

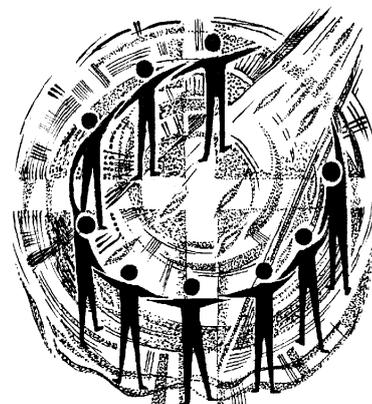
Parish OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

15.05.2022

Father Liam O'Connor, 37 Compton Avenue, Goring-by-Sea, West Sussex. BN12 4UE
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Arundel & Brighton Diocesan Trust is a Registered Charity No: 25287

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Saturday	14 th	6.00 pm	Jean Norton RIP
Sunday	15 th	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Dr Maria Kuczynska RIP
Monday	16 th	9.30 am	Canon Peter Phillips RIP
Tuesday	17 th	9.30 am	Alan, Margaret & Little Nigel Collins RIP
		7.00 pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	18 th	9.30 am	Baby Ambrose Carroll RIP
Thursday	19 th	9.30 am	Deceased Relatives of the Dunne Family
Friday	20 th	9.30 am	Brian McEnerney RIP
Saturday	21 st	6.00 pm	Norma Markham RIP
Sunday	22 nd	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Mary Murphy-Sopp RIP



SATURDAY: Reconciliation: 10.15 – 10.45 am & 5.15 - 5:45 pm

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts of the Apostles 14:21-27; Apocalypse 21:1-5. John 13:31-35

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts of the Apostles 15:1-2,22-29; Apocalypse 21:10-14,22-23; John 14: 23-29

COLLECTIONS: Church: £358

Digital Collection: £ Education of Future Priests: £235

Thank you for your generosity.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Mike Ahern, John Mayock, Terry Stanley, Glenn, Ken Ellis, Helena & Vittorio Villa, Peggy Gallagher, Lena, Ken Harvey, Sienna Coates, Kathleen Brennan, Chris Judge, Brian Caplin, Valerie Halley, Pat Duggan, Tony Grana, Sister Raymond, John Smith, Mick Brouder, Ian Threlfall, Thomas Duggan, Len Argent, Rose Little, Lelia Murray, Mary Murphy, Margaret Birch, Lita Yong, Brenda Peazold, Mary Wessel, 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: BARBARA HOWARD and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Jim Maloney, Sylvia Phillips, Isabella Ions, Olive Humphrey, Pat Lucey, Pouppe Baeza, V Rev Cn Desmond McCarthy, Kathleen Simmonds, Bert Copping, Anne Berendt, Jacqueline Davies, Patricia Trantor, Stella Seville. *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. MARY'S MEALS COLLECTION POINT has been the box in the Front Porch next to the main door. This is its last weekend in that box but will now move to the small boxes under the notice board to the right of the Main Door. Mary's Meals are no longer able to ship Back-packs but they are continuing to feed 2,058,099 children every day, in 19 countries around the world and so funds are always urgently needed. We, as a parish, have sent 5,235 backpacks but now they can only accept money. Amazingly it costs just £15.90 to feed one child for a year! Your donation will be much appreciated.

5. RED SHIRTS: William Clarke and Dominic Winton have volunteered to be Red Shirts for the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes later this year. They have now completed the bike ride to the Brighton Viewing Tower and back and will be collecting the sponsorship money after Mass in the Main Porch. Your help is greatly appreciated.

6. EDGE YOUTH GROUP will be meeting this Sunday, 15th May, in the Barn, from 6.00 until 7.30 pm. All young people 11+ welcome. Contact Niall for more information nfarrell@stromeros.co.uk

7. PRAYER PARTNERS are sought for our six First Holy Communion children. Please sign against the symbol for the child of your choice on the poster on the wall at the side of the Church. We pray for these children who are preparing to receive their First Holy Communion on Sunday 12th June.

8. PARISH CELEBRATIONS FOR THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE will take place on Saturday 4th June from 2.00 – 5.00 pm. It will take the form of a 'Street Party' held in the Barn, Courtyard and the Presbytery Garden. You will be asked to sign up to bring some party food – some but not all 1950's style! – and if anyone would like to organise some games for the children that would be most helpful. If you are able to help or have any helpful suggestions to make it a fun afternoon please contact Anne in the Office – 01903242624. Please put the date in your diary and join the parish in celebrating.

9. PENTECOST/PLATINUM JUBILEE MASSES: Over the weekend of the 4th and 5th June, our parish will be celebrating not only the Feast of Pentecost but also the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Therefore the 6pm Mass on Saturday 4th June and the 10.30am Mass on Sunday 5th June will be special masses to mark these occasions. The hymns and music have been chosen to honour the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives and that of the Church, together with important occasions in the life and reign of Queen Elizabeth II, including her coronation and wedding. All are most welcome to join us and participate in these celebratory masses.

FATHER LIAM SAYS: Eastertime reminds us that Christianity embraces the whole world and things are done very differently in the Church in the East and the West. Christ and his first followers were not European. Neither he nor most of his disciples ever visited Europe. One of the objections sometimes made against the Church in many countries is that it is a Western imposition on their way of life. But the Church originated in the East and grew vigorously there. The first seven councils of the Church were all held in the East and the great theologians of the early Church were from Asia.

The early Church was marked by severe persecutions especially in the third and fourth centuries. Most of the known world at the time was ruled by the Roman Empire – though Greek culture and language continued to be the dominant factions in the lives of the people. The Eastern Alexander the Great had established his influence on the world before the Roman Empire held sway. It is quite extraordinary how quickly the Church rose from being a persecuted sect to become a dominant faith within the greatest empire known to antiquity. It flourished in spite of those severe persecutions. Its countless martyrs only seemed to stimulate growth. At the height of the persecutions of the emperor Diocletian an almost miraculous event happened when Constantine came on the scene. His father may have been appointed as the junior Emperor in the West of the Empire and young Constantine was an officer based in York in 305 AD but after a major Civil War Constantine eventually became the Emperor. He had been influenced by a Christian teacher and was very sympathetic to Christianity though he did not accept Baptism until he was on his deathbed. He baulked at the prospect of trying to be the Emperor and a Christian at the same time!

As Emperor, Constantine moved his capital from Rome to a smaller town called Byzantium in the East, which he greatly embellished and re-named it Constantinople – the city of Constance. He made reparations for the damage done to Christianity in the past and a wave of imperially funded churches were constructed, including the first St Peter's in Rome and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. When the early church was severely threatened by the Arian heresy (which denied that Christ was truly God) it was the Emperor Constantine who summoned the first world-wide or 'ecumenical' council held in Nicaea in 325. The Nicene Creed, sometimes said at Sunday Mass was the fruit of that Council.

The new Capital was a new city, Christian in character from the outset. It became militarily and geographically the true centre of the Roman world and with a major port it was a vastly important heart of international culture. Old Rome fell into a serious decline as Constantinople flourished. The Council of Constantinople in 381 addressed matters concerning the nature of God not dealt with by Nicaea. It also decreed that the Bishop of Rome had precedence over the Archbishop of Constantinople. But with Constantinople being the imperial city, the Archbishop or Patriarch of Constantinople was frequently in conflict with the Pope and East and West tended to go their separate ways. The final break came in 1054 when both churches 'excommunicated' each other. These condemnations were lifted by the Patriarch Athenagoras and Pope Paul VI about 60 years ago. The infamous Fourth Crusade of 1204 did almost irreparable damage to relations between Eastern and Western Christianity.

Constantinople in turn suffered huge decline when the Ottoman armies conquered the city in 1453 and the Muslim religion took root. The Patriarch of Constantinople still holds the Primacy of Honour in Orthodoxy but there are so many national Orthodox churches now most of them with more members than Constantinople. Russia has most numbers and the Russian Patriarch sees himself as holding Primacy.

In view of its support for Russian aggression against Ukraine there is a strong case for expelling the Russian Orthodox Church from the World Council of Churches. That is the view of the former Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams who now is Lord Williams. 'The Riot Act has to be read' he said on Radio 4's Sunday programme before Easter. 'When a Church is actively supporting a war of aggression, failing to condemn nakedly obvious breaches of any kind of ethical conduct in wartime, then other Churches do have the right to raise questions. I am still waiting for any senior member of the Russian Orthodox Church to say that the slaughter of the innocent is condemned unequivocally by all forms of Christianity.' Dr Williams is a recognised authority on orthodox Christianity. He went on to say that it suits Putin to have a compliant Church establishment. 'The Church establishment does quite well out of Putin's regime. Lots of new churches have been built and the hierarchy enjoy many privileges.'

Under Vladimir Putin the Russian Orthodox Church has become ever more closely associated with the State and the Armed Forces. Despite several instances of dissent among his clergy the Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill has refused to condemn the Russian invasion. He is increasingly seen to be complicit in the War. There is no sign that the Russian hierarchy have ever been willing to ask for a ceasefire.

*May God Bless you,
Fr. Liam.*