

## PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS, Goring Way

22.04.2018

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

Presbytery 01903 242624 / Church repository 01903 506890

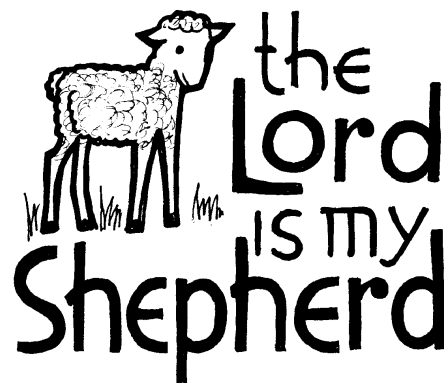
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Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

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

### Fourth Sunday of Easter

|           |                  |                |                              |
|-----------|------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| Saturday  | 21 <sup>st</sup> | 6.00 pm        | Sheila Devaney RIP           |
| Sunday    | 22 <sup>nd</sup> | 8.15 am        | Sivyer Family Past & Present |
|           |                  | 10.30 am       | The Parish                   |
| Monday    | 23 <sup>rd</sup> | 9.30 am        | Cyril Adams RIP              |
| Tuesday   | 24 <sup>th</sup> | 9.30 am        | Maria Petter RIP             |
|           |                  | <b>7.30 pm</b> | <b>Choir Practice</b>        |
| Wednesday | 25 <sup>th</sup> | 9.30 am        | Patrick Friel RIP            |
| Thursday  | 26 <sup>th</sup> | 7.30 pm        | Stacia Pawlick               |
| Friday    | 27 <sup>th</sup> | 9.30 am        | Cecilia Margaret Whelan RIP  |
| Saturday  | 28 <sup>th</sup> | 6.00 pm        | Barbara Nelson RIP           |
| Sunday    | 29 <sup>th</sup> | 8.15 am        | Margaret Dunne RIP           |
|           |                  | 10.30 am       | The Parish                   |



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

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Acts 4:8-12, 1 John 3:1-2, John 10:11-18

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Acts 9:26-31, 1 John 3:18-24, John 15:1-8

**COLLECTIONS:** Church: £553

Thank you for your generosity.

This weekend there will be a Second Collection for The Education of Future Priests (Gift Aid)

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Cathy Hatton, 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: Hilda Goldrick, Ruth Evans, Pamela Axworthy, Mary Lambrou, Stella Broadhead, Bernard Joyce, Mike Begley

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

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

**5. CONFIRMATION GROUP 2018 SPONSORED WALK** is in aid of the English Martyrs Primary School Appeal for help to furnish their eco-classroom. It has now taken place and sponsor money will be collected this weekend.

**6. ROSARY ON THE COAST FOR FAITH, LIFE AND PEACE IN THE BRITISH ISLES** will take place **next** Sunday 29 April 2018 at 3pm This is a day of Pilgrimage and Prayer for the re-flourishing of our Faith, for the grace to build a culture of Life and for true Peace to reign in the hearts of all. We will surround the coasts of our Isles with prayer and encircle them with a Living Rosary for Life, Faith and Peace at 3pm. Deacon Gary will lead the rosary and prayers on the beach at Goring Gap. Please gather at the East side of the Plantation from 2.30pm. A prayer to invoke the Holy Spirit will be said at 2.45pm followed by the rosary at 3pm. At the same hour those in inland locations will gather at their Cathedrals, Churches and Shrines. For further information please see: <https://facebook.com/rosaryonthecoast/> or [www.rosaryonthecoast.co.uk](http://www.rosaryonthecoast.co.uk)

**7. 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](mailto:Jack.Regan@dabnet.org)

**8. CHOIR PRACTICES** will resume **this** Tuesday 24th April at 7.30 pm to start learning new hymns and Masses. If you enjoy singing do come and join us. All are welcome

**9. 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. 27<sup>th</sup> April.

**10. 'A DAY FOR WOMEN'** Building Faith and Inspiring Disciples will be led by Geoff and Gina Poulter in The Barn on Saturday 12th May from 10.00am until 4.00pm. Coffee and lunch will be provided by the team. Cost – a voluntary contribution please ( Suggested £10.00) We invite you to join us for an inspiring day."

**11. MARY'S MEALS:** We are now in particular need of Soap, Toothpaste, Pencil Cases and 6 ins/15cm Rulers. 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: Note that the Church calls today the Fourth Sunday of Easter.** The first Sunday of Easter is Easter Sunday itself. Until the early seventies – when many of the liturgical changes resulting from the Second Vatican Council began to take effect – today would have been known as the Third Sunday after Easter. Now however we see Easter not as one day but as a season of fifty days culminating on Pentecost Day. Pentecost literally means the fiftieth day as it occurs fifty days after the Jewish feast of the Passover. So the Church is still in the middle of its annual celebration of Easter. The Easter Candle is lit at every Sunday Mass of Easter and at every Baptism and Funeral throughout the year, symbolising the fact that Christ accompanies us throughout our lives on our journey to our Father's house.

The Season of Easter is unique in that there are no readings in Easter Masses from the Old Testament. Normally the first reading at Sunday Mass is from the Old Testament and this reading is chosen because it links up in some way with the Sunday Gospel of that day. Since the second Vatican Council the Church has been keen to set before us – over a cycle of three years – a rich selection of readings from the Old and New Testaments. Of course in every Mass throughout the year we have a Psalm as part of our Liturgy of the Word, but the Psalm is not really regarded as a reading, as it is meant to be sung. The book of Psalms was and is the Jewish hymn book.

But why do we not have Old Testament readings in our Easter Masses? The first reading on those fifty days always comes from the Acts of the Apostles. This was written by Luke and is a sequel to his Gospel. The Gospel tells us about Jesus in his life, death and resurrection. The Acts of the Apostles tells us about how the infant Church celebrated the life, death and resurrection of Jesus in their daily lives. This book of Luke is not given its proper name. It – like all the New Testament – was written in Greek and its title in Greek is Acts of Apostles. It sets out to put before us some of the acts of some of the Apostles. Apart from naming the Apostles in his account of Pentecost, Luke does not mention most of the Apostles again. In the early chapters he has much to say about Peter and James but Luke was a co-worker with Paul and joined Paul in many of his great missionary journeys. Naturally, therefore, most of Acts is taken up with how Paul and his companions laboured to spread the Good News of Jesus. Luke was a participant of much of these labours. We know that Luke is part of the events with the disciples when he uses the word 'we'.

One of the reasons we know so much about St Paul is that Luke wrote about him at some length. By comparison we don't know much about St Peter as he does not seem to have had a press officer! Paul of course was a prolific letter writer who kept in touch with the infant Christian communities he formed in the course of his missionary journeys.

In today's reading from Acts we are still in the early days of the Church shortly after Pentecost. Paul had not yet arrived on the scene and when he did he was still Saul – and a passionate persecutor of the Church. He saw this new body of believers as a threat to true religion – just as Jesus himself had been seen in the same way by many of the Jewish religious leaders. In due course Luke will tell us about the conversion of Saul. Today, however, Luke is telling us about Peter's fearless preaching. What a transformed Peter this is to the man who deserted Jesus and fled and went on to deny three times that he even knew him. Luke's account of the early life of the Church makes for truly exciting and inspiring reading, which is why the church puts Acts before us in the Easter Season.

In Chapter 20 of Acts, Luke describes what happened at a particular celebration of the Sunday Eucharist. They did not use the term Mass in those days as they did not speak Latin. Luke was there because he says: 'on the first day of the week we met to break bread.' Paul was due to leave the following day so he had a lot to say and he went on 'till the middle of the night.' Of course the Eucharist was celebrated in the evenings as Sunday was a working day. The place where they met was lit by oil lamps and a young man got drowsy and fell asleep. The meeting place was three floors up and the young man fell from the window where he had been sitting, trying to get fresh air. Instead he fell, apparently to his death. But Paul revived him and they were able to resume the celebrating of the Eucharist.

Acts was part of every Mass in the Easter Season. The first Christians were very conscious that Jesus was still with them. Reflecting on the Acts of the Apostles helped them to realise this. Though it is called 'Acts' it includes many sermons from Peter and Paul and others.