

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS, Goring Way

31.12.2017

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

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Saturday	30 th	6.00 pm	Private Intention (LY)
Sunday	31 st	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Mary & Jack Haugh RIP
Monday	1 st		No Mass
Tuesday	2 nd		No Mass
Wednesday	3 rd	7.30 pm	Timo Gabriel RIP
Thursday	4 th	9.30 am	Don Perriman RIP
Friday	5 th	9.30 am	Reg Marshall RIP
		7.30 pm	Prayer group
Saturday	6 th	6.00 pm	Michael O'Driscoll RIP
Sunday	7 th	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Intention of Anne Stone
		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: Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 14-19; Luke 2:22-40

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

Contributions to the Christmas Crib will be sent to Christian Schools in the Holy Land

THIS SUNDAY there will be a second collection for the Worthing Churches Homeless Projects Special Gift

Aid Forms and Envelopes available in both porches

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: David Hall, Ann & Gordon Milne, Helen Gillespie, Anne Whitehead, Bernard Bandy, Jeany, Peter, Deacon Pat Moloney, 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 **MURIEL DAY, EITHNE MARTIN** and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Father Enda Naughton, Lilian Willmoth, Marion Hack, John Bennett, Agnes Clarke, Phyllis Spratt, Thomas O'Meara, Janine North, Bob Carey, John Donald, Maureen Barrass, Patricia Wyant, Charles Simpson, Herbert Foreman, Beryl Snadden, Brenda McDonald, Donald Perriman, Peggy Smith, Fiona Hague, Kathleen McCarney, Mary Castanes, Anna De Vido,

3. CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR CHILDREN: For the last eleven years we have helped 'Home-Start, Worthing and Adur' by donating toys for the children of the families that they support and the gifts have brought a great deal of pleasure to the children. If you are able to assist this year please wrap up a present (indicating if it is meant for a boy or a girl and of what age) and place it under the Christmas tree in church over the Christmas Season

4. CRIB DONATIONS: This year this parish will be sending crib donations to Friends of the Holy Land. Every penny will help the poorest Christian families, especially in and around Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza and Israel, with education, employment, health or housing costs and initiatives. FHL is non-political and ecumenical. For further information, please take away the leaflet by the crib and keep our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land in your prayers at this time.'

5. THE 'CAFOD AUCTION' AND SUPPER EXTRAVAGANZA will be held in The Barn on Saturday 13th January 2018 at 7.00 pm following the 6.00 pm Mass. Please remember to save any 'surplus' gifts or unused items for the Auction. If you would like them to be collected please contact Charles 01903 505546. Tickets will be on sale after all Masses **this** weekend price £7.50. Raffle prizes will also be gratefully received

6. WHAT IS YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION? Or should it be '**YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU!**' We are a busy parish with many good things happening in it but these only can happen if you are prepared to join in. At the moment help is needed with Flower Arranging, Cleaning, assistance with The Little Angels Mother and Toddler Group, the Music Group and Friendship in the Barn. At the beginning of April we open again to the public who wish to come and view the ceiling and our lovely stained glass windows. There is much to do but we really do need you to come and help where you can. Please contact Anne in the Parish Office for further information and with your offers of assistance

7. APF RED BOX HOLDERS please collect your emptied red boxes from the front porch.

8. THE DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2018 is now available in the Repository price £5.00

9. MARY'S MEALS: We are now in particular need of Toothpaste, Pencil Cases, Sandals, Flip-Flops & Blue or Black Biro's. Many thanks to all who so generously contribute to these backpacks

10. WORTHING CHURCHES HOMELESS PROJECTS thanks all those who donated goods for Christmas. It will be much appreciated by the recipients and will enable them to receive support and encouragement as well as food and clothing over the Christmas Holiday.

FATHER LIAM SAYS: In the days long before Twitter and even the telephone a message was often passed on through a chain of people until it – or a version of it – reached the person it was meant for. The story is told of an officer in battle desperately seeking to get a vital message across: 'Send in reinforcements, we are going to advance.' The final version that emerged was 'Send in three and four-pence, we are going to a dance.' Three and four-pence was, once upon a time, the equivalent of 17p so perhaps a hundred years ago it might get you into a dance of sorts! It illustrates how garbled a message can become when it has been passed on one to another many times over.

In our Christian faith many of our great truths were passed on by word of mouth long before they were written down. Reading and writing were very rare skills among the people thousands of years ago. Even today many people are illiterate. The message of what Jesus said and did was passed on orally for many years before any of it was written down. As we know the first written gospel came from Mark approximately forty years after the Resurrection. We are accustomed to taking it for granted that the gospels of Mark, Matthew, Luke and John are inspired by God and are part of Sacred Scripture. And so they are. But it is important to realise that all the sacred writings that are to be found in the Bible have found their way there through God's revelation to his people. How do we know that in the New Testament there are twenty-seven books? Who decided which precise books formed part of the New Testament? How does it come about that all the versions of the New Testament whether compiled by Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Church of England, Protestant, Orthodox Christians have the same list of books as are found in one of our Catholic Bibles? The New Testament itself does not tell us which books belong to it. The Table of Contents at the beginning of the Bible is not part of the Scriptures. We learn which books are inspired from Tradition. So often non-Catholics say to us: 'How can you believe this or that when it is not in the Bible?' The books that make up the Bible are not listed in the Bible. The list to be found in the Table of Contents of all versions of the Bible come to us from the early days of the Catholic Church. It was imperative that a definitive list of the Books of Scripture should be drawn up very early on. All subsequent Christian Churches adhered to that list. There is no 'inspired Table of Contents' to the Bible. All Christian Churches in fact accept and adhere to the list of books found in the Catholic New Testament and up to the time of the Reformation there was also universal agreement on the contents of the Old Testament. Pope St. Damasus in the year 382 at a Synod on Rome listed the books that make up the Sacred Scriptures. This was repeated by Pope St. Innocent in 405. The teachings of these Popes was upheld by the North African Councils of Carthage in 393, 397 and 419 and the Council of Hippo in 393 as well as the Second Council of Nicaea in 787 and the Council of Florence (1440) and the Council of Trent which ended in 1563.

Most Christian Churches observe the Lord's Day on Sunday. There is no evidence in the Scriptures that Christ instructed his disciples to change the day of the Sabbath. It was a huge thing to do – to alter one of the Ten Commandments. Where does it say in the Bible that we should do that? And yet most Christians do! They follow the very early Tradition that saw how fitting it was that the Lord's Day should be no other than the Day of the Resurrection, the first day of the week. St Justin, the Martyr in 155 explained to the Emperor why Christians were doing this. The Didache, a hugely important Christian handbook, written around the year 100, or even earlier, says: 'Every Lord's Day gather yourselves together and break bread and give thanksgiving (Eucharist-Ein) after having confessed your transgressions that your sacrifice may be pure.' In the Apocalypse, St John refers to Sunday as the Lord's Day. This is still a point of contention with those, like the Seventh-Day Adventists who claim that our emphasis on Sunday is misplaced and in fact we are violating the Third Commandment.

We must reverence Scripture and recognise that God speaks to us through Scripture and tradition. St Paul says: 'Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I have delivered them to you.' (1 Cor 11:1-2) He says in his Second Letter to the Thessalonians: 'So then brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught by us either by word of mouth or by letter.' (2:15) At the end of the last gospel to be written we are reminded two times that not everything that Jesus did and said could be written down. Some of what has not been written has come down to us in Christian Tradition. We are enlivened by the twofold gift of Scripture and Tradition.

'There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that believing this you may have life through his name'. (John 20:30-31)

'There were many other things that Jesus did. If all were written down the world itself, I suppose, would not hold all the books that would have to be written.' (John 21:25)

I wish to thank you all for your good wishes and very generous Christmas offerings. May I also take this opportunity to thank you all for your magnificent support for the Parish, as always. We ask God to continue to bestow his blessings on us all as we move into 2018.