

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS, Goring Way

28.05.2017

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 Website: www.english-martyrs.co.uk

Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

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

The Ascension of the Lord

Saturday	27 th	8.30 pm	Deceased Members of the Lynagh Family
Sunday	28 th	8.15 am	Canon Peter Phillips RIP
		10.30 am	The Intention of Father John Garry
Monday	29 th	9.30 am	No Mass
Tuesday	30 th	9.30 am	James & Ellen Lardner RIP
Wednesday	31 st	9.30 am	No Mass
Thursday	1 st	7.30 pm	Holy Souls
		8.00 pm	Choir Practice
Friday	2 nd	9.30 am	Reg & Dorrie Marshall RIP
Saturday	3 rd	6.00 pm	Dr. Salvo Xerri RIP
Sunday	4 th	8.15 am	Sivyer Family Past & Present
		10.30 am	The Parish
		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: Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:17-23; Matthew 28:16-20

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: : Acts 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:3-7,12-13; John 20:19-31

Church: £550 Thank you for your generosity.

This weekend there will be an Appeal by the Kiltegan Fathers (St Patrick's Missionary Society)

Next weekend there will be a Second Collection for The Catholic Communications Network

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Peter, Molly Simmonds, Deacon Pat Moloney, Roy Pritchard, Marie Davidson, Yvonne Carter, Lottie-Mae, Gordon & Ann Milne, Finlay, Alfred Deacon, Ester Park, Marie Garselis, Roni Horstead, Krissie White, 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: Hay Fraser, Cherry Stone, Annie Slater, Winifred Crowley, Marie-Louise Cammide, Geoffrey Clarey, Sarah Hancox, Simon Sims, Barbara Dancy, Joan Curley

3. WELCOME TO ANY VISITORS to our Parish this weekend. We do hope that you have enjoyed your stay

4. CHOIR PRACTICES: The next practice will be this Thursday 1st June at 8.00 pm. Thereafter we will meet on Tuesday's 7.30 – 9.00 pm.. If you enjoy singing do come and join us. All are welcome

5. PARISH FINANCE MEETING - you are invited to an open meeting to be held on Friday 9th June in the Barn at 7.30 pm to receive the Financial Statement for the Year 2016. Please do come if you are able

6. GIFT AID LETTER: If you Gift Aid your contributions to the church please collect a letter to advise you of the amount of income tax refunded to the Diocese/Parish from your contributions over the past financial year. To save postage these letters are available now in the church porch.

7. ENGLISH MARTYRS PRIMARY SCHOOL is looking to recruit a practising Catholic to join our Governing Body as a Foundation Governor. The Governing Body work as a team in co-operation with the Headteacher to ensure legal responsibilities are met and to preserve the Catholic character of the school. We are looking for someone with experience in one of the following areas - Finance, ICT, HR, Education or with links to local businesses. Lack of experience should not deter you from expressing an interest if you have a genuine desire to serve the school by devoting your time & expertise. For further information please contact the school on 01903 502868

8. READERS & MINISTERS OF COMMUNION: June rosters are now available in the Sacristy

9. BIKE RIDE: John Mayock will be setting off on a Bike Ride on Saturday 10th June to raise funds for Mary's Meals and the Hospice in Kalingalinga. He is looking for sponsors!

10. APF RED BOX HOLDERS (MISSIO) please return your red boxes to the Sacristy for counting

11. BRIGHTON CELEBRATE WEEKEND 2017: Celebrate is a non-residential weekend for all ages and takes place on Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th July at Cardinal Newman School, Hove BN3 6ND. Our theme is 'Seek First His Kingdom'. (Matthew 6:33) See poster in the porch and booking forms for further information. You can also visit <http://www.celebrateconference.org/weekends/brighton> where you can also book online

12. MARY'S MEALS: We are now in particular need of Soap, Toothpaste, Pencil Cases, Serviceable Ladies & Children's Sandals, Flip-Flops, Shoes. (Flat's please – NO heels) Many thanks to all who help in this way.

13. WORTHING CHURCHES HOMELESS PROJECTS: Urgently needed this month: Sugar, Squash, Fruit Juices, Biscuits, Coffee, Peanut Butter, Marmite, Hoodies, Boxer shorts, Ladies undies 12/14, Washing Powder, Toilet rolls, Dustpan & brushes, Mops (not buckets), Brooms, Tea towels Many thanks to all who donate in this way

FATHER LIAM SAYS: One of the canonised English Martyrs with a close connection to Sussex was the Jesuit priest Robert Southwell who was executed in February 1595. Elizabeth became queen in 1558 three years before the birth of Southwell. What was the religious situation like in Sussex as he grew into adulthood?

Sussex while relatively tranquil put up a resistance to the religious change brought about by Elizabeth after the short reign of the Catholic, Mary. Historians examine the provisions of the last wills and testaments of people who died in the early years of Elizabeth's reign to detect how effective she was in imposing the teaching and practice of the established Church of England. The Diocese of Chichester covered the area of Sussex but the first bishops of Chichester that Elizabeth appointed were not very vigorous in their leadership. In selected towns and parishes all recorded wills have been examined to give an idea of the transition from Marian Catholicism to official Elizabethan Protestantism. They note those who explicitly request that their souls be prayed for and those who instead provide only for the distribution of alms at the time of burial. Beyond the fact that about half of the wills sampled indicate that the testators were Catholic, it is not a very accurate exercise. But it does seem to indicate that where the local Lord of the Manor is a strong Catholic this had a big influence on others. Such a landlord would use his influence to have the Catholic priest remain in office and would of course encourage Catholics in remaining strong. This was the situation in West Firle, near Lewes, where the Gages were staunchly Catholic landowners and who were connected through marriage with many other Catholic landowners in the county and beyond. Battle Abbey was the principal seat in East Sussex of the Lords Montague, a family which stands out among the Catholicism nobility of Sussex for weathering the storms of religious change. The extent to which Catholic practice persisted in Lewes and Cuckfield has surprised historians, in view of the Puritan activity in these towns.

In 1564 the Bishops were required to give an assessment of conditions in their sees to the Privy Council. Bishop Barlow of Chichester spoke of the great scarcity of educated clerics who could be trusted to preach good doctrine. He felt that there was no hope in winning over the people until more members of the gentry had been persuaded to support the religious settlement.

The Reformation made no significant progress in Bishop Barlow's time in Sussex. Barlow admitted that it was only 'fear of your Lordships' vigilant authority' that 'open violence' was avoided in Sussex. A visitation of the diocese took place in 1569 after Barlow's death on the instructions of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The report draws a vivid picture of the degree to which Catholic piety was strongly practised in many parishes and voices official dismay that this should be the case. Ten years after the first attempts to enforce the religious settlement of Elizabeth the report finds that the Catholic squires are defiant in their faith and that the Catholic priests from the time of Queen Mary are still clinging to their parishes. If the situation was not a happy one for the established religion, it was not a happy one for Catholicism in Sussex (and elsewhere) either, as the Catholic religion was in the process of becoming dependent on the Catholic gentry for survival. But at Arundel the altar still stood in the parish church 'to the offence of the godly' who wanted the communion table instead. The report says that at Battle and Lindfield the parishioners were very 'blind and superstitious' and everything was held in readiness 'to set up the Mass again within twenty-four hours warning'.

Sometimes the resistance to religious innovation was led by the lord of the manor; elsewhere it was the parish priest or schoolmaster. At Racton the squire, Arthur Guster, had prevented the election of churchwardens and ruled 'the whole parish'. In Findon, the vicar who was also the schoolmaster fortified the resistance 'In the town of Battell, when a preacher doth come and speak anything against the Pope's doctrine they will not abide but get them out of the church. They say that they are of no jurisdiction, but free from any bishop's authority. The schoolmaster is the cause of their going out who afterwards in the corners among the people doth gainsay the preachers. It is the most popish town in all Sussex'. Seven priests from Mary's reign are described as opposed to the Protestant Settlement but still cling to the benefices. One of these was David Spencer, parson of Clapham. He died in 1573. His will was witnessed by William Shelley of Michelgrove, head of one of the most important Catholic families in Sussex. One of his executors was the schoolmaster – vicar of Findon, a Mr Story, who had been cited as an unreformed Marian cleric along with Spencer in 1569.

It is amazing that at least seven Catholic priests remained among the clergy of Chichester Diocese for ten years or so into Elizabeth's reign. It shows how difficult it was to enforce religious settlement on Sussex. In Elizabethan London there was only one suspected Catholic remaining among the parish clergy of that city in 1561.

(I am indebted to Roger B Manning's Religion and Society in Elizabethan Sussex)

*May God Bless you,
Fr. Liam.*