

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS, Goring Way

8.04.2018

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

Presbytery 01903 242624 / Church repository 01903 506890

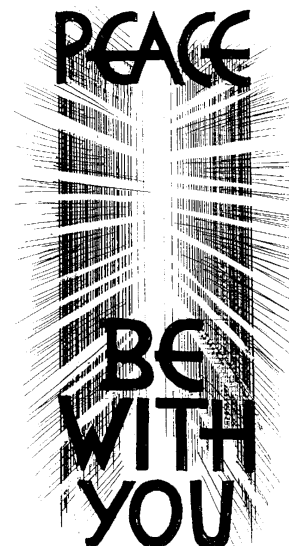
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Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

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

Second Sunday of Easter

Saturday	7 th	6.00 pm	Intention of Charles & Madelaine Hutchin (Golden Wedding
Sunday	8 th	8.15 am	The Parish Anniversary)
		10.30 am	Joan Egan RIP
Monday	9 th	9.30 am	Muriel Burns RIP
Tuesday	10 th	9.30 am	Charlie Maher RIP
Wednesday	11 th	9.30 am	Francis Webb RIP
Thursday	12 th	7.30 pm	John O'Carroll RIP
Friday	13 th	9.30 am	Cyril Adams RIP
Saturday	14 th	6.00 pm	Lynagh Family RIP
Sunday	15 th	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Mary McClosky
		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: Acts 4:32-35, 1 John 5:1-6, John 20:19-31

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19, 1 John 2: 1-5, Luke 24:35-48

COLLECTIONS: Holy Places: £312.70 Lenten Alms: £ Thank you for your generosity.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Ada O'Regan, 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: James Morrell, Father Stephen Tynan, Helena Cebo, Muriel Burns, Michael O'Brien, Sabina Concannon, Mary Rains, Herbert Hasney, Gerry Donnelly, William McGlynn, Patricia

3. WELCOME TO ANY VISITORS to our Parish this weekend. We do hope that you have enjoyed your st

4. A VERY BIG THANK YOU on behalf of the Parish to all who helped make the ceremonies of Holy Week and Easter so special – the flower arrangers, church cleaners, musicians, choir, servers and not least our Cantor Andy. Also a personal and huge 'thank you' for your very generous Easter offerings

5. ST GEORGE'S NIGHT 'DO' will take place on Saturday 21st April following the 6.00pm Mass and the money raised will go to the Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice. There will be a 'Delicious Supper' and Raffle. Raffle prizes will be gratefully received. Tickets will be on sale this weekend price £7.50 for adults and £4.00 for children or from Teresa 01903 529260

6. PRAYER PARTNERS: The children preparing for their First Holy Communion would like to give Prayer Cards to their Prayer Partners at 10.30am Mass on Sunday, 22nd April as a 'Thank you' for praying for them. Please could all prayer partners try to attend this Mass if possible.

7. A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP RICHARD:  Dear Brothers and Sisters, May I take this opportunity to thank you for your engagement with the Consultation Process that has been taking place across the Deaneries during these last months. I have been very encouraged by the way in which people have reflected on the Mission of the Diocese and the way in which we can all be engaged in carrying it out in the years ahead. The responses, gathered at the second round of meetings, are a key element in the development of a Pastoral Plan for the Diocese. Now that this round of meetings is complete, I shall work with a small team to write the Pastoral Plan. I shall be coming around the Deaneries again later in the year to present this Plan. Please keep this endeavour in your prayers, that all in the Diocese will focus ever more deeply on the Word who is Life, who calls us to be His people and to be His witnesses in the world. With every Blessing, +Richard

8. THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP OF ST. ANDREW'S C. of E. CHURCH, Ferring has invited the women of English Martyrs to join them for an Ecumenical Service on Wednesday 2nd May at 2.30pm. We are always greeted warmly at this annual event which will be followed by refreshments in the church Centre. To assist with numbers for catering, if you are able to attend, please ring Anne on 01903 242624 no later than Friday, 27th April.

9. TRAIDCRAFT will be on sale after all Masses next weekend

10. CONFIRMATION GROUP 2018 SPONSORED WALK will take place on Saturday 21st April and will go from the seafront end of George V Avenue to Splash Point and back. We will meet at the shelter at the end of George V Avenue at 1.45 pm for a 2.00 pm start. Please come and join us and bring your friends too. We will collect sponsors at all Masses **next** weekend but you are welcome to collect sponsors from anywhere! The walk is in aid of the English Martyrs Primary School Appeal for help to furnish their eco-classroom.

11. YOUTH ALPHA: A NEW YOUTH GROUP FOR THE WORTHING PARISHES: Starting on Sunday May 13th, there will be a new youth group open to anybody in Year 7, 8, 9, or the last term of Year 6. It's being run on behalf of all the Worthing Parishes, with the involvement of the Diocese, and will be held in 'The Barn' at English Martyrs Church, Goring. It will run roughly every fortnight, on Sunday evenings, from 7pm to 8.30pm. For the first few months, the group will follow the popular 'Youth Alpha' course. It's open to anyone in the age range, no matter where (or if) they go to Church. To find out more, Email Jack.Regan@dabnet.org

11. 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

12. 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 Easter Vigil Service is the most important of the year. If we were to include all the readings recommended for this celebration service it would make it a very long service indeed. But the Church very wisely does not insist on having all of them. It does recommend seven Old Testament readings on this solemn occasion as it wishes to bring to our minds the story of salvation from the Creation of the world to the saving work of Christ in his death and glorious resurrection. Even when we cut down the readings, as most parishes do, it is still a long service especially if we have adults being baptised and confirmed.

From the earliest times Easter was seen as the ideal time to receive adults into the Church. The celebration of Christ's resurrection has always been seen as being more fully expressed when his Risen life is shared with his brothers and sisters in the Sacraments of new life – the Sacraments of initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist.

The Church does insist however on having the reading from Exodus proclaimed – the story of the crossing of the Red Sea by the Israelites as they were led from slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land. This reading provides the Old Testament background to our Lord's Crucifixion and Resurrection. Exodus means going out – and the Exodus was the great liberation worked by God for his people.

The new Exodus is about Jesus leaving this world to return to the Father enabling us to follow him. Christ's death and Resurrection was the great act of deliverance by which the whole world is saved from sin because we are all made sharers in Christ's great victory. His passing over from death to life was the fulfilment of the great Jewish Passover as they were lead out of slavery. But what actually happened at the Red Sea? To begin with was it the Red Sea at all? The Hebrew phrase, scholars tell us, means 'The Sea of Reeds'. Somehow it got changed in translation to the Red Sea. It would seem that the Hebrews never went anywhere near the Red Sea during the Exodus. But where exactly is the Sea of Reeds? Some scholars think it is the Gulf of Suez, others the Gulf of Aqaba others again a lagoon in the Nile Delta. Then there is the question of the arithmetic. How many Israelites crossed the Sea of Reeds? The Book of Exodus says there were about 600,000 men on foot, besides women and children. The Book of Leviticus is more precise: the number of men of 20 years old and upwards was 603,550 but this did not include the Levites nor the women and children and the mixed multitude that went with them. If we apportion one wife and two children to each man – a modest allowance – there would have been over two million people. Such a multitude marching in a column four abreast, some have calculated, would be over 340 miles long. There seems to be no historical record outside of scripture of any Egyptian Pharaoh and his army being drowned in the Red Sea or any other Sea. Where does that leave the Old Testament account of the Exodus?

The Catholic Church seems to have taken a relaxed attitude towards the precise historicity of biblical events. It did not get too excited when Darwin's views on evolution began to become widely accepted. Other Christian churches felt they had to defend what Scripture seemed to say on all kinds of historical questions, but the Catholic Church remained relatively calm. It has long been the teaching of the Church that scriptures do not contain any errors that have to do with our salvation. No one would say that what exactly happened at the Red Sea or the Sea of Reeds had to do with our salvation. Indeed, if we were to believe the literal truth of the Exodus story and the destruction of the Egyptians, would we not have difficulties of reconciling that with a loving and caring God who cherishes all his children equally?

Unlike the Old Covenant, which lies in the mists of antiquity, the origins of the New Covenant, established by Christ, is well attested. Many people saw Jesus die on the Cross. Many more saw him after his Resurrection. Down the centuries countless people have gone to their death in defence of those great truths of their faith. But we are all called to be witnesses of the Risen Christ by our lives. One of the most difficult lessons the infant Church had to learn was that 'Jesus Christ is Lord of all'. In the Acts of the Apostles Peter and Paul are hammering home that message. Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said, 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.' (Acts 10:34,35)