

## PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS, Goring Way

16.09.2018

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

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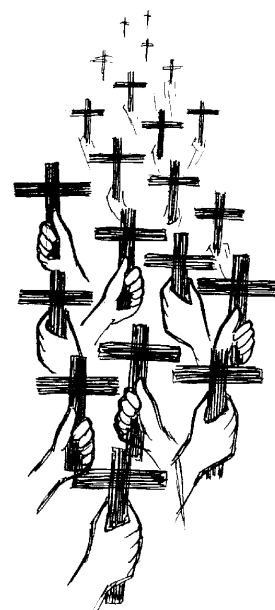
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Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

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

### Twenty-Fourth Sunday of the Year

Saturday	15 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Caroline Roe RIP
Sunday	16 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 am	Kevin Shiel RIP
		10.30 am	Neil Halley RIP
		6.00 pm	Polish Mass
Monday	17 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Kevin & Tom Corrigan RIP
Tuesday	18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>9.00 am</b>	The Parish
Wednesday	19 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Catherine Dunne RIP
Thursday	20 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Holy Souls
Friday	21 <sup>st</sup>	9.30 am	Elliot Moyse RIP
Saturday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	6.00 pm	Yvonne Carter RIP
Sunday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Ian Taylor RIP



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

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Isaiah 50:5-9, James 2:14-18, Mark 8:27-35

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Wisdom 2:12, 17-20, James 3:16 – 4:3, Mark 9:30-37

**COLLECTIONS:** Church: £560 Thank you for your generosity.

*There will be a Second Collection at all Masses this weekend for the Home Missions (No Gift Aid)*

*There will be a Second Collection next weekend for the SVP National Appeal for the Flood Disaster in Kerala. Special Gift Aid envelopes are available in both porches (Please see Item 5)*

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Gina Palermo, Elizabeth Hoskins, Peggy Gallagher, Joan Cutmore, Christine Watson, David Hall, Gordon Milne, Bernard Bandy, Jeany, Peter, Deacon Pat Moloney, 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:** **ELLIOT MOYNES** and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Hilda Smith, Alan Soper, Bernard Bleach, Kevin Shiel, James Doyle, Neil Halley, Roy Parker, Stanley Wakeling, Baby George Birks, Kenneth Munro, John Tuohy, Alice Hoppe, Shepherd Wadsworth, Anne Rose, Michael Irving

**3. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2019:** Is your son or daughter in Year 3 this term? If so, they are at the age where they can start the preparation course for First Holy Communion. Please collect a letter and application form from the Sacristy and return it to the Parish Office as soon as possible. The first meeting for parents will be on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 8.00 pm in The Good Shepherd Chapel and the first lesson for the children will be on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October from 4.30 – 5.30 pm

**4. OUR NEXT ALPHA COURSE** starts with a no-obligation taster session on Friday 28 September at 7 p.m. in The Barn.. Alpha is a fantastic opportunity to explore questions about life and explore the Christian faith in a friendly and open environment. There will be a free buffet and a short talk entitled "Is there more to life than this?" Please consider who you could invite. All are welcome. For more information contact Mary on 506599/07889 065356 or [info@worthingalpha.com](mailto:info@worthingalpha.com).

**5. KERALA FLOODS: AN SVP APPEAL:** Terrible floods have taken place in Kerala in Southern India. Hundreds of people have been killed and many more are missing, countless homes have been washed away and the monsoon season is set to continue. Kerala is the most Christian State in India - it has more churches than any other religion. The leading Catholic volunteering charity, the St Vincent De Pauly Society (SVP), is very active there and they are doing great work helping the victims of the flood and local communities. However, they desperately need funds. Please contribute to the Kerala Appeal and remember our sisters and brothers in Kerala in your prayers.

**6. TRADCRAFT** will be on sale after all Masses **next** weekend

**7. MARY'S MEALS:** We are now in particular need of Serviceable Towels, Toothpaste, Pencil Cases and Flannels. Many thanks to all who so generously contribute to these backpacks

**8. THINKING OF FINDING A NEW PASTIME OR HOBBY?** Why not join one of the groups who use the Barn? They are: Ferring Carpet Bowls; Worthing Squares (American Square Dance Club); Worthing Flower Club, Worthing Ho Racing (Ho Slot car racing); Little Angels (Mother and Toddler group); Sussex Folk Orchestra and Friendship in the Barn. At Worthing General Auctions you can sell that unwanted item. Please find further details in the leaflets available in both porches

**9. DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

Saturday/Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> September after all Masses in the Barn – Traidcraft  
Sunday 7th or 14th October at 3.00pm – Harvest Festival of Music and Verse  
Saturday 13th October from 7.00 pm in the Barn – Saints & Sinners XVII  
Thursday 8th November at 7.00 pm in Chatsmore School – Meeting with Bishop Richard. All welcome!  
Sunday 11th November from 12.00 noon – SPUC Lunch  
Saturday 1st December from 7.00 pm – Curry & Carols

**11. WORTHING CHURCHES HOMELESS PROJECTS: HARVEST FESTIVAL APPEAL** – Please help WCHP to restock their cupboards with any of the items below so that they are able to help the 1,700 people who turn to them each year. Boxer Shorts, Dish Cloths, Dishwasher Rinse Aid/Salt/Tablets, Flannels and Liquid Soap, Dried Herbs, Men's Socks, New/Used Sleeping Bags, Pickles/Chutney, Razors, Shaving Foam/Gel, Sanitary Products, Shampoo & Conditioner, Tinned Fruit & Veg, Washing Powder. Many thanks to those who are so generous in their donations

**Father Liam says: About twelve miles from my birthplace** there are the remains of an early Irish Monastery with its Cathedral dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> Century. That part of Ireland was evangelised by St Declan in the early 5<sup>th</sup> Century before the arrival of St. Patrick. Long before you arrive at these historic remains a huge tower can be seen dominating the countryside around. This is the Round Tower of Ardmore, which is about fifteen feet in diameter at its base from which it gradually tapers to the apex, ninety-seven feet above the surface of the ground. Like many Round Towers in Ireland it is remarkably well preserved. It used to be thought that its purpose was to afford refuge to the monastic community when they were attacked by Viking invaders. The fact that the doorway to the Tower is thirteen feet above ground level gave added credence to this idea but now it is generally agreed that Round Towers were bell towers calling the religious community and the wider countryside to prayer. On the Continent and in the entire Christian world, the most famous bell tower is the Leaning Tower of Pisa built beside the Cathedral. In addition to bell towers many Cathedrals in Italy had large Baptisteries constructed nearby. Several of these still exist in a good state of preservation. When I visited I remember a guide demonstrating the acoustic qualities of the Baptistry by singing Alleluia. These ancient Baptisteries were huge because in the early Church very many adults were baptised at the Easter Vigil by the bishop who would also confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on them before they proceeded to receive their first Holy Communion at the same ceremony. At that time it was usual that these great Sacraments of Initiation were celebrated at the Cathedral rather than the local churches. That is why the Baptisteries were so large. Those who had been under instruction would go, as part of the Easter Vigil Celebrations, with their sponsors and friends, to the Baptistry where they would be baptised by immersion. That is why it was important that the acoustics were good as they would be addressed by the Bishop and the long ceremony of baptising them as they went into the water was accompanied by much singing. There were male and female deacons to assist the male and female candidates for baptism. Baptism in fact gets its name from the Greek word for being immersed into water.

These ancient Baptisteries were sometimes called by another Greek name – fōtisteon – which means the place of illumination. The illumination of course came from the Easter Candle and all the candles lit from it on the most glorious of all nights. Examples of such buildings still exist at Rome, Florence, Luca, Ravenna and Padua so if you are visiting Italy you might be able to see one.

Baptisteries are all octagonal in shape. Seven was the ancient number signifying perfection. They were eight-sided because what was celebrated there was beyond perfection. Baptism was a sharing in the Risen Life of Christ and nothing on earth could be compared to that. Excavations in the Cathedral of Milan have recently uncovered deep in the foundations the very beautiful Baptistry where St Augustine was baptised by St Ambrose in the year 387. There they found the octagonal Baptistry pool in which Augustine had been immersed, renouncing Satan as he descended into the pool down those steps facing West and then proclaiming the Creed as he ascended from the pool up the steps facing the East. The number eight qualified as the perfect number, the octave, the cube of the number 2. We still preserve that in our musical notation. In the Greek Church the number eight was sacred. Easter Sunday was distinguished as the Ogdoad, the Eighth Day which replaced the pagan Sunday, named after the sun which was worshipped as a god.

Many of the baptismal fonts that we find in old churches particularly are octagonal in shape. We may not have magnificent Baptisteries built beside our churches but we often see magnificent baptismal fonts proclaiming that the baptismal life we share is truly beyond perfection and because it is the Risen Life of Christ it is victorious over sin and death. Our baptismal font at English Martyrs church is not particularly magnificent and it is not octagonal! It is six sided.

Our Baptistry on the other hand is very beautiful. It has been adorned by a painting of the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan, which Gary did. The Baptistry is a couple of steps below the floor level of the church to remind us that baptism was celebrated by going down into the water. St Paul compares adults going into the water and emerging again in baptism to people going down into the tomb and rising again to new life.