

Parish OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

24.07.2022

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

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	23 rd	6.00 pm	David & Theresa Steadman – Diamond Wedding Anniversary
Sunday	24 th	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Albert Davitt RIP
Monday	25 th	9.30 am	Father Bill & Father Bob Cullen RIP
Tuesday	26 th	9.30 am	Jim White RIP
		7.00 pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	27 th	9.30 am	Bill & Nell O'Keefe RIP
Thursday	28 th	9.30 am	Jack Haugh RIP
Friday	29 th	9.30 am	Sister Josephine Browne RIP
Saturday	30 th	6.00 pm	Margaret Birch RIP
Sunday	31 st	8.15 am	Hilda Hanley RIP
		10.30 am	The Parish



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

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 18:20-32; St Paul to the Colossians 2:12-14; Luke 11:1-13

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:21-23; St. Paul to Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11; Luke 12:13-21

COLLECTIONS: Church: £448 + Digital Collection: £74 Thank you for your generosity.

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, 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: GRACE WEST and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Jacqueline Towse, Thomas Murray, Jim Corcoran, Doris Birch, Brendan McCann, Elsie Peeney, Timothy Payne, Patrick Harty, Joan Hawkins, Constance Lilleyman, Janet Flynn, Bernard Flynn, Sheila Mander.
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. RECYCLING: In partnership with one of the Church Suppliers we will in future be gathering all empty candle holders, both metal and plastic together with unused candlewax ready for collection and recycling. If you are helping by clearing used candles please now use the recycling bins available in the sacristy instead of any other bins.

5. THE ANNUAL DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES, led by Bishop Richard, will take place between 29th July and 4th August. If you have any special intentions that you would like to be taken to Lourdes please let Jane-Anne know. Please remember to keep all those on the Pilgrimage in your prayers as they will you. Thank you, once again for helping two of our young people to go as Red Shirts to assist the sick pilgrims.

6. WELCOME BACK to Father John Nuttall and congratulations to him on the occasion of his Golden Jubilee.

7. WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY: The second World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly is on Sunday 24 July 2022 with the theme: "In old age they will still bear fruit" (Psalm 92:15). Pope Francis has requested that we use this day to honour those who have further steps on their life journey and particularly Grandparents. He says "Along with old age and white hairs, God continues to give us the gift of life and to keep us from being overcome by evil. If we trust in him, we will find the strength to praise him still (cf. vv. 14-20). We will come to see that growing old is more than the natural decline of the body or the inevitable passage of time, but the gift of a long life. Aging is not a condemnation, but a blessing!"

8. TRADCRAFT will be on sale in the Barn after all Masses next weekend

9. YOUNG ADULTS DAY AT THE SEASIDE with Fr Stephen Ortiger will take place on Saturday 20 August from 11am - 3pm. The day will start with Mass at Our lady Star of the Sea, East Preston, followed by a walk on the beach and a shared lunch at a beachside café. Contact E: lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk for more information.

10. 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 and this week we received a thank-you letter for the £231.49 sent to Mary's Meals, money collected from that little box!

11. 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: Thank you once again for making my recent birthday so memorable. I would like to refer in particular to the gift of Trees for the Holy Land to mark the occasion. The Motto of the charity 'Trees for the Holy Land' is 'Give trees – Give life'. They are dedicated to the reforestation of the Holy Land. Over 250 million trees have been planted in Israel during the last century. Israel is the only country in the world to complete the 20th century with a net gain of trees. Their vision as an organisation is to celebrate life. This is the message of 'Trees for the Holy Land'. 'Our mission is to help people rejoice and to commemorate in a most special way while working to green the Holy Land of Israel one tree at a time'. So thanks to your kindness and thoughtfulness a grove of twenty-five trees has been planted in the Holy Land. The saplings are between one and two years old and a height of approximately twenty-four inches.

Much of the natural vegetation of the Holy Land had disappeared or had been destroyed by the time reforestation efforts had begun over 100 years ago. The Bible was the source of knowledge of which species were native to the Holy Land. The original trees were olive, oak, pine, cypress, tamarisk, palm, acacia and carob. These are the species that are now being planted to replenish and nurture the Holy Land. Current reforestation efforts in Israel are in three places. 1) the mountainous slopes in Galilee, 2) the Negev Desert and 3) in urban areas for beautification and recreational parks. The trees that you have provided have been placed where they are most needed, in the environment that is most conducive for their growth. The wish for all of us and our loved ones is 'May you be blessed and may you grow strong and tall in your life'. Thank you for enabling 'Trees for the Holy Land to do their work.

You also gave me an incredible number of travel vouchers. I don't intend to cancel out the benefits of the tree planting by indulging in an orgy of air-travel but I look forward to using them to savour the delights nearer at hand. Thank you all so much.

Our best wishes today go to David and Theresa Steadman on their Diamond Jubilee of their marriage and to Father John Nuttall on the Golden Jubilee of his ordination. We are so grateful to him for helping out. I will try to keep going, if he keeps coming!

The last chapter of St Paul's letter to the Romans gives us quite a list of women and men involved in the life of the Christian community in Rome. Heading that list is 'our sister Phoebe, deacon of the Church at Cenchreae. Give her in the Lord a welcome worthy of the saints and help her with whatever she needs from you – she herself has been a great help to many people, including me'. (16:1-2) Cenchreae was a port near Corinth from which Paul wrote this letter and Phoebe was probably the person who brought the letter to Rome. Paul says: 'I would like you to welcome her'. His commendation of Phoebe is an important indication of the leadership role exercised by women in the early Christian communities. He calls her 'a deacon of the Church in Cenchreae'. The translation 'deaconess' that is sometimes used is not correct. Paul uses the masculine form of the word 'diakonos'. At the time there was no feminine form – it had not yet evolved. An order of 'diaconal' women arose in the third century. So in the case of Phoebe there is no question of any distinction of duties based on gender.

We cannot read into the term all the features attaching to the order of the diaconate in the later Church. But the description does imply that Phoebe exercised the office of service in a continuing and recognised capacity. The precise role of deacons in the first century Church communities is uncertain but the title does signify to the Roman community that the bearer of the letter is someone of stature within the Church. Paul says of her that 'she has been a great help to many people including me'. The Greek word Paul used for 'great help' means a patron or sponsor of some kind. Paul certainly views her as a co-worker of his. The reference to Phoebe in the first two verses of Romans, chapter 16 is never read at Mass. Some of the names in Romans feature on a weekday Mass every two years but not that of the deacon Phoebe. Perhaps that speaks for itself. Phoebe is a little known saint whose feast day falls on 3rd September.

In Chapter 16 of Romans we hear of women who were in positions of leadership in local churches – Phoebe, Priscilla, Junia, Mary, Tryphosa and Parris. Ten of the twenty-four people we know from this chapter are women, with or without reference to a man who is husband, father or son. The list only hints at the significance of each woman mentioned. We would like to know more but it is important that we treasure what Paul tells us. The very early Church does not appear to be quite so male-dominated as it has become. We have again begun to realise the importance of greater involvement of all the baptised. May God speed!