

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS, Goring Way

2.12.2018

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 Website: www.english-martyrs.co.uk

Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

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

First Sunday of Advent

Saturday	1 st	6.00 pm	Tim & Angela Ryan RIP
Sunday	2 nd	8.15 am	Deceased Relatives of the Bandy & Phillips Families
		10.30 am	Douglas Doll RIP
		6.00 pm	Polish Mass
Monday	3 rd	9.30 am	The Parish
Tuesday	4 th	9.30 am	Private Intention (NH)
		7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	5 th	9.30 am	Jessie Shephard RIP
		7.00 pm	Divine Mercy Prayer Group
Thursday	6 th	7.30 pm	Dennis Liddane RIP
Friday	7 th	9.30 am	Michael Shiel RIP
		7.30 pm	Prayer Group
Saturday	8 th	6.00 pm	Deceased relatives of Gina Marshall
Sunday	9 th	8.15 am	Michael O'Driscoll RIP
		10.30 am	The Dunne Family RIP



SATURDAY: Exposition with Benediction: 10.00 - 11.00am. Reconciliation: 10.15 – 10.45 am & 5.15 - 5.45 pm

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 33:14-16, 1Thessalonians: 3:12-4:2, Luke 21:25-28,34-36

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Baruch 5:1-9, Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11, Luke 3:1-6

COLLECTIONS: Church: £508 Thank you for your generosity.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Brenda Peazold, Sue Withnell, Margaret Dunne, Rosie Grove, Mary Wessel, 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, 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: Theresa Rhodes, Margaret Newman, Bridget White, Winifred Rose, Elizabeth Burtwell, Rob Connor, Leslie Hines, Rosa Ransley, Roy Pritchard, Angela McGowan, Bridget Daly, David Mitchell, Margaret Mould, Chris Boucher, Nancy Leonard,

3. 'HAPPY BAGS' These are for children of all ages and will be in a basket in each of the porches for their use during Mass. They contain scripture based story books, colouring books and coloured crayons and scripture quiz books. Please do return them to the baskets on your way out after Mass.

4. LEARNING ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH: We will soon be starting this year's course (RCIA) for those interested in finding out more about our faith with a view to being received into full communion with the Catholic Church. If you know of anyone who would like to join us, please ask them to ring Father Liam on 01903 242624 or Dermot on 01903 502070 for details. There is no obligation to take the final step! This course would also be suitable for those wanting to return to the practise of their Catholic faith.

5. 'ADVENT JOURNEY THROUGH THE EYES OF MARY' is an Advent Reflection that will take place in the Good Shepherd Chapel for three consecutive Wednesday mornings starting **this** Wednesday 5th December at 10.05 am following Mass. Each session will last just forty minutes. All are very welcome

6. CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH - We invite you to join us for lunch and festivities in the Barn on Christmas day 12-4pm. Tickets by donation- which will go towards sending our young people from the Deanery to Lourdes. Transport is available on request. If you are able to offer your time to help, make a desert or your driving skills on the day we would be most grateful. For further details please contact Dermot and Jane-Anne on 01903 502070

7. KEEPING CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS: Worthing Knights of St Columba have provided Christmas posters to all local parishes, they are available in both porches, and ask that they are displayed as an act of Christian witness. On the same theme, the Royal Mail's Christmas stamps this year, are either Madonna and Child or posting letters in old fashioner letter boxes. Please ask for the Christian stamps to help get the message of Christmas across. The Royal Mail will only continue to produce Christian stamps at Christmas if there is sufficient demand

9. HAVE YOU VISITED THE REPOSITORY RECENTLY? We have a wide array of Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars & candles, cribs, diaries and items suitable for little Christmas Presents

10. FRIENDSHIP IN THE BARN CHRISTMAS LUNCH will take place on Friday 21st December from 1.30 until 4.00 pm. If you are in need of transport, have special dietary needs or have not booked your place please phone Teresa – [01903 529260](tel:01903529260)

11. APF RED BOX HOLDERS please collect your boxes from the front porch.

12. USED POSTAGE STAMPS FOR THE MISSIONS: As the Christmas Cards start arriving please remember to rescue all those beautiful stamps, leaving about half an inch of envelope around the edges, and put them in the box in the Porch so that they can be used to raise money for the Missions

13. MARY'S MEALS: We are now in particular need of Soap, Toothpaste, Colouring Pencils and Crayons and Ballpoint Pens. Many thanks to all who so generously contribute to these backpacks

14. TURNING TIDES (Worthing Churches Homeless Projects): Items needed: Cereals (no Cornflakes or Porridge), Cooking Sauces, Ketchup, Brown Sauce, Salad Cream, Cooking Oil, Squashes, Tea, Coffee, Washing Powder, Shampoo, Shower Gel, Pump Hand Soap, Sanitizer Sprays, Floor cleaner, Toilet Bleach, Washing-up brushes, Hoodies, and Cereal bowls. Many thanks to those who are so generous in their donations

Father Liam says: Long before the coming of Christ, people have made the depth of winter a time for merry-making and good cheer. Many of the major world religions have festivals of light to counteract the darkest season of the year. To celebrate Christ's birth. The Victorians popularised Christmas trees and Christmas Cards and Father Christmas but many of our Christmas traditions – such as eating mince-pies and singing carols – date back to Tudor times and beyond.

Pagan people celebrated the winter solstice – the shortest day of the year. In the fourth century the Church adopted this time and the ancient Roman festival of Saturnalia, as the time to celebrate Christ's birth. In the year 354 the Emperor Aurelia decreed that 25th December should be named The Birth of the Unconquered Sun, in honour of the Sun-god Sol. The Church thought it highly appropriate to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the true Son of God, on that day.

Northern Europeans called the Solstice by the name Jul, rendered in English as Yule, another name for Christmas. Yule marked the death of one year and the birth of another. It was regarded as an auspicious date for Kings to be crowned. Charlemagne was crowned Roman Emperor on Christmas Day 800. The Saxon, King Edmund the Martyr, was anointed on Christmas Day 855 and William the Conqueror was crowned King of England on Christmas Day 1066.

The traditional English Christmas owes much to King Alfred the Great who, in the ninth century, commanded that there should be a holiday on Christmas Day and the twelve days that followed. It was believed that the Magi had journeyed for twelve days to see the infant Jesus. The first use of the word 'Christmas' has been traced to an Anglo-Saxon text of his when it was called 'Christ's Mass'.

By Tudor times preparation for the feast began weeks in advance. The forty days before Christmas were called the 'forty days of St Martin' or Advent. Martin-mass – the feast of St Martin of Tours – on 11th November – marked the traditional beginning of winter. Others began preparing for Christmas on 1st November – All Saints Day. Were it not for Halloween, our shops might have started their Christmas advertising in September! In past centuries Christians were expected to fast in Advent. It was a period of preparation and penance that ended only on Christmas Eve. In rural Ireland up to the early fifties people did not decorate their houses until Christmas Eve. My father would bring the holly branches with the most red berries he could find from the woodland roundabout and that would be the Christmas decorations – and we thought it was splendid. Other preparations however would have been going on for months. Christmas Puddings would have been made and hung from the kitchen ceiling from October. And the turkey and goose selected for our feasting would be lovingly fattened!

By contrast in Tudor times seasonal spending at Court was lavish. Henry VIII's expenses for the first Christmas of his reign in 1509 amounted to the equivalent of £13.5 million. Didn't he do well for a nineteen year old? His total revenue for the year was £16.5 million. For ordinary people life was hard and mortality rates were high. Winters were more severe than they are today. The 16th century witnessed a mini ice-age that would last for 200 years. Christmas was hugely anticipated with its twelve days when all work except the tending of animals and humans was forbidden. Spinning wheels were threaded with flowers and greenery over this period so that they could not be used. People had precious free time for leisure, games and entertainments and better food if they were lucky. In London crowds turned out to cheer Henry VIII and his third wife as, warmly wrapped in furs, the Royal couple rode on horseback from Westminster to the City to mark the beginning of the Christmas celebrations at St Pauls. The Thames was often frozen. The streets were gaily decorated for the occasion and tapestries and Cloth of Gold were on display as they spurred their horses across the frozen river after the service as they galloped to the Surrey shore and reached Greenwich Palace and their lavish Christmas Court. But for most people Christmas Eve and many days before were days of fasting and abstinence

Every priest was allowed from early times to say three Masses on Christmas morning. The three Masses of Christmas have their own distinct prayers and scripture readings. As priests had to fast from midnight it became the practice very often for the priest to say these Masses one after the other. This was the only time when a priest could say Mass three times on a single day. During the First World War Pope Benedict XV allowed priests to do so on All Souls Day to mark all those who died in that war. Nowadays there are many occasions when priests can do this. The Eucharistic Fast was reduced firstly to three hours and for many years past we are required to fast for just one hour. For those who are unwell and receive Holy Communion at home or in a Care Home the rule of fasting does not apply.