

## PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS, Goring Way

12.02.2017

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

Presbytery 01903 242624 / Church repository 01903 506890

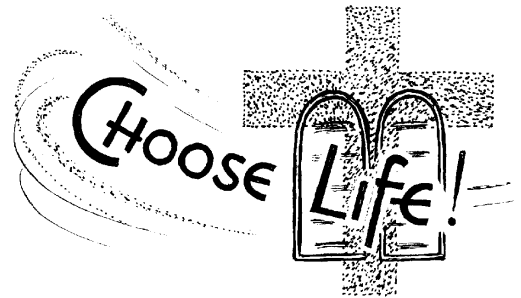
Email: [emgoring@english-martyrs.co.uk](mailto:emgoring@english-martyrs.co.uk) Website: [www.english-martyrs.co.uk](http://www.english-martyrs.co.uk)

Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

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

## The Sixth Sunday of the Year

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
Monday	13 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Michael Murphy RIP
Tuesday	14 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Roger Davis RIP
Wednesday	15 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Francesco Siriano RIP
Thursday	16 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	Pauline Overhill (sick)
Friday	17 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Edward O'Dwyer RIP
Saturday	18 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Johannah O'Driscoll RIP
Sunday	19 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Philip Gilpin 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

**COLLECTIONS:** Church: £515    The Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund: £705    Thank you for your generosity.

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

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Leviticus 19:1-2,17-18; 1 Corinthians 3:16-23; Matthew 5:38-48

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Molly Simmonds, 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: Kathleen Taylor, Robert Thompson, Antonia Kozubowska-Alexandre, Mike Steere, Sally Austin, Violet Way, James Melhuish, Peggy St John Farnon, Jack Wood, Sandra Forsyth, Maria Jackson, Severina Middleton, Jack Colclough, Reg Lehane,

**3. 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

**4. 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.

**5. 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.

**6 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.

**7. CHOIR PRACTICES** have restarted. The next four practices will take place on Thursday 16th (after 7.00 pm Mass: 7.30 – 8.45pm); Tuesday 21st February (7.30 – 8.45 pm); Thursday 2nd and Tuesday 7th March. We are 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

**8. THE DIVINE MERCY LENT GROUP** will be held every Wednesday at 7.00 pm during Lent in the Good Shepherd Chapel starting on Ash Wednesday (1st March) following the 7.30 pm Mass. Everyone is welcome.

**9. THE 'CAFOD AUCTION' AND SUPPER EXTRAVAGANZA** raised £702. Many thanks to all those who helped in any way to create such a delicious meal and enjoyable evening. Thanks also to those who gave so generously.

**10. 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

**11. WORTHING CHURCHES HOMELESS PROJECTS:** '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:** We know that the Church was outlawed in the Roman Empire for the first two hundred and fifty years or so of its existence. In spite of this it grew and spread west into Europe but it spread east from Jerusalem as well. It moved through Syria and beyond – outside of the Roman Empire. Edessa was a cosmopolitan trading city and the Church there claimed descent from the apostle Thaddeus. In Edessa – also outside the Roman Empire – the Church was free. While Christians in the Roman Empire had to live and move and have their being secretly and in private, Christians in Edessa were able to build proper public church buildings. There is a record of the earliest Christian building in the world in Edessa but it was destroyed in a flood in 201AD. The Christians in Edessa lived in great harmony with the Jews and they studied the Bible together. Christians at this time had not come to a united view as to what apostolic writings were inspired so the 'Bible' meant the Jewish Scriptures. 'Ta Biblia' is Greek for 'the books'. By 220 AD Christians began to use the word 'Bible' for both the Hebrew and the Christian Scriptures.

Music and singing – as well as Scripture – were always seen as being part of Jewish and Christian worship. The Gospel of Matthew tells us that after the Last Supper – the First Eucharist – 'After Psalms had been sung they left for the Mount of Olives.' (26:30) Paul wrote to the church at Colossae: 'With gratitude in your hearts sing Psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God.' Where did the first church music come from? The earliest known collection of Christian hymns 'The Odes of Solomon' come from Syria. Hymn writers flourished there around 200 AD. Church leaders like Ephrem of Edessa wrote hymns and prayers for the Eucharist in metrical verse. They set new Christian hymns to old popular melodies. Rather like the approach of the Salvation Army in modern times who wrote Christian lyrics to well known music-hall tunes.

Some of the early Popes came from the East and brought their practices with them. Pope Sergius, who was Syrian, used a Syrian form of words when he introduced 'the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world' into the Mass. English church music followed suit. There was the famous Syrian Archbishop of Canterbury called Theodore of whom the English historian, the Venerable Bede, says that after he arrived 'they began in all the churches of the English to learn church music.' Until recently what is probably the earliest known liturgical music was still being sung in the church of St George in Aleppo. But Aleppo has been almost totally ruined in the several years of the cruel Syrian conflict.

Syria enriched the church in England and in the West generally all those centuries ago with their music and song. Maybe we can find means of helping the Syrian people today in their dreadful nightmare. The devastation suffered by the Syrian people is so massive that we must respond by reaching out to them. WE must not allow ourselves to be paralysed by the scale of the problem. We hope the meeting in the Barn on Saturday 25th February will be fruitful. Invitations have gone out to all the parishes' of the Deanery – from Shoreham to Littlehampton. We will have input from key people from the Diocese and no doubt we will be inspired to respond to what is the greatest humanitarian tragedy since the Second World War.

Bishop Richard is encouraging all the Deaneries to do what we can to light a candle rather than just curse the darkness. He has suggested that we use this prayer:

**Prayer for Refugees**

Almighty and merciful God, whose Son became a refugee  
and had no place to call his own;  
look with mercy on those who today are fleeing from danger,  
homeless and hungry  
Bless those who work to bring them relief;  
inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts,  
and guide the nations of the world towards that day  
when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and of peace.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen