawa.org.uk](http://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

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

**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.

**9. AFGHANISTAN CRISIS APPEAL:** In Afghanistan there are more than eight million people on the brink of famine. The Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC), which includes CAFOD, has issued an urgent appeal. Many of those starving are children under 5 who may not survive the freezing winter. There will be a collection today for this appeal. If you are donating by cheque or electronically, please make your donations to CAFOD and, if possible, Gift Aid it please. CAFOD envelopes are available in the porches.

**10. 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

**11. 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 6<sup>th</sup> January at 8.00 pm in The Good Shepherd Chapel and the first lesson for the children will be on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January from 4.30 – 5.30 pm

**12. THE 'CAFOD AUCTION' AND SUPPER** will be held in The Barn on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2022 at 7.00 pm. Please remember to save any 'surplus' gifts or unused items for the Auction. Call Charles for collection/information on 01903 505546

**13. JUSTICE & PEACE ASSEMBLY WEBINAR:** 'To a Safer Shore?': 15<sup>th</sup> 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.](https://www.abdiocese.org.uk) | [Arundel & Brighton Catholic Diocese \(abdiocese.org.uk\)](https://www.abdiocese.org.uk) or contact Tessa Ricketts at [Tessa.Ricketts@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:Tessa.Ricketts@abdiocese.org.uk)

**14. 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.

**15 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 Fleecees (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: A parish – like a pilgrimage** – is a group of people who travel, supporting one another. WE are on our way to meet the Child. We are like the Wise Men who followed a star – one small light in the cosmos – on the first Christmas pilgrimage. We have our own little lights on the Advent wreath. The circle is an age-old symbol for eternity – a ring has no end. So the circle reminds us that God has no beginning and no end. The evergreens stand for eternal life – evergreens don't die in the winter. Green is the colour of hope. The evergreen branches stand as God's promise to us that we too are evergreen. We will not die. Christ assures us that 'those who believe in me will never die'. The Advent wreath is a reminder to us also that there is work to be done. Three of the candles are purple – purple is the Church's colour of renewal. The task of renewal is a constant one. The Church puts on the purple apron when it is getting her home ready. It is getting ready for the coming of the Saviour. His first coming is symbolised on the wreath by the white candle. Christ is the centre of all things. As the Word of God he existed from all eternity and through him all things were made. We prepare to welcome him into our world as one of us. He became one of our human family and pitched his tent among us. Our rose-coloured candle reminds us that we should work with joy to welcome him. The Advent wreath tells an extraordinary story – the meaning of existence, in a way, culminating not in doom and gloom but in triumph when the glory of Christ is fully revealed and all mankind will share his triumph. On the Sundays of Advent one light after another has been lit each week. It reminds us that we must search more earnestly for him as his coming among us draws near. This year Christmas Eve is on a Friday with Mass at 6.00 pm and also at 9.00 pm, which takes the place of Midnight Mass. Christmas was the only time when there was a Midnight Mass. It was the reason, some say, why the feast became known as Christmas. In most countries Christmas is known by a name derived from 'Birth'. The liturgical name for Christmas is 'The Nativity of the Lord'. Nowel has that connotation, of course, in French. The name Christmas came into use in England in the Middle Ages, not only because of Midnight Mass but because it became customary for priests to say three Masses on the Feast. It was highly unusual to be allowed to say three Masses on one day. After World War I priests were allowed to say three Masses on 2<sup>nd</sup> November to pray for all throughout the world who lost their lives as a result of that disaster, including the victims of the 'Spanish Flu'. This year Christmas Day will be followed immediately by Sunday, which is observed as the Feast of the Holy Family. Some people might think that it is overdoing it to expect people to come to Mass on Saturday and again on Sunday. Why not one Mass to cover both days? It is because the Feast of Christmas is special and because Sunday is special.

**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.

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