

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

Presbytery 01903 242624 / Church repository 01903 506890

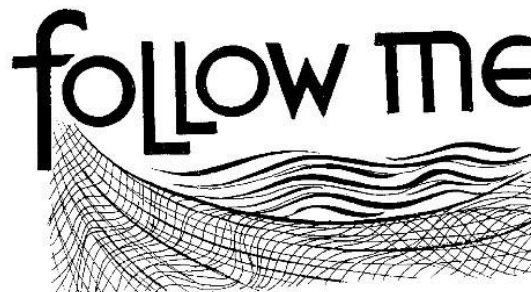
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Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

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

Twenty-Second Sunday of the Year

Saturday	2 nd	6.00 pm	Victor Kerling RIP
Sunday	3 rd	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Father Michael Adams (Golden Jubilee)
		6.00 pm	Polish Mass
Monday	4 th	9.30 am	Holy Souls
Tuesday	5 th	9.30 am	Sean Beausang RIP
		7.30 pm	NO Choir Practice
Wednesday	6 th	9.30 am	Kevin Folkan RIP
		7.00 pm	Divine Mercy Prayer Group
Thursday	7 th	11.00 am	REQUIEM FOR JOAN JACOBS RIP
		7.30 pm	Holy Souls
Friday	8 th	9.30 am	Bridget Curtin RIP
		7.30 pm	Prayer Group
Saturday	9 th	6.00 pm	Kevin Corrigan RIP
Sunday	10 th	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Private Intention (HE)



SATURDAY: Exposition with Benediction: 10.00 - 11.00am. Reconciliation: 10.15 – 10.45 am & 5.15 - 5.45 pm

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 20:7-9, St Paul to the Romans 12:1-2, Matthew 16:21-27

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Ezekiel 33:7-9, St Paul to the Romans 13:8-10, Matthew 18:15-20

Church: £583

Thank you for your generosity.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, Jeany, Peter, Molly Simmonds, Deacon Pat Moloney, Roy Pritchard, Marie Davidson, Yvonne Carter, Finlay, Alfred Deacon, Ester Park, Marie Garselis, Roni Horstead, Krissie White, Ronnie Tyler, Jenny Begley, Bill Hogg, Andrew Kennedy, Breda Schlimgen, Michaela Finn, Ann Wesley, Winifred Lyons, Yvette Allen, Leslie Lee, Kerry McStravick, Gerry Potter, Lydia Van Melsen, Donald MacDonald, Edna Catley

2. THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Veronica Wood, Francis Vooght, Kathleen Leech, William Turner, Cassia Denne, Peter Edwards, Irene Stephens, Frank Foy, Veronica Brown, Kate Harvey, William Middleton, Edward Rees

3. CAFOD HARVEST SUPPER will take place on Saturday 16th September following the 6.00 pm Mass. The food will be delicious and there will be a raffle. Prizes would be welcome. Tickets will be on sale after all Masses **this** weekend Adults £7.00, Children £3.50. For further information please contact Teresa 01903 529260.

4. URGENT APPEAL: 'Friendship in the Barn' on a Friday afternoon has proved extremely popular and a happy meeting place for a number of people who have little opportunity to go out and meet people. For it to continue new people are required to come forward and volunteer for one afternoon a month from 1.00 – 4.00 pm. The task involves setting up (and putting away) the tables and chairs, making and serving tea in real china cups, saucers and plates and generally being welcoming to those who come. Drivers would also be welcome to collect and return home some of our visitors. If you have just four hours a month to spare on a Friday afternoon please contact Jane-Anne 01903 502070

5. DIOCESAN MASS FOR ALTAR SERVERS 2017 will take place in Arundel Cathedral **next** Saturday 9th September at 12 noon with Bishop Richard Moth. All who have served, all who are serving and anybody who would like to come are welcome to attend. Please bring your cassock & cotta or alb. Mass is followed by light refreshments in the Cathedral Centre though please bring your own packed lunch.

6. DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Saturday 16th September at 7.00 pm in the Barn – CAFOD Harvest Supper Evening

Sunday 17th September at 6.00 pm - Ecumenical Service at St Mary's C of E Church, Goring-by-Sea

Saturday/Sunday 23rd/24th September after all Masses in the Barn – Traidcraft

Sunday 1st October at 3.00pm -

Saturday 14th October from 3.00 pm in the Barn – Saints & Sinners XVI

Saturday 21st October at 9.00 am in the Barn - Women's Breakfast with speaker

7. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2018: Is your son or daughter in Year 3 this term? If so, they are at the age where they can start the preparation course for First Holy Communion. Please collect a letter and application form from the Sacristy and return it to the Parish Office as soon as possible. The first meeting for parents will be on Thursday 28th September at 8.00 pm in The Good Shepherd Chapel and the first lesson for the children will be on Tuesday 3rd October from 4.30 – 5.30 pm

8. MARY'S MEALS: We are now in particular need of Soap, Toothpaste, Pencil Cases, Colouring Pencils and Flannels. Many thanks to all who help in this way

9. WORTHING CHURCHES HOMELESS PROJECTS: HARVEST FESTIVAL APPEAL – Please help WCHP to restock their cupboards with any of the items below so that they are able to help the 1,000 people who turn to them each year. Coffee, Sugar, Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned vegetables, Cooking oil, Tinned fruit, Hot chocolate, Squash, Tomato Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Gravy, Chutney, Stuffing, Desserts/Puddings, Ready Meals, Biscuits, tea Towels, Sponges, Scourers/Brillo Pads, Sandwich bags, Hairbrush/Comb. Thank you so much for your continued support.

FATHER LIAM SAYS: One of the greatest poets that fought in the First World War was Siegfried Sassoon. Despite his German fore-name he was a thoroughly English 'fox-hunting' man. He survived the war – unlike many of the 'War Poets' and died in 1967 at the age of eighty-one. The experiences he suffered made him detest war and he is the angriest of the poets. People were asking: 'Why did we fight this war?' and Sassoon was convinced that the whole exercise was futile and the huge casualties resulted from poor leadership. The poem 'The General' was written in 1916 and he was already totally disillusioned. Who is the enemy in this poem?

'Good morning, good morning! the General said
When we met him last week on our way to the line.
Now the soldiers he smiled at are most of 'em dead
And were cursing his staff for incompetent swine.
'He's a cheery old card', grunted Harry to Jack
As they slogged up to Arras with rifle and pack.
But he did for them both in his plan of attack.'

'Up the line to death' was the expression used by soldiers. Sassoon himself was a fierce fighter. His comrades nicknamed him 'mad Jack' but he could not see the point of the war. When he was awarded a Military Cross for outstanding valour he is reputed to have thrown the medal into the River Mersey. Incidentally, he became a Catholic ten years before his death.

The last British soldier to have fought in World War I died in 2009. He was Harry Patch and he visited Passchendale on the 90th Anniversary of the battle in 2007. He described the war as the 'calculated and condoned slaughter of human beings. It wasn't worth one life.' At Passchendale – one hundred years ago, a quarter of a million British soldiers were lost in months of fighting in deep mud, with barely five miles of ground won. The war that was called 'Great' was the bloodiest war in British History, but no war has produced a greater wealth of English poetry.

The poets of these awful four years reflected on whether their real enemy was Kaiser, a first cousin of their own King, George V or those who led them into the meaningless slaughter for no good reason. Lord Alfred Tennyson saw things very differently when he was writing about one of the battles of the Crimean War in 1854. 'The Charge of the Light Brigade' commemorates a bloody and absolutely hopeless assault by six hundred British Cavalry on Russian artillery guns. A French general watching it said: 'It is magnificent but it is not war.' But Tennyson does not criticise the commander, or his country but lavishes praise on the bravery of these soldiers who rode to their death. 'Their's not to reason why, theirs but to do and die.' He saw their deaths as glorious.

Most people thought that the Great War would be over 'by Christmas' – in two or three months. The Spirit of England at the outbreak of the War is expressed by Rupert Brooke in 'The Soldier'.

'If I should die, think only this of me.
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is forever England.'

Brooke's poem was instantly taken up by war propagandists. It was read out to the congregation in St Paul's Cathedral. Clergymen gave sermons on it. It was recited at school assemblies. It was a particular favourite of Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty. He wrote the glowing obituary of Brooke in The Times. Brooke volunteered on the outbreak of the war at the age of twenty-eight and died in the first year of the conflict of an infected mosquito bite. He is buried in a 'foreign field' – the Greek island of Skyros. Three years and millions of deaths later, Brooke's anthem rang hollow. Those who actually experienced the horrors of it all tended to see it as futile rather than glorious.

The best known of the War Poets was Wilfred Owen, a decorated and gallant officer. He was killed in the last week of the war. The telegram announcing his death was delivered to his family as the church bells began ringing – declaring the end of the war, 11th November 1918. It is hard for us to imagine the horrors experienced and witnessed by men such as Owen. He speaks of seeing dead comrades day after day, year after year. In his poem fittingly called 'Futility' he asks 'why are all these young and idealistic men being slaughtered?' The traditional Biblical account of Man's creation out of clay – fashioned by God's hand – is hinted at in a moving single line: 'Was it for this the clay grew tall?'

(I am indebted to Jack Sutherland's 'History of Literature