

329 Parish OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

26.12.2021

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

Presbytery 01903 242624 / Church repository 01903 506890

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Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

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

The Holy Family

Saturday	25 th	8.15 pm	Deceased Members of the Dunne & Hurley Families
		10.30 am	Roger Davis RIP
Sunday	26 th	8.15am	Father Robert Ellis RIP
		10.30 am	Mary & Jack Haugh RIP
Monday	27 th	9.30 am	No Mass
Tuesday	28 th	9.30 am	Joan Doyle RIP
Wednesday	29 th	9.30 am	Elizabeth Hoskins RIP
Thursday	30 th	9.30 am	The Parish
Friday	31 st	9.30 am	Intentions of Dorri Cooper
Saturday	1 st	6.00 pm	Sr Elizabeth Campbell RIP
Sunday	2 nd	8.15 am	Joan Williams RIP
		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: 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 John 3:1-2,21-24; Luke 2: 41-52

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

COLLECTIONS: Church: £329 Digital collection £85 CAFOD: £146 Thank you for your generosity.

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

NEXT 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 and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Doris Cronan, Mary Walton, Patsy Mannion, Michael Jarvis, Ernest Hare, Cyril Woodgar, George Welch, Mark Zenkteler, Gordon Daniel, Elsie Butlin, Margaret Simpson, Harold Birch, Peter Giles, Veronica Parker, Effie Downs, Catherine Brooks, Ted Bellenger, Giulia Grainger, Father Enda Naughton, Lilian Willmoth, Marion Hack, John Bennett, Vivienne Clarke.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

3. YOUR OFFERINGS AT THE CHRISTMAS MASSES AND THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY (at the suggestion of Bishop Richard) are your personal gift to Father Liam (Gift Aid applies). Special envelopes are available in both porches that you might like to use to make your gift as we are unable to take up collections.

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. 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.

7. 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 please call Charles 01903 505546

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? If so, they are at the age where they can start the preparation course for Reconciliation and 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. 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

11. 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.

12. 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: The Gospel for the Feast of the Holy Family this year tells you of the finding of Jesus in the Temple when he was twelve years old. It may seem a bit strange to be celebrating the birth of Jesus one day and the following day to meet him almost as a teenager. In the next two years this feast will have a much younger Jesus featured in the gospel and several days will separate the two Feasts.

The Gospel of the Feast today is about the re-uniting of the Holy Family after Mary and Joseph had discovered that the boy Jesus was not with either of them. Luke – the only gospel writer who tells us about it - makes it clear how upset Mary and Joseph were about the incident. Mary says to the Boy: 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' It is every parent's nightmare! Luke does not tell us what Joseph said, but we can be sure he had something to say! But none of the gospel writers tell us a single word that Joseph ever said. Matthew tells quite a bit about Joseph in his gospel – how the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, telling him not to be afraid to take Mary to his home as his wife. Joseph is told by the angel that Mary had conceived by the Holy Spirit 'the one who will save his people from their sins'. Moreover, Joseph is told that he must name the child Jesus. By naming the child Joseph became in Jewish law his legal father. Joseph was a descendant of King David. Jesus was therefore able to be called 'Son of David'. The Messiah, of course, had to come from David's line. Matthew goes on to tell us how Joseph guides his wife and child out of danger's way and eventually brought them to Nazareth when Herod was no longer a threat.

But at no time do we actually hear from Joseph. We would surely like to reflect on some words of his. But the gospels were not written to satisfy our curiosity but 'were written so 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)

When we started planning how to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of our church there were a number of Parish Meetings to discuss how we might fittingly go about it. One of the decisions we arrived at was to commission a wooden image of St Joseph to complement the beautiful carved image of Mary and the child Jesus. The company who had produced that statue were approached and they agreed to furnish us with a matching statue of St Joseph. They are the same company who designed the Martyrs Window in our church. Within weeks of the celebration of the Golden Jubilee the pandemic struck. Eventually the statue of Mary and the Child was brought to their workshop in Lancashire to ensure that the statue of St Joseph would blend well. An added consideration in deciding to have a new statue of St Joseph is that Pope Francis decided that the year 2021 would be the year of St Joseph. It was only in the last week or so that it was completed and that they could bring the statue down and put them in place.

What a joy that they are now with us just in time for Christmas and the Feast of the Holy Family. We ask St Joseph, who protected the child Jesus, to inspire us to protect one another and to protect the environment – our common home.

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