

Parish OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

12.06.2022

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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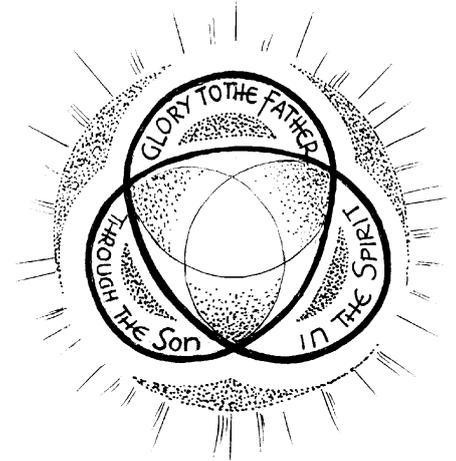
Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

Safeguarding Rep. Anne Niven 01903 242624

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

The Most Holy Trinity

Saturday	11 th	6.00 pm	Ellen Louis RIP
Sunday	12 th	8.15 am	Gerald Simblett RIP
		10.30 am	The Parish
Monday	13 th	9.30 am	Holy Souls
Tuesday	14 th	9.30 am	Canon Peter Phillips RIP
		7.00 pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	15 th	9.30 am	Charlie Gillespie RIP
Thursday	16 th	9.30 am	Marie Cryer RIP
Friday	17 th	9.30 am	Max Goldberg RIP
Saturday	18 th	6.00 pm	The Parish
Sunday	19 th	8.15 am	Gerald Simblett RIP
		10.30 am	Jack Haugh RIP



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

TODAY'S READINGS: Proverbs 8:22-31; Paul to the Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Genesis 14: 18-20; 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26; Luke 9: 11-17

COLLECTIONS: Church: £289 Digital Collection: £90 Thank you for your generosity.
Next weekend there will be collections for Day For Life during all Masses. (NOT Gift Aided)

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: 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, 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 and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Cynthia Hinchcliffe, Nuala Clarke, Wendy Lee, Rose Jeffery, Jim Murphy, Pamela Dixon-Smith, Nicholas Murphy, Winifred Roland, Thomas Smith. *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. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION will be received by six of our children this Sunday during the 10.30 am Mass. Please pray for: Kryz Chiu, Isabella Dedman, Samantha Gomis-Schlick, Oliver Markham, Lucy McCallum, Fia Saji and their families.

5. OBLIGATION TO ATTEND MASS IN PERSON WAS RESTORED from Pentecost Sunday by the Bishops of England and Wales saying 'the reasons which have prevented Catholics from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation no longer apply'.

6. MANY THANKS to all who helped to make our Queen's Jubilee such a success last weekend. To the choir, the cake bakers, the Barn decorators and all who came to join in our Street Party in the Barn – Thank you.

7. UKRAINIAN REFUGEES. Three Ukrainians are moving into our parish in the next couple of weeks. Please pray for Lana, Anna and Liza, their country and the people they are leaving behind. Please contact Mary with offers of help on 01903 245309 or ogradymary@gmail.com), which will be gratefully received.

8. MINISTERS OF COMMUNION: Next weekend we celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi. At all three Masses next weekend there will be a ceremony of Renewal of Commitment on the part of the Eucharistic Ministers. Those who will be away are asked to make their renewal at some other time.

9. HANDMADE CARDS FOR FATHER'S DAY (which is on 19th June) are now available in the Shop. All proceeds from the sale of these cards goes to the Parish Project in Kalingalinga.

10 TRAIDCRAFT will be on sale after all Masses **next** weekend.

11. LITTLE ANGELS MOTHER & TODDLER GROUP: The situation continues to be is truly dire and volunteers are very urgently needed. Please give it some serious thought and then volunteer! Please ring Anne in the Office for further information. With enough volunteers a Rota could be formed..

12. EDGE YOUTH GROUP will be meeting this Sunday, 12th June, in the Barn, from 6.00 until 7.30 pm. All young people 11+ welcome. Contact Niall for more information nfarrell@stromeros.co.uk

13. THE CHURCH COLLECTION(S) will in future be taken up during Mass.

14. MARY'S MEALS COLLECTION POINT is one of the small boxes under the notice board to the right in the Front Porch. Amazingly it costs just £15.90 to feed one child for a year! Your donations will always be much appreciated.

15. TURNING TIDES (WCHP): Items needed: Coffee, Cereal Bars, Carton Long Life Milk, Long Life Fruit Juices, Tinned Vegetarian Meals, Tinned Meat, Tinned Corned Beef, Pot Noodles, Pasta in Sauce, Instant Noodles, Small Carton Juices, Anti-Bac cleaning spray and wipes, Dishwasher tablets and Washing up Liquid. Many thanks to those who are so generous in their donations. (Sadly we are no longer able to deliver clothes and other such goods).

FATHER LIAM SAYS: I have a great affection for the Cistercian Order – sometimes known as the Trappists, named after one of their best-known French monasteries Le Trappe. I spent five years as a student in a school run by the Cistercians. The first Irish Cistercian monastery after the Reformation was established in 1832, when they were expelled from France during a great religious persecution and settled at a place they called Mount Melleray named after Melleray in France from which they had to flee.

The Cistercians began in the 12th Century in Citeaux in France – that is how they got their name. In 1936 a community of monks travelled from France to Algeria, a Muslim country, to establish Our Lady of Atlas Monastery. They hoped to witness to Christ by their lives of love. Their daily lives were marked by prayer and manual work, hospitality and sharing with the poor. They made Christ present to their Muslim neighbours by providing medical care for people in the region and increased the productivity of the area by developing an irrigation system. For many years Algeria had been a French colony. In the 1960's, when the French withdrew from the country, Algeria was thrown into turmoil as different groups attempted to gain power. During the 1980's and 1990's the country was confronted with extreme forms of Islamic fundamentalism which led to much violence. The primary targets were European Christians. Through all the years of turmoil and instability the Cistercians, as well as other religious groups, had stayed in the country, ministering to the small Christian community as well as helping the Muslims.

For the most part relations between the Christians and the Muslims were positive, based on mutual respect. The monastic community was particularly well regarded. But things took a bad turn in 1991, when the Algerian government cancelled elections. A Radical Islamic group called the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) was formed. It banned all foreigners to leave the country and began engaging in terrorist activities. The Abbot of the monastery, Father Christian, referred to these men not as terrorists but as the 'brothers from the mountains'.

Initially the monks were not directly affected by the conflict but on Christmas eve 1993 the 'brothers from the mountains' arrived at the monastery and demanded medical and financial help. Father Christian said that anyone who came to the monastery would continue to receive medical help as usual but did not give any money. The 'brothers' left but promised to return. After much prayer and discussion the monks decided to remain and refused the offer of police protection as a 'sign of peace' in spite of further threats. Their letters reveal that they were very well aware that they might lose their lives. By 1995 ten missionaries as well as other foreigners and many Algerians had been brutally murdered. A letter written by Father Christophe explained why the monks remained. 'We are responsible not for doing something, but for being something here in response to Truth and Love. Are we facing eternity? There is a sense of that.'

In a letter to their Abbot General, Father Christophe writes that he and his fellow monks are willing to risk staying in Algeria 'in a journey of faith into the future and in sharing the present with neighbours who have always been very close friends of ours. The grace of this gift is given to us from day to day, very simply.' Father Christian wrote his Testament in 1993 with instructions that it be opened only after his death. It ended with a message to the person who would kill him: 'And also you, the friend of my final moment, who would not be aware of what you are doing. Yes. I also say this 'thank you' and this advice to you, in whom I see the face of God. And may we find each other, happy good thieves, in Paradise, if it pleases God, the Father of us both.'

On the night of 27th March 1996, the monks received another visit from the 'brothers from the mountain'. They demanded that Brother Luc, who was a doctor, come and care for some wounded men. Brother Luc was 85 and not well. When Father Christian refused the guerrillas went through the monastery and captured seven of the monks. The GIA sent a message demanding the release of GIA members in prison. If their comrades were not released the GIA threatened to kill their captives. It is not known where the monks were kept or how they were treated. The prisoners were not released so the GIA made good their threat. On 21st May all seven of the monks of Atlas were executed. Their remains were found on 30th May and 4th June. They were flown by helicopter to the monastery, where their Muslim neighbours had dug the graves in the monastery cemetery.

Pope John Paul II said: 'Despite our day of sorrow we thank God for the witness of love given by these religious. Their fidelity and constancy gives honour to the Church and surely will be seeds of reconciliation and peace for the Algerian people with whom they were in solidarity.'