

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS, Goring Way

3.12.2017

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

Presbytery 01903 242624 / Church repository 01903 506890

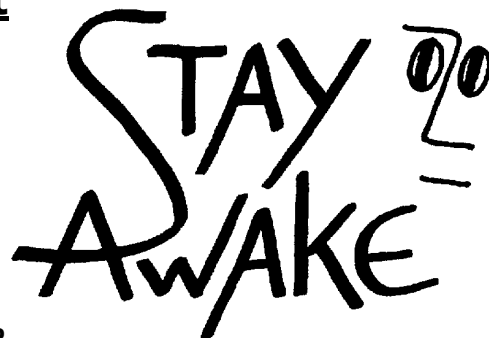
Email: emgoring@english-martyrs.co.uk Website: www.english-martyrs.co.uk

Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

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

First Sunday of Advent

Saturday	2 nd	6.00 pm	Michael O'Driscoll RIP
Sunday	3 rd	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Seamus O'Dea RIP
		6.00 pm	Polish Mass
Monday	4 th	9.30 am	In Honour of St Peregrine
Tuesday	5 th	9.30 am	Barbara Sarcol RIP
		7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	6 th	9.30 am	Bridget Brennan RIP
		7.00 pm	Divine Mercy Group
Thursday	7 th	11.00 am	REQUIEM FOR DONALD MACDONALD RIP
		7.30 pm	Anne Shaw RIP
Friday	8 th	9.30 am	Mary Ellen & Bill Reddy RIP
Saturday	9 th	6.00 pm	Deceased Relatives of Gina Marshall
Sunday	10 th	8.15 am	Holy Souls
		10.30 am	Annie McCaffrey RIP



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

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1,3-8, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:33-37

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11, 2 Peter 3:8-14, Mark 1:1-8

Church: £537 Thank you for your generosity.

This weekend there will be a Second Collection for Mary's Meals. (See Special Gift Aid Forms)

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Helen Gillespie, 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, Edna Catley

2. THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY: DONALD MACDONALD and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Bridget White, Winifred Rose, Elizabeth Burtwell, Rob Connor, Leslie Hines, Angela McGowan, Bridget Daly, David Mitchell, Margaret Mould, Chris Boucher, Nancy Leonard, Harry King, Cesare del'Nero, Ida Crowley, Evelyn Foster, Daphne Day

3. 'CURRY & CAROLS' full of Christmas festivities and a sing-a-long, will take place in the Barn **next** Saturday 9th December at 7.00 pm (following the 6.00 pm Mass). The proceeds will go to the Parish project in Kalingalinga. Tickets will be on sale after all Masses **this** weekend Adult £7.50, Child £4.00. Raffle prizes will be gratefully received

4. APF RED BOX HOLDERS please return your red boxes for counting. You can leave them in the Sacristy for Teresa. If you have difficulty bringing the box to church please phone the Parish Office 01903 242624 and we will arrange collection

5. THE ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE will be held here on Thursday, 21st December at 7.30pm. There will be a choice of confessors as there will be at the other Reconciliation Services in the Deanery. These are listed in both porches.

6. KEEPING CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS: Worthing Knights of St Columba will provide Christmas posters to all local parishes and ask that they are displayed as an act of Christian witness. On the same theme, the Royal Mail's Christmas stamps this year, are either Madonna and Child or a snowman. Please ask for the Christian stamps to help get the message of Christmas across. The Royal Mail will only continue to produce Christian stamps at Christmas if there is sufficient demand

7. WOMEN'S ADVENT BREAKFAST - Saturday 16th December 09:00-11:00 at Jane-Anne's house. It would be wonderful to have you join us for a full cooked breakfast, a time of Advent reflection, chat and festive company. To help with catering numbers If you would like to come please contact Jane-Anne on 01903-502070/ 07765403883.

8. USED POSTAGE STAMPS FOR THE MISSIONS: As the Christmas Cards start arriving please remember to rescue all those beautiful stamps, leaving about half an inch of envelope around the edges, and put them in the box in the Porch so that they can be used to raise money for the Missions

9. ADRIAN BISHOP'S SECOND AND THIRD PARTS of his children's trilogy following 'The Slumbering Knights', will be on sale after each Mass the weekend of 16th/17th December in the West Porch, price £6.00 per copy or two for £10.00.. Adrian's previous books will also be available

10. CHRISTMAS CARDS, CRIBS AND ADVENT CALENDARS are now available in the Repository

11. BISHOP RICHARD invites families to join him on a pilgrimage to Dublin for the World Meeting of Families 22nd – 26th August 2018. This event includes; a three day congress exploring themes from Amoris Laetitia. Wonderful international speakers will lead sessions for adults and there are age appropriate activities for children and young people. This is followed by a concert style "Festival of Families" on the Saturday and the event concludes with Sunday Mass concelebrated by Pope Francis. For further details please see flyers in the porch or contact wmof2018@dabnet.org

12. WORTHING CHURCHES HOMELESS PROJECTS would be most grateful to receive Christmas Presents for their clients: Shampoo, Shower gel, Shaving foam, Razors, Deodorants men and women, Toothpaste, Single toothbrushes, Hair brushes, Boxer shorts med/large, Knickers 10/12 12/14, Rucksacks, Gift bags, Wrapping paper, Selotape, Sweets, Biscuits **And to Eat...**Turkey, Beef or Gammon Joints, Potatoes & Vegetables, Bread Sauce Mix, Christmas Puds (no alcohol please), Cream, Chocolates, Nibbles, Fresh Fruit. Thank you so much for your continued support

FATHER LIAM SAYS: Priests and deacons of the various parishes in each Deanery meet on about six occasions each year. We have a discussion on a variety of topics of a pastoral nature. These meetings usually used to take place at mid-day. In recent years the number of deacons has increased – many of whom are in full-time employment in various occupations. The number of priests in each Deanery is fewer than used to be the case and many of them are retired from full time parish ministry but are available to help in parishes as required. Our meetings now sometimes take place in the evenings to reflect the changing situation and the topics we discuss also reflect the changing parish scene.

When I came to this Deanery over ten years ago it was expected that our parishes would be affected far more speedily and radically than has been the case. But events are now catching up with us and parish life will have to alter sooner rather than later. One of the consequences of having had so many priests in the past has been the creation of a number of small parishes each with their own parish priest and usually three weekend Masses and weekday Masses. Another result of large numbers of priests was the tendency for priests to assume too prominent a place in parish life. The impression was too often given that the priest was in charge. He tended to be the one who took most of the initiative in the life of the parish and the people in the pews were all too often expected to be rather passive.

This was not meant to be the way. It certainly was not Christ's plan. Christ's plan is that we are all branches and he is the vine. We are all called to bear fruit. He says to all his followers that they are salt of the earth and light of the world. St Paul never tires of telling the members of the various Christian communities that they are all parts of one Body. Christ is the head of that body and we are all members of the body. As in a human body all the parts are indispensable. We all have an essential part to play in the life of the Church. We become part of the body of Christ through baptism. Baptism is the sacrament of entry into the Church.

We know that anyone is capable of baptising a person in a case of emergency. A parent, brother, sister, friend can do it. But ordinarily it is a bishop, priest or deacon who does it. Why? Because baptism is our entry into the Christian community and so it is administered by someone who is commissioned to act in the name of that community. We also know that baptism can be celebrated anywhere but the most appropriate place is the community's normal place of assembly, usually the church building. Baptism, being the rite of entrance into the Christian family is something bigger than a purely personal or family affair. This is spelled out when the minister addresses the person being baptised: 'the Christian community welcomes you with great joy.'

In the early Church baptism was followed immediately by confirmation. This is still done in Eastern Churches and in our Church in the case of adults. In confirmation – normally conferred by the bishop – the candidate is commissioned to take on responsibility for the Church's task and to become actively involved in pursuing it. There is the very ancient gesture of the imposition of hands. This is an invocation of the Holy Spirit to assist those confirmed in fulfilling public tasks. They are commissioned to take on responsibility as witnesses of Christ, committed to spreading and defending the faith by word and deed. The central and essential rite of confirmation is the anointing with oil – the oil of Chrism. This is to do with Christ-ening. The word Christ is Greek for 'the anointed one'. The Hebrew word is 'Messiah'. By being Christened we become a Christ-figure in the world. We receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, not simply for our personal sanctification but for carrying out the task of witnessing to Christ.

Membership of the Church means being part of a community which celebrates the Eucharist. Full membership means full participation in the Eucharist. The word 'companion' has something to tell us about this. It is derived from two Latin words 'cum' which means 'with' and 'panis' which means 'bread'. A companion is a person with whom we share bread. By partaking of the Bread of Life we enter into communion, not just with the Lord, but also with all gathered around the table and with all the other members of his family. We become companions in the Church. Companions will have different gifts and different roles but they are all equally members. Real companionship always presupposes the recognition of a basic equality. We through baptism, the Eucharist and Confirmation are full and equal members of the Church – as fully and equally as even the Pope is. There cannot be a membership that is fuller than full and some cannot be more equal than others. If we are conscious of the anointed hands of the priest, we ought to be conscious too of the anointed head and forehead of every confirmed Christian –