

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

Presbytery 01903 242624 / Church repository 01903 506890

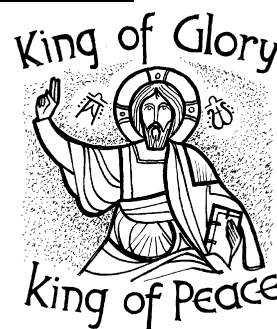
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Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

Arundel & Brighton Diocesan Trust is a Registered Charity No: 252878

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Saturday	19 th	6.00 pm	Peter Ayre RIP
Sunday	20 th	8.15 am	The Sivyer Family Past & Present
		10.30 am	Peter Boyle RIP
		6.00 pm	Polish Mass
Monday	14 th	2.30 pm	Mother's Prayers
Tuesday	22 nd	7.30 pm	Patrick, Jack & Mary Haugh RIP
Thursday	24 th	9.30 am	James & Nellie Lardner RIP
Saturday	26 th	6.00 pm	Teresa Rance RIP
Sunday	27 th	8.15 am	Catherine Bandy RIP
		10.30 am	Angela, Angelo, Maganda & Nalakas RIP



SATURDAY: Exposition with Benediction: 10.00 - 11.00am. Reconciliation: 10.15 – 10.45 am & 5.15 - 5:45 pm

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Samuel 5:1-3; Paul to the Colossians 1:12-20; Luke 23:35-43

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44

COLLECTIONS: Church: £507 Thank you for your generosity.

This weekend there will be a **Second Collection for The Cathedral Maintenance Fund (Gift Aided)**

Next weekend there will be a collection for **Mary's Meals (See Tony Headon for Gift Aid Forms)**

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Yvonne Carter, Monica Nichols, Valerie Halley, Lottie-Mae, Gearoid McNamara, Gordon & Ann Milne, Finlay, Alfred Deacon, Ester Park, Marie Garselis, Roni Horstead, Krissie White, Eileen Godfrey, Ronnie Tyler, Jenny Begley, Paula de Mello, Bill Hogg, Andrew Kennedy, Ted O'Brien, Breda Schlingen, Michaela Finn, Ann Wesley, Winifred Lyons, Yvette Allen, Leslie Lee, Joan Jacobs, Kerry McStravick, Gerry Potter, Lydia Van Melsen, Donald MacDonald, Edna Catley

2. THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY Sean O'Connor and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Maureen Pitt, Peter Boyle, Kathleen Sidwell, Richard Carrod, Pat Tasker, Sheila Shave, Francis Sloan, Dennis Bevans, Terry Van Melsen, Anne Hughes

3. DO YOU ENJOY SINGING? New members will be most welcome to join our Parish Choir. We shall be learning new music to lead the congregation. The next two rehearsals will take place **next** Tuesday 22nd and Thursday 1st December from 7.30 – 8.45 pm in the church. For further information please contact Margaret – 01903 504316

4. STARTING SCHOOL 2017: If your child was born between 1st September 2012 and 31st August 2013 and you wish him/her to attend English Martyrs Catholic Primary School it is necessary for you to complete a Supplementary Application form from the school **as well as** completing the West Sussex Local Authority's on line form by the closing date of 15th January 2017. Please contact English Martyrs School if you require further information.

5. 'CURRY & CAROLS' full of Christmas festivities and a sing-a-long, will take place in the Barn on Saturday 10th December at 7.00 pm (following the 6.00 pm Mass). The proceeds will go to the Parish project in Kalingalinga. Tickets will be on sale after all Masses **next** weekend price £7.50 for adults and £4.00 for children. Raffle prizes will be gratefully received

6. CHRISTMAS CARDS, CRIBS AND ADVENT CALENDARS are now available in the Repository.

7. ADRIAN BISHOP'S FOURTH BOOK – 'The Slumbering Knights', following the further adventures of the four children, will be on sale after each Mass next weekend in the West Porch, price £6.00. Adrian's previous books will also be available

8. APF RED BOX HOLDERS please return your red boxes for counting. You can leave them in the Sacristy for Jim. If you have difficulty bringing the box to church please phone 243401 and we will arrange collection

9. TRADCRAFT will be on sale after all Masses **this** weekend

10. LITTLE ANGELS PLAYGROUP is seeking a new Volunteer to join their team after Christmas. The Volunteer will be required to help just **once** every 4 weeks on a Thursday morning. Jobs involve laying out toys, making coffee, preparing children's snacks and tidying up. No prior experience with children needed but DBS check is required. Please contact Harriet on 07789743573 or harrietauratina@hotmail.com

11. CARDINAL CORMAC'S DIAMOND JUBILEE MASS will take place at Arundel Cathedral on Sunday 27th November at 4.00 pm followed by a reception. Cardinal Cormac will be present and all are welcome.

FRIENDSHIP IN THE BARN & WOMEN'S BREAKFAST are both in need of 'helping hands'. The commitment would be as much or as little as you would like to give: setting up, serving teas and food, setting down or driving people to the events and home again. Please contact Jane-Anne 01903-502070 for further details

12. THE ART OF DYING WELL is a new website that offers a helping hand to those grappling with issues around death and dying. Based in the Catholic tradition but open to all, it features real-life stories about dealing with the journey through death to eternal life. www.artofdyingwell.org. Prayer cards are available in both porches

13. ENGLISH MARTYRS SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR will take place on Saturday 3rd December from 12 noon – 3.00 pm. Christmas themed stalls, games, crafts, mince pies, cakes, spiced punch and Santa's Grotto. All are welcome. Raffle tickets will be on sale after Mass next Sunday.6

14. DATES FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS DIARY:

Saturday 10th December - 7.00 pm - Curry & Carols
Thursday 15th December - 7.30 pm - Advent Reconciliation Service
Sunday 18th December - 3.00 pm - Family Christmas Carols and Mulled Wine
Saturday 24th December - 6.00 pm - First Mass of Christmas especially for children
- 9.00 pm - Mass preceded by Carols from 8.30 pm
Sunday 25th December - 8.15 am and 10.30 am Mass



15. MARY'S MEALS: We are now in particular need of Pencil Cases, Toothpaste, Flannels and serviceable Towels. Many thanks to all who so generously contribute to these backpacks

16. WORTHING CHURCHES HOMELESS PROJECTS Today Worthing Churches Homeless Projects helps over 1,400 people each year with up to 58 people in our night accommodation services. Urgent needs includes: Men's jeans and underwear - specifically sizes small and medium, jeans size 32 and below. Also Coffee, Sugar, Squash, Fruit juices, Biscuits, Any cleaning products, especially Washing powder and Toilet Rolls. Many thanks to all those who help in this way.

FATHER LIAM SAYS: Why were Christians so widely persecuted in the early centuries when the Roman Empire was still pagan? One possible reason was that there were some people who just wanted more human bloodshed in their places of amusement – the circuses. But that by no means explains why Christians were singled out. Some learned people wrote about their fears of some corrupting forces at work within the Empire, undermining its traditional cultural values. Many intellectuals saw the Empire as the protector and defender of local gods and civic customs. The Jews and especially the Christians were seen as promoters of a dangerous sect. They were at odds with the wider society because they saw themselves as followers of a different God to the pagan gods and the spread of Christianity threatened the values of the rest of society. But the Christians did not reject Roman Rule. They protested their loyalty to the Emperor but they could not agree to take part in the worship of idols and Emperor Worship.

The persecution under the Emperor Decius around the year 250 AD was particularly severe. Nor did all Christians remain true to their faith. Quite a few fell away. But in the face of terrible punishment the strength and constancy of many Christians ensured that the Church survived and grew. But what of those who fell away – the lapsi as they were called. The persecutions of Decius were so systematic that hardly any Christians escaped the test – except the tiny minority who had the means to flee. The result was that there were very many more nominal apostasies. They remained Christian at heart and when the persecution abated many of them wished to return to the practice of the faith. The issue about the absolution of returned apostates was a burning question. Some people took a very strict position while others were more lenient. The Rigorist position was led by a Roman priest called Novation who saw it as his duty to seek to be elected as Bishop of Rome. He was opposed by a group in Rome who followed a more lenient procedure in reconciling the lapsi. These were led by a deacon called Cornelius who crucially was backed by the very influential Bishop of Carthage, Cyprian. Cornelius was elected Pope and so needed to be ordained a priest before becoming Bishop of Rome.

Novation was bitterly disappointed at not becoming Pope and with his followers he organised a church of his own and found three bishops to consecrate him Bishop of Rome. He hardened his position about the lapsi. Not only would he refuse them pardon but he denied that there was any possibility of their ever being pardoned, no matter what their sorrow, no matter how severe the reparation they made.

The new Pope Cornelius summoned a Council of Bishops at Rome. The teaching of Novation and his followers was condemned and they were expelled from the Church. But something of the spirit of Novation survived and he was able to organise a strong minority. The Novation Church had its hierarchy, its sacraments, its churches and its cemeteries. Its existence was legally recognised by the Emperor Constantine in 326 when he allowed the practice of Christianity. It lost its last church in Rome in 426 AD but in the East and in Africa it lasted even longer. The schism of Novation centred on one question: 'Could the Church, in Christ's name, absolve all sin?'

If returned apostates could not be reconciled to the Church, what kind of Church would it be? And if apostates were to be excluded, surely all kinds of other offenders could be excluded as well! The very nature of Christ's salvation was at issue. Could we put boundaries to Christ's love and forgiveness? We are still asking these questions today! But as we end The Year of Mercy we know his mercy has no end!