

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS, Goring Way

9.12.2018

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

Second Sunday of Advent

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
Monday	10 th	9.30 am	In Thanksgiving (LY)
Tuesday	11 th	9.30 am	The Parish
		7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	12 th	9.30 am	Nora Murphy RIP
Thursday	13 th	9.30 am	Kathleen, James & William O'Toole RIP
		7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Friday	14 th	9.30 am	Juaquin & Maria RIP
Saturday	15 th	6.00 pm	George & Nita Roe RIP
Sunday	16 th	8.15 am	Michael Shiel RIP
		10.30 am	Sophie Kaptur RIP
		3.00 pm	Annual Family Christmas Carols and Readings Service
		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: Baruch 5:1-9, Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11, Luke 3:1-6

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Zephaniah 3:14-18, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:10-18

COLLECTIONS: Church: £622 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, Lydia Van Melsen

2. THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY: GERRY POTTER and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Harry King, Cesare del'Nero, Ida Crowley, Evelyn Foster, Daphne Day, Desmond Monaghan, Mary Doran, Louis Hofmann, Raymond Dew, Frederick Franklin, Doris Dowling, Lilian Mutton, Mary Mackay

3. 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.

4. '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

5. THE ANNUAL FAMILY CHRISTMAS CAROLS & READINGS SERVICE followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies will take place **NEXT** Sunday at 3.00 pm. If you are a creator of Mince Pies they would be gratefully received!

6. CURRY & CAROLS EVENING IN AID OF THE PARISH PROJECT. Many thanks to all those who prepared and cooked such a delicious meal and to those who supported the evening in any way. An amazing £1,011 was raised for Kalingalinga

7. FRIENDSHIP IN THE BARN CHRISTMAS LUNCH will take place on Friday 21st December from 1.00 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

8. 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

9. TRAIDCRAFT will be on sale in the Barn after all Masses **next** weekend. If you would like to purchase items for the Worthing Churches Homeless Projects a box will be available in which to put your purchases

10. THE ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE will be held here on Thursday, 20th December at 7.30pm. There will be a choice of confessors as there will be at the other Reconciliation Services in the Deanery. These are listed in both porches

11. 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

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 serviceable children's shoes. 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: Until well into the 17th Century, the English Christmas was celebrated much as it had been in the Middle Ages. After Henry VIII made himself Supreme Head of the Church of England various traditional feasts and Saints days were abolished but Christmas continued to be celebrated by most of those who were no longer Catholic. Martin Luther wrote a number of Christmas Carols, which found their way into the English language and the English Christmas. The Swiss Reformer John Calvin tried to purge the excesses associated with the feast and to have it observed worthily as the celebration of Christ's birth.

John Know, the Scottish follower of Calvin took a strong stand against Christmas. He and his followers deplored the fact that Christianity had taken over pagan celebrations such as the winter solstice and the worship of the sun-god. The Kirk, the established church of Scotland, legislated against the feast in 1560 and 1566 before abolishing the festival in 1583. In Scotland Christmas Day did not become a public holiday again until 1958 and Boxing Day did not re-emerge until 1974. The New Year's Eve festivity, Hogmanay, was by far the largest celebration.

In England the Reformation largely embraced Christmas and it was hugely popular at all levels of society. The boy King, Edward, who succeeded Henry particularly enjoyed the revels of the Twelfth Night. Under Queen Mary, the re-establishment of the Catholic faith would have been apparent in the return of the Latin liturgy, rood screens and cribs. The Elizabethan Christmas season continued to be colourful as before, at least among the wealthy. During her reign, life for many however had become increasingly hard. There had been a number of disastrous harvests so many had to scale down their Christmas celebrations for economic reasons.

The real attack on Christmas in England came in the next century. James VI of Scotland succeeded Elizabeth in 1603 as James I of England. He openly deplored the Calvinist Scottish Kirk's ban on Christmas. The lavish over-indulgence of King Charles I and his wife Henrietta Maria aroused the ire of many. It was one of many complaints that contributed to the clash between the Crown and Parliament which ultimately led to the bloody and divisive Civil War. The elected Parliament with the approval of Oliver Cromwell passed a series of Acts criminalising the celebration of Christmas between 1644-47. They decreed that 'our sins and the sins of our forefathers have turned this feast, pretending the memory of Christ, into an extreme forgetfulness of Him'. They ruled that 'the observation of Christmas having been deemed a sacrilege, the exchange of gifts and greetings, dressing in fine clothing, feasting and similar satanical practices are hereby forbidden, with the offender liable to a fine of five shillings' Increasingly Puritans – strict, 'pure' protestants – had come to regard the celebration of Christmas as an unwelcome survival of the Catholic faith. They disliked what they saw as the waste, extravagance, disorder and immorality of the season. They saw Christmas – Christ's Mass – as a popish festival with no biblical justification.

There were to be no carols and 'no prayers or sermons in the churches on 25th December and whosoever shall make, or cause to be made, either plum pudding or Nativity pies, is hereby warned that it is contrary to the said ordinance.' Parliament also ordered that shops or markets were to stay open for business on 25th December. Anyone caught breaking the law was liable to a fine or imprisonment.

The popular attachment to the old festivities was so strong that many pro-Christmas riots occurred; threatening local tradesmen who had dared to open their shops on Christmas Day. In London a crowd of apprentices assembled at Cornhill and there 'in despite of authority they set up Holly and Ivy' in prominent places. The Lord Mayor despatched officers to pull them down but the apprentices resisted them. The worst demonstrations took place at Canterbury where shops that had opened on Christmas Day were smashed. The rioters went on to seize control of the whole city. This paved the way for a major insurrection in Kent in 1648. Parliamentary soldiers removed evergreen decorations from many London churches. They destroyed the famous Glastonbury Thorn, a tree believed to have sprung up on Christmas Day from the staff of St Joseph of Arimathea, whom some believed to have been an uncle of Jesus and the founder of Glastonbury Abbey.

Following Cromwell's installation as Lord Protector in 1653, the celebration of Christmas continued to be proscribed. Government business was frequently transacted on 25th December as if it were day just like any other. In 1660 with Charles II on the throne, anti-Christmas legislation was soon swept away to widespread joy. Many of the old carols did not survive the Cromwellian period and were revived by the Victorians.