

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS, Goring Way

11.12.2016

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

Presbytery 01903 242624 / Church repository 01903 506890

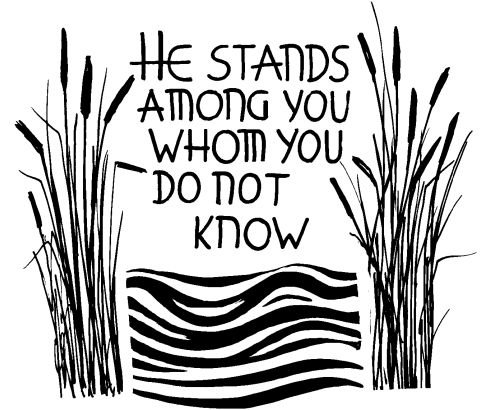
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Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

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

Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday	10 th	6.00 pm	Franco Barontini RIP
Sunday	11 th	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Ann McKenna RIP
Monday	12 th	9.30 am	Catherine Bandy RIP
		2.30 pm	Mother's Prayers
Tuesday	13 th	9.30 am	Elizabeth RIP
Wednesday	14 th	9.30 am	Francis McLaughlin RIP
Thursday	15 th	9.30 am	Father William James RIP
		7.30 pm	Service of Reconciliation
Friday	16 th	10.00 am	Nora Murphy RIP
Saturday	17 th	6.00 pm	Joan & Victor Naughton RIP
Sunday	18 th	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Carmelina Carvalho RIP
		6.00 pm	Polish Mass



SATURDAY: Exposition with Benediction: 10.00 - 11.00am. Reconciliation: 10.15 – 10.45 am & 5.15 - 5.45 pm

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10; James 5: 7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

COLLECTIONS: Church: £478 Mary's Meals: £825 Thank you for your generosity.

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 Schlimgen, 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 and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Desmond Monaghan, Mary Doran, Louis Hofmann, Raymond Dew, Frederick Franklin, Doris Dowling, Lilian Mutton, Mary Mackay, Ethel Baker, Margaret Mattingley, Noel Melling, Norah Murphy, Margaret Wadsworth, Inge Carey, Edna Turberville

3. DO YOU ENJOY SINGING? The next two choir practices are on Tuesday 13th December from 7.30 – 8.45 pm. and Friday 16th December from 5.00 – 6.00 pm. For further information please contact Margaret – 01903 504316

4. CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH will be in The Barn on Christmas Day from 12 noon until 4.00 pm. Tickets are by donation to support sending our youth to Lourdes. Invitations are in both porches. If you are able to help on the day, drive people to and from the Barn, contribute a desert Dermot and Jane-Anne would be most grateful. Please contact Dermot and Jane-Anne 01903-502070 for further details

5. THE ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE will be held here **next** Thursday, 15th December at 7.30pm. There will be a choice of confessors as there will be at the other Reconciliation Services in the Deanery. These are listed in both porches.

6. THE ANNUAL FAMILY CHRISTMAS CAROLS & READINGS SERVICE followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies will take place **NEXT** Sunday at 3.00 pm. If you are a creator of Mince Pies they would be gratefully received!

7. TRADCRAFT will be on sale in the Barn after all Masses. A box will be available if you would like to purchase TRADCRAFT goods for Worthing Churches Homeless Projects.

8. THE CHRISTMAS MASSES will be the usual Family Candlelight Mass on Saturday 24th December at 6.00pm; '9.00 pm Mass' preceded by carols from 8.30pm; Christmas Day: 8.15 am and 10.30am .

9. COME AND JOIN US SINGING CAROLS AND DISTRIBUTING MINCE PIES. All the Churches in Goring are joining together next Saturday, 17th December from 10.30 until 11.30 am on the Greensward at the Mulberry Shops to sing carols and give out Mince Pies to all those passing by. The shoppers are looking forward to this 'happening' and so it is essential that as many people as possible come and join in the singing thus

10. APF RED BOX HOLDERS please collect your red boxes from the Sacristy.

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

12. YOUR OFFERINGS AT THE CHRISTMAS MASSES are your personal gift to Father Liam (Gift Aid applies). If you are not Gift Aiding, special envelopes are available in the Porch. If you will be away for Christmas you might like to use these envelopes to make your gift either beforehand or afterwards

13. MOTHERS PRAYERS Following Carolyn's recent talk at all Masses, if you haven't already registered your interest and would like to be part of a Mothers Prayers group please contact Mary on 07889 065356 for more information on how to become involved. Mothers Prayers is a worldwide initiative where small groups of mothers (2 to 8) meet every week to pray for their children & grandchildren. Members obey the strict rule of confidentiality. During the meetings a mother may share her worries without the fear of anything being repeated outside of the meeting. The other mothers support her in her prayer and she will feel supported by thousands of mothers around the world who are also part of Mothers Prayers. All material is provided. For further information see www.mothersprayers.org

14. 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

15. 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

16. 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

17. WORTHING CHURCHES HOMELESS PROJECTS CHRISTMAS WISH LIST: Pocket sized Torches, Batteries, Boxer shorts/Underwear, Men's Gloves, Postage stamps, Sweets/Chocolate, Long Johns (Med), Diaries (small), Rucksacks, Tinned Biscuits, Thermal socks, Shaving gel, Razors, 7"x9" Gift Bags, Crackers, New Men's Jumpers. And to eat..Turkey, Beef or Gammon Joints, Potatoes and Vegetables, Bread Sauce Mix, Christmas Puds (no alcohol please) Cream, Chocolates, Nibbles and Fresh Fruit. Lists also available in both porches. Many thanks to all who help this local cause.

FATHER LIAM SAYS: Divine Providence has given us four Gospels each written by a different person at a different time and in different circumstances in response to the particular needs that various infant Christian communities found themselves in. Each of the gospels has its own special perspective on the ministry and significance of Jesus so each has its own unique structure and approach. As we approach Christmas this becomes especially evident.

Only two gospels, Matthew and Luke, tell us anything of the events surrounding the conception, birth and infancy of Jesus. We might find it extraordinary that some of the gospel writers show no interest in telling us things that we might like to know. For instance, John's Gospel nowhere tells us the name of the Mother of Jesus. When he speaks of Mary he never gives us her name and ignores the family circumstances in which the Word became flesh and lived among us.

The first Gospel written, Mark, begins with the adult Jesus at the start of his public life being baptised by John the Baptist. There is no mention in Mark's Gospel of Joseph, the legal father of Jesus. There are twenty seven books in the New Testament and only Matthew and Luke appear to show any interest in the family origins of Jesus. The thirteen letters attributed to St Paul are the earliest New Testament writings and give us remarkably few biographical details of Jesus life and ministry.

It is clear that the gospels do not attempt to give us a biography of Jesus. The goal of the gospels is to bring readers and hearers to a faith in Jesus that leads them to accept God's Kingdom. The Vatican Council teaches us in its Constitution on Divine Revelation issued in 1965 that 'the books of Scripture must be acknowledged as teaching firmly, faithfully and without error that truth which God wanted put into the sacred writings for the sake of our salvation.' That is a far cry from assuming that every statement has to be understood literally.

Matthew and Luke begin their gospels with the conception and birth of Jesus. Neither Matthew nor Luke was composing simply a life of Jesus. Indeed their infancy accounts differ greatly from one another. We are accustomed to having all the books of the Bible (or at least the New Testament) in one volume. But in the early Church it took some hundreds of years before the Church definitely decided which books belonged to the Bible, which books were inspired. So it took a long time to have equal access to all the books we regard as scriptural. There were also issues arising from the difficulty of actually copying books by hand. When paper and ink as we know them did not exist, writing was slow, laborious and expensive. When people gathered for Mass, obviously the Scriptural Readings could only come from the Scrolls that the local Christian communities were able to acquire. Being much nearer to the time and place to where the scriptures originated the early Christians were able to understand much better than us what the sacred writings were meant to convey. They were familiar with the picturesque language used and would not be concerned with issues of a literal understanding of the texts that often bother us.