

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS, Goring Way

25.03.2018

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

Palm Sunday



Saturday	24 th	6.00 pm	Tom & Kathleen Corrigan RIP
Sunday	25 th	8.15 am	The Parish
		1 0.30 am	Intention of Helena Evans
Monday	26 th	9.30 am	Intention of Mary Gilbert
Tuesday	27 th	9.30 am	Libertina Manno & Relatives RIP
		7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	28 th	9.30 am	Deceased Friend of A. O'Connor

Holy Thursday	29 th March	8.00pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper Reg & Dorrie Marshall RIP	9.30 am Cleaners unite!
Good Friday	30 th March	10.00 am 3.00 pm 7.30 pm	Family Stations of the Cross, especially for children followed by Children's Sacrament of Reconciliation THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST Stations of the Cross followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Time of Servers' Rehearsal</i> 11.00 am
Holy Saturday	31 st March	8.00 pm	Easter Vigil & First Mass of Easter The Parish	
Easter Sunday	1 st April	8.15 am 10.30 am 6.00 pm	Mass Peggy Fitzgerald RIP Mass Eileen Godfrey RIP Polish Mass	

NO EXPOSITION OR SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION ON HOLY SATURDAY

COLLECTIONS: Church: £772 Thank you for your generosity.

This Sunday there will be a Second Collection for LEPR. Please use **ONLY** the **SPECIAL** Gift Aid envelopes available in both Porches.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 50:4-7, Philippians 2:6-11, Mark 14:1-15:47

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 10:34, 37-43, Colossians 3:1-4, John 20:1-9

Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstinence. There will be the usual collection for the Holy Places

THE COLLECTIONS AT THE EASTER VIGIL AND EASTER SUNDAY MASSES ARE YOUR PERSONAL GIFTS TO FATHER LIAM (GIFT AIDED)

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Baby Samuel Bezants, Patrick McGrath, Christine Watson, David Hall, Ann & Gordon Milne, Anne Whitehead, Bernard Bandy, Jeany, Peter, Deacon Pat Moloney, Yvonne Carter, Finlay, Alfred Deacon, Ester Park, Marie Garselis, Roni Horstead, 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 and those whose anniversaries occur about now: William Clarke, Joyce Sims, Daisy Kinch, Maureen Sullivan, Raymond Earl, Stephen Paris, Edith De la Bertauche, Lillian Corry, Alice Hudson, Mary McGoohan, Dennis Hale, Leslie Green, Bernard Berendt, Jessie Crouch

3 TWELVE VOLUNTEERS for the Washing of the Feet ceremony on Holy Thursday are required. Please put your name on one of the lists in either Porch

4. A PRACTICE FOR GOOD FRIDAY GOSPEL 'ENACTMENT' will take place on Wednesday 28th March at 7.30 pm in the church. Seven readers are needed for the reading of the Gospel. If you are able to read in this part of the Mass on Good Friday and/or attend the practice please sign the list in the Sacristy.

5. CALLING ALL CLEANERS AND THEIR HELPERS! In order to make the church truly 'sparkling' for Easter we are looking for as many volunteers as possible to come at 9.30am on **Holy Thursday** to give the church a real 'Spring Clean'. Coffee and Hot Cross Buns guaranteed!

6. ST PATRICK'S NIGHT HOOLEY: Many thanks to all those who helped, donated and supported an excellent evening of music, dance, song and wonderful food. £853.00 was raised for our Parish Project in Kalingalinga

7. GIFT AID - New boxes of envelopes are now available in the porch for those who currently use them for church contributions. Please remember to take yours when you leave. All adults who pay income tax are asked to consider the church Gift Aid scheme. Every £1 contribution is increased by 25p by the Inland Revenue at no extra cost to the donor. Further information may be obtained from –Jim Simpson 01903 240684

8. YOUR OFFERINGS AT THE EASTER MASSES are your personal gift to Father Liam. (Gift Aid applies) If you are not Gift Aiding, special Easter Offering envelopes are in the Porch. If you will be away for Easter you might like to use these envelopes to make your gift either beforehand or afterwards

9. EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE will once again take place at 6.45am on Easter Sunday morning on the footpath by the Sea Lane Café followed by hot Tea/Coffee and Hot Cross Buns at St. Mary's Church Hall. Please see poster in the Porch for further details

10. THE CHRISM MASS will take place on Wednesday 28th March at 6.00 pm in Arundel Cathedral

11. THE LENTEN ALMS BOX is in the front porch next to the main door. The proceeds are sent to the Contemplative Orders of women in the Diocese.

12. THE POSTPONED SERVICE FOR THE WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER at St Michael's, High Salvington will now be held on Friday 6th April at 7.30 pm

13. MARY'S MEALS: We are now in particular need of Soap, Toothpaste, Pencil Cases and A5 Exercise Books or Reporter's Notepads. Many thanks to all who so generously contribute to these backpacks

14. WORTHING CHURCHES HOMELESS PROJECTS: Urgently needed this month: Tea, Coffee, Cooking Oil, Squashes, Ketchup, brown sauce, salad cream, Washing powder/tabs, Washing up liquid, Shampoo/Conditioner, Shower Gel, Cereals (no Cornflakes or porridge). Many thanks to those who are so generous in their donations

Father Liam says: The altar in our church is very beautiful. In its own way it reminds us that we are the Easter people. Its central feature is the Paschal Lamb – reminding us that Jesus is the Lamb of God who by his death has taken away the sins of the world. Our church was built in the late sixties shortly after the Second Vatican Council. I believe that the parish priest, Canon Desmond McCarthy, was very much involved in the design of the church and reflected his enthusiasm for, and understanding of, the teachings of the Council. The way in which the congregation is encouraged to gather around the altar is central to the thinking of the Council on the nature of the Eucharist and on our identity as the people of God.

Yet the altar we now have is not the one that originally graced our church. It is not the one that Canon McCarthy chose. It is very much a pre-1960 altar (in fact 300 years before) that originally belonged to the convent in Portslade and it became available when the convent closed down. The original altar was moved to our Good Shepherd Chapel and is used for weekday Masses in the winter months. The Good Shepherd Chapel altar is much simpler and less ornate. It looks more like a table than an altar. It is not a solid piece but a horizontal surface supported by three pillars.

The first Eucharist was celebrated by Christ at the Last Supper as he sat at table with his disciples. This is how the disciples gathered for all their celebrations of the Eucharist for many centuries. The only mention that Jesus makes of the word 'altar' refers to the altar of the Temple in Jerusalem when he speaks of people bringing their gifts to the altar. But that Temple and altar was destroyed in 70 AD. The only altars in the early centuries of the Church were pagan ones. Several of these have been found – many of them in Baniyas, the ancient Caesarea Philippi – where Jesus went with his apostles and where Peter declared Jesus to be the Messiah, the Son of the living God. The Jews and Christians shunned these pagan altars erected to worship false gods. Not having altars left Christians open to charges of atheism and of ignoring the gods. From the mid-second century they began to say that their tables were their altars.

When they were allowed freedom to practice their faith and especially when Christianity became the state religion they built their own churches and the table of the Eucharist took on more and more the features of an altar. The more splendid their churches were, the more splendid their altars became but they retained their links to the original Eucharistic Table. In the altar of our church (the 'Portslade' altar) we still see four columns, two on each side. Christian altars continued to have these four columns as reminders of the time when the 'Lord's Table' was actually a table supported by four legs.

For the Jews and early Christians it was at table in their own homes that remembering and thanking God most often took place. Most of us do not think of our tables as domestic places of religion. Too often when we eat we fail to remember that the goodness on the table is God's gift; prayer before and after meals was a hugely important part of Jewish life and Christian life.

So much of the ministry of Jesus took place around a multitude of tables. He welcomes sinners and eats with them, he forgives sinners and speaks good news to them. He shows his solidarity with them by joining them at table. His critics even called him a glutton and a drunkard. In becoming man, he pitched his tent among us as John describes it (1:14) He then is ready to meet us at every table at which we gather, the table in each of our tents. But there is one table above all to which he invites us – the Table of the Lord. 'Altar' is one way of thinking about what we are doing at the Lord's table but it is not the only way.