

## PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS, Goring Way

29.07.2018

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

Presbytery 01903 242624 / Church repository 01903 506890

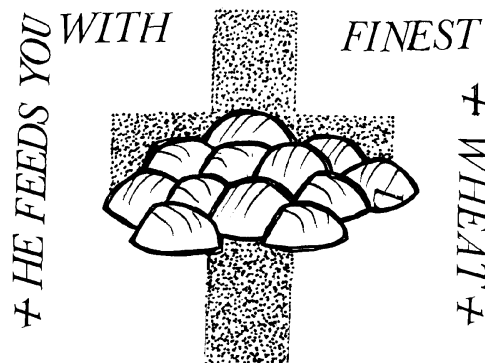
Email: [emgoring@english-martyrs.co.uk](mailto:emgoring@english-martyrs.co.uk) Website: [www.english-martyrs.co.uk](http://www.english-martyrs.co.uk)

Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

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

### Seventeenth Sunday of the Year

Saturday	28 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	The Parish
Sunday	29 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 am	Eamon Woulfe RIP
		10.30 am	Jack Haugh RIP
Monday	30 <sup>th</sup>		No Mass
Tuesday	31 <sup>st</sup>	9.30 am	Bill & Nell O'Keeffe RIP
Wednesday	1 <sup>st</sup>	9.30 am	Pat & Babe O'Mahoney RIP
Thursday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30 pm	Holy Souls
Friday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30 am	Brigid Clyne RIP
Saturday	4 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Maura Fanning (80th Birthday)
Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Helen Ryan RIP
		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:** 2 Kings 4:42-44; Ephesians 4:1-6; John 6:1-15

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Exodus 16:2-4, Ephesians 4:17, 20-24, John 6:24-35

**COLLECTIONS:** Church: £543 Mary's Meals: £1409 Thank you for your generosity.

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Elizabeth Hoskins, Peggy Gallagher, Joan Cutmore, Ada O'Regan, Christine Watson, David Hall, Gordon Milne, 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, Winifred Lyons, Yvette Allen, Leslie Lee, Kerry McStravick, Gerry Potter, Lydia Van Melsen

**2. THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY** and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Joan Hawkins, Constance Lilleyman, Janet Flynn, Bernard Flynn, Sheila Mander, Brenda Allen, Douglas Kirkby, Doris Smith, Roger Stubbs, Kathleen Winsall, John Flood, Eileen Scott

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

**4. THE BETHLEHEM NATIVITY GROUP:** A missionary from Bethlehem, will visit us **next** weekend 4th-5th August to briefly talk about the Holy Land and sell religious articles made out of olive wood from the Holy Land to help and support the poor Christian families. Any help you could give to them will be highly appreciated

**5. BISHOP RICHARD WILL SKYDIVE** from an aeroplane on Friday 14th September to raise money for the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage. Please give generously in one of the following ways: By Purple GIFT AID parish envelope, marked '+Bishop skydive'; by Lourdes Pilgrimage envelope available in both porches or by going to : <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/bishoprichardskydive>

**6. READERS AND MINISTERS:** Rosters for August are now available in the Sacristy

**8. CHILDRENS LITURGY** will resume on Sunday 2nd September.

**9. THE ANNUAL DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES**, led by Bishop Richard, travels to Lourdes this Sunday and remains until Monday 3rd August. Please remember to keep them in your prayers as they will you

**10. ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL** is looking to recruit a practising Catholic to join their Governing Body as a Foundation Governor. The Governing Body work as a team in co-operation with the Headteacher to ensure legal responsibilities are met and to preserve the Catholic character of the school. Someone with experience in one of the following areas - Finance, ICT, HR, Education or with links to local businesses is needed. Lack of experience should not deter you from expressing an interest if you have a genuine desire to serve the school by devoting your time & expertise. For further information please contact the school on 01903 502868

**11. HAVE YOUR PRAYERS BEEN ANSWERED?** If so and your loved one has recovered but is on the list in Item 1 please let Anne in the Office know so that the name can be removed

**12 MARY'S MEALS:** We are now in particular need of Serviceable Towels, Toothpaste, Pencil Cases and 6ins/15cm Rulers. Many thanks to all who so generously contribute to these backpacks

**13. WORTHING CHURCHES HOMELESS PROJECTS:** Urgently needed this month: Cereals (no Cornflakes or Porridge). Ketchup, brown sauce, salad cream, Cooking Oil, Squashes, Tea, Coffee, Washing powder/tabs, Washing up liquid, Dishwasher tabs, Shampoo/Conditioner and Shower Gel. Also Jeans/Trousers 34" waist, Hoodies, Boxer Shorts and Ladies undies 12/14. Many thanks to those who are so generous in their donations

**Father Liam says: Next weekend there will be a display** of religious items made by Eastern Christians in the Holy Land. I hope you will find the time to have a look at them and speak to those who are among those who have created them. I am sure that many of you will purchase some items as the livelihood of their Christian community is dependent on what they can sell.

Icons are a hugely important part of the spirituality of Christians in the East. The Church originated in the East and as you know all Christians in the East and West were united for the first thousand years of our history. Icons is a word that comes from the Greek and means an image or likeness. Iconography is a highly developed form of religious art and it expresses in a very prayerful way something of the Sacredness of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and honours Mary, the Apostles and the Saints. In the West we have largely lost the ability to understand the richness of what the icons tell us.

In recent years things are beginning to change. Ease of travel to countries of Eastern Europe has increased the interest of Christians of many denominations in the use and meaning of icons in community worship, in the home and for private prayer. The Second Council of Nicea established the veneration of icons as an integral part of Christian worship. That took place in 787, over 200 years before the breach between the Church in the East and the West. It was argued that before the coming of Christ, God could not be represented, as God was pure Spirit and without form or body. But in the Incarnation God has appeared in the flesh and lived among us, we can represent what is visible in God.

With the spread of the Muslim faith in the East (and the Muslims are totally opposed to making any representation of God) many Eastern Christians began to lose faith in idols. Some felt that the Christians were being punished for their use of icons and so were being over-run by the Muslims. This gave rise to Eastern Christians abandoning their icons and began to destroy them. From being devoted to icons they became iconoclastic – destroyers rather than devotees. The Iconoclastic controversy lasted for several for several decades until the Feast of the Triumph of Orthodoxy was established and it is still celebrated by Eastern Catholic and Orthodox Churches on the First Sunday of Lent.

At the centre of Christianity is the Incarnation. Christ says to us: 'Whoever has seen Me, has seen the Father' (Jn14:9) Paul says of him: 'Christ is the icon (image) of the invisible God' (Col 1:5) John says: 'Something which has existed from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our own eyes, which we have watched and touched with our own hands, the Word of Life' (1John 1:1)

Icons which depict a likeness of the divine person became universally acceptable. The Eastern Liturgy takes place in a church richly decorated with icons. Christ is depicted in the dome as the creator of all (Pantocrator) surrounded by angels, evangelists and scenes from the earthly life of Christ and his saints. These descend to cover all the walls. Christian churches in Western Europe once had traditions of Christian art and architecture to resemble those that had been preserved in the East. Such images teach us by their very presence. They hold the attention and draw the heart and mind into contemplation.

In Eastern Catholic and Orthodox churches the principal icons are placed on a screen between the Nave and the Sanctuary. The icons are arranged in tiers. The first tier icons of this screen are Jesus Christ, Son of God, the Theotokos (bearer or Mother of God), John the Baptist, the patron saint of the church, often archangels and sometimes Peter and Paul. In the centre of the screen are the Royal doors where the annunciation, the moment of Christ's incarnation, is symbolically positioned at the entry to the Sanctuary, with images of the four evangelists. It is through them that we enter the life of Christ. Above the main tier is a second tier made up of the principal feasts and events of Christ's life celebrated throughout the Church's year. At this level, above the Royal doors, is an icon of the Mystical Supper. It is a reminder of what is happening in the Eucharist. Placed above the Mystical Supper are icons picturing Christ on his throne in glory. From the throne on either side are Mary and John the Baptist, interceding with Christ for, and with, all who are present. Icons of the twelve Apostles are placed to the right and left of Christ, Mary and the Baptist. Taken together all these icons give access to the faithful, drawing us into the whole mystery of the incarnation and redemption. As the icons become part of the liturgy and are incensed by the priests and deacons, all people gaze on the icons and are helped to experience a taste of heaven and the hope of future glory.

It is the custom in the East for children, even before they read or fully understand language, to be introduced to the mysteries of their faith through icons. They see them honoured and explanations hold their attention and cause their imaginations to soar. The church becomes a very special place where the child or young person feels surrounded by the mystery of God. Each home would have a number of icons which parents would lovingly explain to their children. The home was and is very much the domestic church and the link between home and church would have been greatly strengthened by the use of icons.