

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS, Goring Way

5.11.2017

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

Thirty-First Sunday of the Year

Saturday	4 th	6.00 pm	Kevin Kelliher RIP
Sunday	5 th	8.15 am	Private Intention (BM)
		10.30 am	Intention of Daniel & Judi Abbott
		6.00 pm	Polish Mass
Monday	6 th	9.30 am	Aidan Mason RIP
Tuesday	7 th	9.30 am	Michael Murphy RIP
Wednesday	8 th	9.30 am	Bridget Brennan RIP
Thursday	9 th	7.30 pm	Special Intention (TM)
Friday	10 th	9.30 am	Madurheen Singarayar, Singarayar Arulamma, Dominic Lambert, Laurdu Mary Mark RIP
		11.00 am	REQUIEM FOR REG MARSHALL RIP
Saturday	11 th	6.00 pm	Billy Gallagher RIP
Sunday	12 th	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Intention of Anne Niven



They aren't willing even to lift a finger to help them. (Matthew 23.4)

SATURDAY: Exposition with Benediction: 10.00 - 11.00am. Reconciliation: 10.15 – 10.45 am & 5.15 - 5:45 pm

TODAY'S READINGS: Malachi 1:14-2:2,8-10; 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9,13; Matthew 23:1-12

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Wisdom 6:12-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

Church: £615 Thank you for your generosity.

This weekend there will be a Second Collection for The Retired Priest's Fund (Gift Aid).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Anne Whitehead, Bernard Bandy, Jeany, Peter, 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: Brian Hurst, Reginald Patten, Elizabeth Holding, Benjamin Dixon-Smith, Margaret Hanson, Francis Fisher, Brian McHale, Phillip Horsfall, Edward Hetherington, Elvira Fleming, Patricia Thompson

3. CONFIRMATION 2017/18: If you are in Year 10 or above and considering being Confirmed next year you are invited to join our preparation programme that will be starting with a meeting for Parents and Candidates **next** Thursday 9th November at 7.30 pm in the Presbytery.. Please collect an application form from the Sacristy and return to the Parish Office as soon as possible

4. LEARNING ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH: This year's course (RCIA) for those interested in finding out more about our faith with a view to being received into full communion with the Catholic Church will be starting **next** Tuesday 7th November at 7.30 pm in the Presbytery. If you know of anyone who would like to join us, please ask them to ring Father Liam on 01903 242624 for details. This course would also be suitable for those wanting to return to the practise of their Catholic faith.

5. SUNDAY LUNCH (2 COURSES) will be served in The Barn on Sunday 12th November at 12.00 noon in aid of the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child SPUC. Tickets will be on sale after all Masses this weekend. Price Adult £7.50 and a Child £4.00. Donations of Raffle Prizes would be gratefully received and could be left in the Sacristy.

6. CHRISTMAS DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Saturday 9 th December	- 7.00 pm - Curry & Carols Night
Thursday 21 st December	- 7.30 pm - Advent Reconciliation Service
Sunday 17 th December	- 3.00 pm - Christmas Carols and Mulled Wine
Saturday 23rd December	- 6.00 pm – Mass 4th Sunday in Advent
Sunday 24th December	- 9.00 am – Mass 4th Sunday in Advent (No Children's Liturgy)
Sunday 24 th December	- 6.00 pm - First Mass of Christmas especially for children
	- 9.00 pm - Mass preceded by Carols from 8.30 pm
Monday 25 th December	- 8.15 am and 10.30 am Mass
Tuesday 26 th December	- No Mass



7. NOVEMBER – IS THE MONTH FOR HOLY SOULS: The usual 'November envelopes' are available in both porches for those wishing to remember their loved ones at the Altar. Any donations will go towards offering Masses for the Holy Souls. Please fill in and hand in to the Sacristy as soon as possible

8. HAVE YOU VISITED THE REPOSITORY RECENTLY? We have a wide array of Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars & candles, cribs, diaries and items suitable for little Christmas Presents

13. 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

14. WORTHING CHURCHES HOMELESS PROJECTS would be most grateful to receive: Cooking Sauces, Tea, Coffee, Squash, Tomato Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Biscuits, Washing Power/tablets, Washing up brushes, Dishwasher tablets, Floor cleaner, Pump hand soap, Shampoo, Shower gel. Thank you so much for your continued support

FATHER LIAM SAYS: I spent a couple of weeks happily visiting various places in Wales this summer. One of the things that pained me was to see how few were the towns where Sunday Mass was celebrated. I fully realise that the Catholic population in many parts of England and Wales is not particularly huge but we don't necessarily need a large congregation in order to celebrate Mass – nor do we need a Catholic church building. Mass can be celebrated in a wide variety of places. In the early centuries of Christianity this had to be universally the case. Christianity was outlawed and so Christian buildings of any kind were out of the question. Yet Christian communities gathered together, especially to celebrate the Sunday Eucharist together. Many of these would be someone who presided at the gathering and broke the Eucharistic bread for them. The title priest was not always given to the one who presided because the name 'priest' was often associated with pagan worship/ For hundreds of years the presiders at the Eucharist may or may not have been married. This did not seem to be of great importance. We know from the New Testament that many of the Apostles themselves were married. Celibacy only came to be a requisite when the Church was about a thousand years into its existence. Nor did these presiders at the Eucharistic Table have to undergo a prolonged period of philosophical and theological training such as we have in our Seminaries. Seminaries in fact only came on the scene about 400 hundred years ago – after the Reformation and the Council of Trent which came to an end in 1563.

The Church learned early how to adapt in order to survive and to grow. Perhaps – as in the case of people – it is harder to adapt the older we get, but it is necessary nevertheless. The longer we avoid change, the more urgent it becomes. Nearly forty years ago, the National Pastoral Congress meeting in Liverpool discussed many issues facing the Church in the wake of the Second Vatican Council. Some delegates suggested that 'careful consideration be given, to the question whether it is God's will that married men should at this time be called to the priesthood'. The Report of the Congress, 'The Easter People' stated among many other things that there was no evident need to petition Rome as the shortage of priests in our country was not sufficient to warrant concern. We don't need to be reminded how the scene has changed since then with the amalgamation and closure of parishes, the huge decline in ordinations to the priesthood and the ever advancing age profile of serving priests. The Brazilian Bishop of Xingu a couple of years ago discussed the issue of ordaining married men as priests with Pope Francis. His diocese has 700,000 people, 800 church communities but only 27 priests, many of them elderly. The celebration of Mass two or three times a year is the most that can be managed for most of the people. The Pope explained that he could not take everything in hand personally from Rome. 'Local bishops who are best acquainted with the needs of our faithful should be courageous and make concrete suggestions' he explained. The Pope told him that rather than acting alone, he indicated that regional and national bishop's conferences should seek and find consensus on reform and should then bring up their suggestions for reform in Rome. The Pope made it clear that provided there is discussion and honest agreement it is back firmly in the hands of the Bishop's Conference to have such informed and courageous conversations. The attempt at shared discussion within the Church in England and Wales in 1980 on this important question withered on the vine back then. We need to ask again: 'Who will break the Bread of Life for us?'

The next Synod of Bishops will take place next year. It is on the subject of Vocation. Vocation is the call all of us receive through our baptism to play our part in furthering the work of Christ. It is hard to see how the Synod can avoid addressing the issue of the ministerial priesthood, celibate and married. The Eastern Church is in union with Rome (and so as Catholic as is the Church of the Latin Rite). It has always had a married and celibate priesthood working side by side. To a limited extent we have had a similar situation here since Pope John Paul II allowed married clergy of the Church of England to be ordained priests in the Catholic Church when they entered into full communion with it. In our own Deanery we have a married Catholic Parish priest.

We live in a time of rapid movement. Change is no longer a slow and deliberate process. Nowhere is this more evident than in our concern for the future of an ordained priesthood. Without an ample number of priests our people will be unable to gather together as a community around the Table of the Lord. Pope Francis has asked that we listen to each other. It is very important that the Bishops of England and Wales listen to us. Bishop Richard wants to listen to us. Has the time come to revisit a decision requiring a celibate priesthood that is becoming a hindrance to the work of the Church, the work of Christ? The argument that the Church could not afford a married priesthood only applies if we work with the existing model. If we embrace a married priesthood, many of these new priests will already have a salaried position. If other Christian churches can afford a married clergy, why can't we? What about the Catholic Churches of the Eastern Rite who have managed to do so from the earliest centuries?