

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

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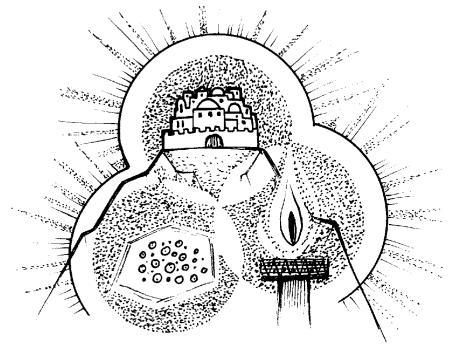
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Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

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

## **The Fifth Sunday of the Year**

Saturday	4 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Jessica Forte RIP
Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Jim Olliver RIP
		6.00 pm	Polish Mass
Monday	6 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Holy Souls
Tuesday	7 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Anthony Louise Chelliah RIP
Wednesday	8 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Robert Cooper RIP
Thursday	9 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Antony Iago RIP
Friday	10 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Violet Kilpatrick RIP
Saturday	11 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Ida Britto RIP
Sunday	12 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Mike Steere RIP



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

**COLLECTIONS: Church: £618 Thank you for your generosity.**

**This Sunday there will be a Special Collection for The Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund  
(SPECIAL GIFT AID ENVELOPES available in both porches)**

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Isaiah 58: 7-10; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Matthew 5:13-16

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20; 1 Corinthians 2:6-10; Matthew 5:17-37

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Molly Symonds, Deacon Pat Moloney, Roy Pritchard, Marie Davidson, Yvonne Carter, Monica Nichols, 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: Edith Forrester, Colette Coombes, Hilda Holcroft, Anastasia Langan. Walter Thompson, Alice Thomas, Antony Iago

**3. ST. VALENTINE'S EVENING CANDLELIT DINNER** will take place on Saturday 11th February to raise funds for the Parish Project, the hospice in Kalingalinga. This very popular event will include a three course meal, Bar, music and raffle. Tickets are £7.50 each and will be on sale after all Masses **this weekend**.

**4. WOMEN'S DAY RETREAT** will take place on Saturday 18th February from 9 am until 4pm in The Barn. The day will be led by Geoff and Gina Poulter. The day will start with Breakfast and Tea/ coffee will be provided. Lunch time will be a shared lunch. Please see posters and leaflets in the porches for further details. Contact Anne-01903-242624 if you would like to join us

**5. CHOIR PRACTICES** will start again next Tuesday 7th February from 7.30 – 8.45 pm. We shall be learning new music to lead the congregation at Mass as well as music for the Easter services. New members are most welcome to join us. For more information please contact Margaret on 01903 504316

**6 ARUNDEL AND BRIGHTON DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES** will be taking place from 27<sup>th</sup> July – 4<sup>th</sup> August 2017. Booking forms can be downloaded from the website [www.ablourdes.org](http://www.ablourdes.org) or telephone the Pilgrimage Office – 01403 740110. Pilgrims requiring any level of medical, nursing or carer assistance should contact the Pilgrimage Office direct.. Nurses are also required.

**7. DEANERY 'REFUGEE DAY'** will take place in The Barn on Saturday 25th February from 9.00 am – 1.00 pm. We are invited to discuss 'How can we respond to the current Refugee Crisis?' Speakers will include Aidan Cantwell – Diocesan Justice and Peace/ Social Action Adviser and Mary-Jane Burkett – Director of 'Voices in Exile'. They will give an update of the local situation for refugees and asylum seekers in our community and look at practical solutions to help build a culture of hospitality and a safe environment for arrivals. Please see posters in both porches and pick up a flyer. Please support our Deanery initiative to discover the ways in which we can support the Diocesan action for refugees in West Sussex.

**8. ECUMENICAL LENT GROUPS:** The Course this year is in five weekly sessions and is called 'Receiving Christ in 5 different ways'. It was inspired by a sentence from the Gospel of St John: 'To all who received him ... he gave power to become children of God.' (John 1.12.) This raises big questions. Aren't we all children of God anyway? Just how can we receive Christ? And what does it mean to have 'a relationship with God'? The Lent Groups will start the week beginning 27th February. Please find in both porches leaflets giving details of this year's group. If you would like to join a group please contact the Leader of the group you wish to join as soon as possible.

**9. MARY'S MEALS:** We are now in particular need of Toothpaste, Flannels Soap and Blue and Black Biro's. Many thanks to all who so generously contribute to these backpacks

**10. WORTHING CHURCHES HOMELESS PROJECTS:** Started in 1991 by four local Christians who took soup, blankets and sleeping bags to the seafront to local homeless people. From this small beginning Worthing Churches Homeless Projects was born. Today this West Sussex Christian charity has grown to 56 staff members and over 200 volunteers and provides a range of services, which offer opportunities to regain independence. The work undertaken by Worthing Churches Homeless Projects is crucial, people who live in our accommodation receive the specialist support they need to ensure their recovery. We empower homeless or insecurely housed individuals to achieve sustainable independent living. Urgently needed this month: Men's jeans and underwear - Specifically sizes small and medium, jeans size 32 and below. Kitchen utensils, especially, wooden spoons, spatulas, and veg peelers. Coffee, Sugar, Squash, Fruit juices, Biscuits, Any cleaning products, especially Washing powder, Toilet Rolls. Many thanks to all those who are so generous in their donations

**FATHER LIAM SAYS:** Mathematics was not my favourite subject in school and I have never since made any progress in understanding its intricacies. I have great sympathy for students – of whatever age – who have to labour day by day to make sense of it. I have come across a piece of information recently which might give encouragement to those who might be tempted to throw in the towel. It is this: Scientists have recently discovered that plants carry out intricate calculations each night to prevent them starving before dawn. In the middle of winter the homework they have to do is particularly demanding. In order to keep themselves going in the absence of sunlight, plants perform division equations to ration their store of starch until the moment the sun reappears. By counting their starch and dividing it by the number of hours left until morning they ensure that they do not run out before dawn. They can even adjust their calculations during the night.

Researchers from the John Innes Centre in Norwich discovered the amazing things plants do. The study was published by Professor Martin Howard in 'eLife' and provided 'the first concrete example in biology of such a sophisticated arithmetic calculation.' The ability to do this plays a crucial role in plants' survival because they are dependent on starch which is produced from carbon dioxide and sunlight during the day. They need starch to provide them with energy. Without it, they die. 'The capacity to perform arithmetical calculations is vital for growth,' Professor Alison Smith explained. She is a biologist who helped to make the discovery. 'The calculations are precise so that plants make the most efficient use of their food.' The researchers found that the plants used their starch at a steady rate, so that about 95% of their stock had been used up by dawn. When researchers changed light conditions, the plants altered their rate of usage.

St. Columban, who established several monasteries in France at the end of the Sixth Century AD when Christianity and civilisation were threatened in much of Europe, was known for his mystical relationship with the natural world. He is quoted as saying: 'If you want to know the Creator, know Creation.' Today we have the means of knowing the wonder of creation so much better than all the generations who have gone before us. Its immensity and intricacy are so much greater than scientists of even twenty years ago could have imagined. But sadly this knowledge does not always draw people to a knowledge and love of the creator. So many people can't even manage to believe that there is a Creator!. And many who believe in a Creator don't believe that creation is in danger at our hands.

It is marvellous that plants have ensured their survival for millions of years by making the most efficient use of their food. It is alarming that humans can be so stupid and selfish that they can seriously put the environment at risk by their irresponsible behaviour and blindness. Pope Francis – especially in his letter 'Laudato Si' – has been a significant source of inspiration for all mankind to wake up to the reality of what is at stake. In Para 165 he says that 'technology based on the use of highly polluting fossil fuels needs to be progressively replaced without delay.' In Para 206 he says that 'a change in lifestyle could bring healthy pressure to bear on those who wield political, economic and social power. This is what consumer movements accomplish by boycotting certain products.'

It is easy to be downhearted by the crassness of people in responsible positions who refuse to move things in a positive direction. But it is important to remind ourselves that with each positive step we take we are participating in and contributing to right relationships with all of God's Creation. In Pope Francis' words 'Hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.'

President Trump has ordered the U.S. Environment Protection Agency to remove the climate change page from its website. That page contains links to global warming research and detailed data on emissions. He threatens to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Climate Agreement which aims to limit global warming to no more than 2°C.

In addition to installing fifty solar panels fifteen months ago we are in the process of installing LED lights in the church and the Barn. In the next few weeks we will have installed these bulbs, which are more environmentally friendly, in the Presbytery also. We must all look to ways that make a difference for the better in all departments of life!