

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS, Goring Way

4.11.2018

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

Thirty-First Sunday of the Year

Saturday	3 ^{ed}	6.00 pm	Yvonne Carter RIP
Sunday	4 th	8.15 am	Delphine Clare Bridgeman RIP
		10.30 am	Tony Robbins RIP
		6.00 pm	Polish Mass
Monday	5 th	9.30 am	Michael Farrell RIP
Tuesday	6 th	9.30 am	The Parish
Wednesday	7 th	9.30 am	Michael Murphy RIP
		7.00 pm	Divine Mercy Group
Thursday	8 th	7.30 pm	Father Thomas Foley RIP
Friday	9 th	9.30 am	Madutheen Singarayer & Singarayer Arulamma RIP
		7.30 pm	Prayer Group
Saturday	10 th	6.00 pm	Bill McEvoy RIP
Sunday	11 th	8.15 am	Reg Marshall RIP
		10.30 am	The Dead of Wars and Conflicts RIP



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

TODAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 6:2-6; Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 12:28-34

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: 1 Kings 17:10-16; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

COLLECTIONS: Church: £528 Thank you for your generosity.

This weekend there will be a Second Collection for Retired Priest's Fund (Gift Aid) Please see Note 3

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: 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: Harold Thirkettle, Olive Oliver, Vincent Rasdale, Brian Hurst, Reginald Patten, Elizabeth Holding, Benjamin Dixon-Smith, Margaret Hanson, Francis Fisher, Billy McCann, Brian McHale, Phillip Horsfall, Edward Hetherington

3. RETIRED PRIESTS' COLLECTION - Sunday 4th November 2018 Every year at least £200,000 is needed for the support of our retired priests. The amounts incurred are likely to increase in coming years as more priests reach retirement age. This support ensures that priests do not face financial hardship when their parish ministry comes to an end. While in active parish ministry, priests' accommodation and domestic needs are met by the parish and a modest personal income is usually provided from offerings at Christmas, Easter and from baptisms, weddings and funerals. There is no charge to the parish for pension contributions to fund the future needs for their priest. The Retired Priests' Fund supplies these needs, whether the priest is able to live independently or whether more care is required. In recent years, this collection has contributed only a fraction of the amount needed. Please give generously so that we can express our concern and gratitude towards those who have served us so loyally over the years.

4. NEXT SUNDAY IS REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY and the Centenary of the end of World War I. The 10.30 am Mass will be a special Mass for the Dead. Parishioners from all Masses are invited to attend as a mark of respect for all the fallen through war and conflict

5. SUNDAY LUNCH (2 COURSES) will be served in The Barn on Sunday 11th November at 12.00 noon in aid of the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child SPUC. Tickets will be on sale after all Masses this weekend. Price Adult £7.50 and a Child £4.00. Donations of Raffle Prizes would be gratefully received and could be left in the Sacristy.

6. APF RED BOX HOLDERS please return your red boxes for counting. You can leave them in the Sacristy for Teresa. If you have difficulty bringing the box to church please phone 243401 and we will arrange collection

7. WE ARE ALL INVITED TO A VERY IMPORTANT DEANERY MEETING this Thursday 8th November at 7.00 pm at Chatsmore Catholic High School. (BN12 5AF) Plans for the future organisation of the Deanery of Worthing will be discussed. The Bishop will speak to us and we will have the opportunity to speak to him about developments, some of which may very well be imminent. Please come!

8. NOVEMBER – IS THE MONTH FOR HOLY SOULS: The usual ‘November envelopes’ are available in both porches for those wishing to remember their loved ones at the Altar. Any donations will go towards offering Masses for the Holy Souls. Please fill in and hand in to the Sacristy as soon as possible

9. CHRISTMAS DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Sunday 16 th December	- 3.00 pm - Christmas Carols and Mulled Wine
Saturday 1 st December	- 7.00 pm - Curry & Carols Night
Thursday 20 th December	- 7.30 pm - Advent Reconciliation Service
Monday 24 th December	- 6.00 pm - First Mass of Christmas especially for children
	- 9.00 pm - Mass preceded by Carols from 8.30 pm
Tuesday 25 th December	- 8.15 am and 10.30 am Mass



10. ENGLISH MARTYRS SCHOOL OPEN DAY – If your child’s date of birth is between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015 they are eligible to start school in September 2019. English Martyrs Catholic Primary School has an Open Day for prospective parents on Thursday 8th November at 9.30am. The School is located in Derwent Drive, Worthing, BN12 6LA. Parents are welcome to ring the school on 01903 502868 for more information or just come along. We will be very happy to see you. The closing date for applications is 15th January 2019.

Father Liam says: The Battle of the Somme was the principal battle on the Western Front and lasted from 1st July to 17th November 1915. It is notorious because of the huge numbers of British casualties sustained on the first day. Of the 57,000 casualties there were 19,000 fatalities. Many men were experiencing battle for the first time. By the end of the year British and Commonwealth forces had nearly 420,000 casualties with approximately 96,000 killed or missing.

Father Harold Drinkwater speaks of that first day, 1st July. The very intense bombardment began at 6.30 am and the men went over the top. Refreshed ‘in tea and rum’ at about 7.30 am. The dressing station had dealt with 1,400 by the afternoon. The Franciscan chaplain, Father Dominic Devas, said that on that morning there were rumours of success ‘but by noon it was definitely ascertained that the attack on our whole Corps front had failed. Two days later ‘one could see already lines of British dead lying out on the rising ground and every day dead were being brought out of the trenches and deposited in the overcrowded cemeteries where in strange stark attitudes they lay and awaited burial.’ An officer wrote that ‘Roman Catholic padres during and after the first day of the Somme came into our trenches which were piled high with dead and dying soldiers to read the prayer of the dying.’

Just before the battle the Daily Chronicle spoke about a particular incident ‘just as the camp fires were dying down and the men were preparing to wrap themselves in their coats for the rest which they might be able to snatch. The Catholic chaplain – a devoted priest who had been with the Irish troops in England and France arrived at the camp. In a moment he was surrounded by the men and hailed his visit with plain delight. He spoke to them in the simple, lovely language which they liked. He spoke of the sacrifice which they had made in freely and promptly leaving their homes to fight for a just cause. He then signed to the men to kneel and administered to them the General Absolution given in times of emergency. The vast majority of the men present knelt and those of other faiths stood by in attitudes of reverent respect. The chaplain then asked the men to recite with him the Rosary. It was most wonderful, the effect produced as hundreds and hundreds of voices repeated the prayers and recited the words ‘Pray for us now and at the hour of our death, Amen’ Father Urban Butler wrote to his mother on 30th June: ‘I have made time for a line to you on this tremendously solemn occasion. We had this morning perhaps the last Mass for many of these poor fellows. May God support us all in this hour. Never, certainly, did soldiers go forward with higher enthusiasm than we have today’

Father Bernard Marshall speaks of the battle’s progress: ‘The battlefields by this time (September) was churned up into a hideous morass and we were in the midst of the ugliness of a devastated land littered with debris, broken implements of war and corpses of men and beasts. It was a horrible time.’

Father Willie Doyle was with the 16th (Irish) Division who were heavily involved on the Somme. He wrote: ‘I have been through the most terrible experience of my whole life, in comparison with which all that I have witnessed or suffered since my arrival in France seems of little consequence; a time of such awful horror that I believe if the good God had not helped me powerfully by his grace I could never have endured it. To sum up all in one word, for the past week I have been living literally in hell, amid sights and scenes and dangers enough to test the courage of the bravest.’ He wrote: ‘I had tried to prepare myself for this but all I had read or pictured gave me little idea of the reality.’ It was, he said ‘a charnel house.’ The first Catholic chaplain to die on the Somme was Father Donal O’Sullivan, from Kerry. Father Willie Doyle survived the Somme but was killed while helping a wounded man near Frezenberg in 16/17th August 1917. His body was never recovered. His death had a huge impact on his men and his many admirers. He was a deeply religious man.

Another hugely respected Catholic chaplain was a Sussex man, the Carmelite Father Simon Knapp who died of wounds at Pilkern Ridge on 1st April 1917. He had been in France with the Irish Guards since 1914 and at the time of his death at the age of 59 he had been twice mentioned in Despatches and awarded the Distinguished Service Order and the Military Cross. Many were of the opinion that like Father Willie Doyle, he should have been awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery. It was said of him that he was the perfect example of an Army chaplain. An officer called him ‘a delightful companion and a perfect priest.’

Many chaplains - like many soldiers - found the physical and emotional strain of war too much to bear. Some asked to be able to return to their normal duties but their requests could not always be immediately granted. There was a shortage of chaplains made the more serious by the fact that they were not always properly deployed. Many chaplains had been at the Front for a long time and had previously no experience of Army life or warfare. That was the case also of most of the soldiers to whom they ministered. *I am indebted to James Hagerty’s book ‘Priest’s in Uniform’*