

## PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS, Goring Way

9.07.2017

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

### Fourteenth Sunday of the Year

|           |                  |          |                             |
|-----------|------------------|----------|-----------------------------|
| Saturday  | 8 <sup>th</sup>  | 6.00 pm  | The Parish                  |
| Sunday    | 9 <sup>th</sup>  | 8.15 am  | Dennis Bevans RIP           |
|           |                  | 10.30 am | Eileen Godfrey RIP          |
| Monday    | 10 <sup>th</sup> | 9.30 am  | Denis Nievens RIP           |
| Tuesday   | 11 <sup>th</sup> | 9.30 am  | Pat & Babe O'Mahoney RIP    |
| Wednesday | 12 <sup>th</sup> | 9.30 am  | Kathleen & Tom Corrigan RIP |
| Thursday  | 13 <sup>th</sup> | 7.30 pm  | Holy Souls                  |
| Friday    | 14 <sup>th</sup> | 9.30 am  | Private Intention (AN)      |
| Saturday  | 15 <sup>th</sup> | 6.00 pm  | Helen Roe RIP               |
| Sunday    | 16 <sup>th</sup> | 8.15 am  | The Parish                  |
|           |                  | 10.30 am | Caroline Casey 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:** Zechariah 9:9-10, Paul to the Roman 8:9, 11-13, Matthew 11:25-30

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Isaiah 55:10-11, St. Paul to the Romans 8:18-23, Matthew 13:1-23

Church: £614

Thank you for your generosity.

**This Sunday there will be a Second Collection for The Apostleship of the Sea which can be Gift Aided ONLY BY USING THE SPECIAL ENVELOPES AVAILABLE IN BOTH PORCHES**

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Irene Sedeño Vicente, 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: Donald Macdonald, Heather Reeves, Moira McCann, Marjorie Clarke

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

**4. THE APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA:** This Sunday is Sea Sunday, when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. There will be a Second Collection for the Apostleship of the Sea, the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church in Great Britain. It provides practical and spiritual support to seafarers visiting out ports. Please give generously to support its important work. For information about its work visit [www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk](http://www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk)

**5. BRIGHTON CELEBRATE WEEKEND 2017:** Celebrate is a non-residential weekend for all ages and takes place **next** Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th July at Cardinal Newman School, Hove, BN3 6ND. Our theme is: 'Seek First His Kingdom' (Matt.6:33) Celebrate weekends are very special. Families and single people, young and old come together in a vibrant atmosphere to celebrate the love of God. Together we experience the best Christian teaching, worship and drama. This year we welcome as our main speakers, Maria Heath, Archie Coates and Canon David Oakley with worship led by 'One Hope Project' and drama from RISE Theatre. Join us for daily Mass, inspirational teaching, workshops, streams for children, teenagers and young adults, together with opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. See poster and booking forms for more information. You can also visit <http://www.celebrateconference.org/brighton> where you can also book online or download booking forms. There is a discount available for families who are new to Celebrate.

**6. APF RED BOX HOLDERS** your red boxes are now ready for collection from the Front Porch

**7. APPRECIATING THE BEAUTY OF THE MASS!** Have you ever wondered "Why do I have to go to Mass?" "Why is it relevant to my life today" If so this course is for you. Over six weeks in The Barn starting on Friday 7th July at 7pm in an informal setting, we will explore the whys behind the whats of the Mass. The course is not about filling our heads with lots of knowledge but about exploring the wonderful gift that is called The Mass. Week six will be a Q & A session about our faith. Phone Dermot or Jane Anne on 01903 502070, [dermot36@gmail.com](mailto:dermot36@gmail.com)

**8. CREAM TEA IN THE BARN** on Saturday, 29th July between 3pm and 5pm. Tickets £5.00 on sale after all Masses **next** weekend. Proceeds to Our Lady of Good Counsel Network - a Catholic Pro-Life Charity.

**9. OUR CHURCH CLEANERS ARE WEARING OUT DUE TO OVERWORK!** We have four teams of volunteers who come for a maximum of one hour every four weeks on a Friday morning at 10.00 am. to sweep, vacuum and polish the church. Sadly some have had to give up for a variety of reasons and so our 'teams' are depleted thus making the task more difficult than it needs to be. If you could give just one hour a month of your time to this vital task – no-one wants a dirty church – please contact Anne in the office – 01903 242624 – or just turn up.

**10. JOHN MAYOCK SPONSORED BIKE RIDE:** Many thanks to John and all those who sponsored him £1,002 was raised and has been divided equally between Mary's Meals and our Parish Project in Kalingalinga.

**11. 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:** Recently we celebrated the Solemnity of St Peter and St Paul as a Holyday of Obligation. England and Wales must be about the only places on earth where this is the case. I think it is due to the struggles of the Reformation in Tudor times that the Catholic Hierarchy in these lands have decided to maintain this Feast as a Holyday of Obligation – to emphasise our loyalty to the See of Peter. As is very evident from the numbers who attend Mass on this Feast, the people in the pew are not overwhelmed.

Later this year the feasts of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and All Saints – Holydays of Obligation as well – also fall on weekdays. If such great Feasts as the Epiphany, The Body and Blood of Christ and the Ascension of the Lord can be celebrated on a Sunday why cannot the Feasts of Sts Peter and Paul, the Assumption of Our Lady and the Feast of All Saints be also celebrated in similar fashion? This is especially the case when parishes often have great difficulties in finding celebrants to lead the celebration. And it will very soon be far more difficult.

Consider Christmas, which this year falls on a Monday! The Fourth Sunday of Advent – like all Sundays – would be expected in this parish to have three Masses – the Vigil Mass and morning Masses at 8.15 and 10.30am. If we were to follow precedent, on Christmas Eve there would be a Mass, greatly appreciated by families of young children, at 6.00 pm. There would also be a Mass at 9.00 pm doing duty for the Midnight Mass. On Christmas morning there would be – if we follow precedent – Masses at 8.15 and 10.30am.

As we know very well the time is fast approaching when parishes such as ours will not be served by our own priest. It is time to give serious thought to how things can be managed differently. If there were to be in the future provision for just one Mass at English Martyrs each Sunday – and each Christmas – we would have to organise ourselves for such a contingency. It would require planning. That should be starting now – planning that would go hand in hand with releasing all the talents that our people have to enable them to fulfil their task of transforming our Christian community.

Since there will be fewer Sunday Masses thought should be urgently given to ways in which more people can be accommodated. If pews were replaced by chairs would that help? Could we dispense with kneelers? There must be specialist advice available on optimum use of space. Are churches the only buildings to use pews? We could consider opening up the eastern area of the church. The Good Shepherd Chapel area might be capable of being incorporated into the main worshipping space. I'm not an expert in building techniques but there are means of dispensing with walls without causing a collapse of the structure! If the Barn were to be linked up to the church by television would it be regarded as part of the worshipping space? The Good Shepherd Chapel – if it were to be incorporated into the larger area – could be provided with sliding glass doors so that it could continue to be used on weekdays for Mass in the Winter and as a place of prayer when visitors come to view the ceiling.

I am putting these half-baked ideas before you in the hope that it might stimulate further and better ideas. All I know is that we cannot survive unless we plan for the future. The future will be far different from anything we have yet experienced and we must embrace its challenges and possibilities.

St Justin the Martyr described how the Eucharist was celebrated around the year 160 AD. He was explaining to the pagan emperor Antoninus Pius what Christians did when they assembled. He began by saying 'On the day we call the Day of the Sun, all who dwell in the city or country gather in the same place.' The 'same place' was not a Christian building as Christianity was outlawed. They gathered in the same place for their one Sunday celebration. The Christian community was not fragmented by having a number of celebrations. They demonstrated their unity and strength by gathering together as the community of Christ in that place giving united witness and worship.

I noticed in the Diocesan Directory that Woking Parish has an average Sunday Mass attendance of 1,847 spread over 4 Masses – all in one church served by two priests. Crawley's Mass attendance is 1,572 spread over 9 Masses celebrated in 6 churches and served by three priests. Parishes do things differently!

***We will hold a Parish Meeting in the Barn on Thursday 20th July at 7.30pm to discuss our thoughts and suggestions for life as a parish without a resident priest. This is in preparation for a Deanery Meeting of Parish Representatives that Bishop Richard will be having in the Autumn.***