

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS, Goring Way

26.02.2017

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

The Eighth Sunday of the Year

Saturday	25 th	6.00 pm	Deceased Members of the Slattery & Bailey families
Sunday	26 th	8.15 am	Kay O'Donovan RIP The Parish
		10.30 am	The Parish
Monday	27 th	9.30 am	Nora O'Toole (ill)
Tuesday	28 th	9.30 am	Trevor Lewis RIP
Ash	1 st	9.30 am	Caroline Power RIP
Wednesday		7.30 pm	Stephanie Shephard RIP
		8.10 pm	Divine Mercy Lent Group
Thursday	2 nd	7.00 pm	Stations of the Cross
		7.30 pm	Holy Souls
Friday	3 rd	9.30 am	Ted Poole RIP
		7.30 pm	Prayer Group
Saturday	4 th	6.00 pm	Joseph & Josephine Burns RIP
Sunday	5 th	8.15 am	John Roe RIP
		10.30 am	John Josephn McMahon 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: £505 Thank you for your generosity.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting and abstinence

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 49:14-15; 1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Matthew 6:24-34

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

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: Eileen Fusciardi, Cecelia Boakes, Mary Hancy, Ted Leach, Marion Kurkowski, Frederick Wolford, Mary Eldred, Thomas Peeney, Mary Alder, Anna Kelledy, Olive Pickthall, John Roe,

3. ARUNDEL AND BRIGHTON DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES will be taking place from 27th July – 4th August 2017. Booking forms can be downloaded from the website 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.

4. ST. PATRICK'S NIGHT 'HOOLEY' in aid of our Parish Project, will take place on Saturday 18th March at 7.00 pm in the Barn. Irish Step Dancers, three course traditional Irish Supper – Bacon & Cabbage - Home made desserts, Irish Coffee, Bar, a Sing-a-long and Raffle,. Come and enjoy an evening of fun, good food music and dance. Donations of Raffle prizes would be appreciated. Tickets on sale after all Masses **next** weekend: Adults £7.50, Children £4.00

5. WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER will be taking place worldwide **next** Friday 3rd March. Please join us at our local service at 2.30pm at St Andrew's Church, Ferring

6. 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

7. TRADICRAFT WILL BE ON SALE after all Masses **this** weekend

8. WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE : The Chichester group of the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham is arranging a pilgrimage to Walsingham from Tues 23rd to Thurs 25th May (2 nights stay in Walsingham). They would like members of English Martyrs to join them. Travel is by air-conditioned coach. The coach will pick up near to church in Goring. Application forms, with details and instructions for their return can be found in both porches

9. CHOIR PRACTICES will in future be held on Tuesday evenings (7.30 – 8.45 pm) For more information please contact Margaret on 01903 504316

10. WHICH ECUMENICAL LENT GROUP WILL YOU BE JOINING?: The Course this year is in five weekly sessions and is called 'Receiving Christ in 5 different ways'. If you would like to join a group please contact the Leader of the group you wish to join as soon as possible. Further information in both porches

Leader	Contact No	Time	Dates	Place
Rev Andrew Sellwood	01903 246744 chat@rosinabayley.co.uk	7.30 – 9.00 pm	Mondays 6 th , 13 th , 20 th , 27 th March & 3 rd April	The Cornwall Room, Goring URC
Pastor Philip Athyal	01903 244282 janinebryer@talktalk.co.uk	7.30 – 9.00 pm	Wednesdays 1 st , 8 th , 22 nd , 29 th March & 5 th April	14, Sea Close, Goring-by-Sea
Jenny Gibson	01903 50496 jennygibson@phonecoop.coop	3.00 – 4.30 pm	Tuesdays 7 th , 14 th , 21 st , 28 th March & 4 th April	38, Galsworthy Road, Goring-by-Sea
Teresa Boyle	01903 529260 teresaboyle2003@yahoo.co.uk	11.00 am - 12.30 pm	Mondays 6 th , 13 th , 20 th , 27 th March & 3 rd April	English Martyrs Church, Goring Way
Rev Graham Locking	01903 245390 janicedavisjc@aol.com	2.00 – 3.30 pm	Wednesdays 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd , 29 th March & 5 th April	Bury Drive Methodist Church
Anne Niven	01903 240001 anne.niven@ntlworld.com	2.00 – 3.30 pm	Thursdays 2 nd , 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd , & 30 th March	English Martyrs Church, Goring Way

11. WORTHING CHURCHES HOMELESS PROJECTS: 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: King Hammurabi ruled in Mesopotamia – present day Iraq – nearly 1800 years BC. Mesopotamia literally means the land between the rivers. These were the two great rivers, the Tigris and the Euphrates which join together to flow into the Persian Gulf. King Hammurabi is best known for his Code of Laws and for his military conquests which made Babylon a great power. His Code of Laws – known as the Code of Hammurabi – was inscribed in stone and is the oldest law-book in the World, known for its strictness and justness. Mesopotamia was ruled at various times by the Babylonians, the Assyrians and the Sumerians. They worshipped Baal, the sun god and the moon goddess Ishtar or Astarte and also the stars. Over the centuries they closely studied the heavenly bodies and gave them names. They believed that some planets brought good luck, others misfortune. Mars meant war and Venus, love. To each of the five planets known to them they dedicated a day. This is the origin of our seven day week. With the Sun and the Moon that made seven. In English we still continue to call Saturday, Sunday and Monday after Saturn, the Sun and the Moon. But we now call the other days after other gods. In other languages – such as French or Italian – most of the days of the week still belong to the planets that the Babylonians first named. Interestingly, in the Irish language three days are named in reference to fasting. Fasting was a huge feature in their Christian life in the early centuries. Wednesday was a minor fast day throughout the year and Friday was a day of serious fasting. So they are names accordingly – the day of the First Fast and the Day of Fasting. Thursday is called the day 'between fasts'. At the best of times very few would have been able to feast magnificently but on two days each week they cut down on what little they had. Lent was something else!

To go back to the Babylonians and the Sumerians before them, they erected strange buildings so as to see the stars better in a misty land. They were convinced that their welfare was governed by the stars so they constructed tall, broad towers called ziggurats to get nearer to them. There were terraces piled one on top of another with ramps and steep narrow staircases. Right at the very top was a temple dedicated to the moon or one of the other planets. People came from far and wide to ask the priests to read their fortunes in the stars and they brought valuable offerings with them.

In the Book of Genesis we have the story of the Tower of Babel in Chapter 11 which was designed to make fun of these builders of towers. These ruined ziggurats can still be seen today with inscriptions telling how this or that King built or restored them. What look like little hills in fact are mounds of bricks and rubble. Deeper down are stout, high walls – remains of towns and cities laid out with long streets, tall houses, palaces and temples. Unlike Egypt's stone temples and pyramids, the buildings in Mesopotamia were built with sun-baked bricks which cracked and crumbled over time. One such mound is all that remains of Babylon, once the greatest city on earth, swarming with people from every part of the world to trade their wares. Nineveh, once the capital of the Assyrians, is another of the many mounds standing in the desert.

At one time this area had huge canals and water cisterns which retained the water and irrigated the land. The great plain of Mesopotamia was rich and fertile. When the canals became blocked with silt and the cisterns filled with mud, the land became a desert wasteland and a marshy swamp with here and there a mound with a rich story to tell.

I am indebted to E H Gombrich's 'A Little History'