

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS, Goring Way

16.12.2018

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

Presbytery 01903 242624 / Church repository 01903 506890

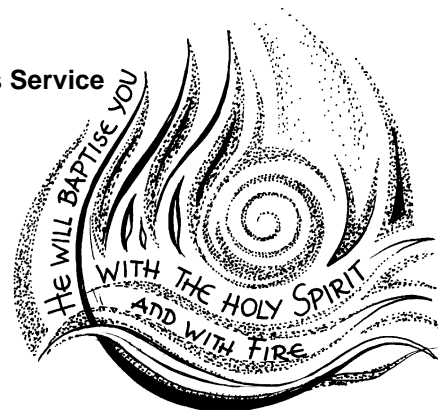
Email: emgoring@english-martyrs.co.uk Website: www.english-martyrs.co.uk

Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

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

Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday	15 th	.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
Monday	17 th	9.30 am	Hugh & Annie McCaffrey RIP
Tuesday	18 th	7.00 pm	The Parish
		7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	19 th	9.30 am	Intention of Ellen Leahy
Thursday	20 th	9.30 am	Kathleen, James & William O'Toole RIP
		6.00 pm	Choir Practice
		7.30 pm	SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION
Friday	21 st	9.30 am	Anne & Catherine Bandy RIP
Saturday	22 nd	6.00 pm	Charlie Gillespie RIP
Sunday	23 rd	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Lottie Mae RIP



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

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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Micah 5:1-4; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-44

COLLECTIONS: Church: £525 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 and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Ethel Baker, Margaret Mattingley, Noel Melling, Norah Murphy, Margaret Wadsworth, Inge Carey, Edna Turberville, Cyril Marshall, Hetty Smith, Kathleen McDonagh

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

4. THE ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE will be held here **next** 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

5. FRIENDSHIP IN THE BARN CHRISTMAS LUNCH will take place **next** 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

6. CALLING ALL WHO LIKE TO SEE A CLEAN CHURCH AT CHRISTMAS! It's all hands to the dusters and vacuum cleaners at 10.00am **next** Friday 21st December. Coffee and Mince Pies will be served to all workers

7. COME AND JOIN US SINGING CAROLS AND DISTRIBUTING MINCE PIES. All the Churches in Goring are joining together **next** Saturday, 22nd December from 10.30 until 11.30 am on the Greensward at the Mulberry Shops to sing carols and give out Mince Pies to all those passing by. The shoppers are looking forward to this 'happening' and so it is essential that as many people as possible come and join in the singing

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. TRADCRAFT will be on sale in the Barn after all Masses **this** weekend. If you would like to purchase items for the Worthing Churches Homeless Projects (Turning Tides) a box will be available in which to put your purchases

10. CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR CHILDREN: For the last twelve years we have helped 'Home-Start, Worthing and Adur' by donating toys for the children of the families that they support and the gifts have brought a great deal of pleasure to the children. If you are able to assist this year please wrap up a present (indicating if it is meant for a boy or a girl and of what age) and place it under the Christmas tree in church over the Christmas Season

11. A REMINDER TO ALL PREPARING FOR THEIR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: There will be a rehearsal at 10.00 am on Monday 24th December in the Church for the 'Innkeepers Story'. This will be performed at the end of the 6.00pm Children's Candlelight Mass

12. YOUR OFFERINGS AT THE CHRISTMAS MASSES are your personal gift to Father Liam (Gift Aid applies). If you are not Gift Aiding, special envelopes are available in the Porch. If you will be away for Christmas you might like to use these envelopes to make your gift either beforehand or afterwards.

13. THE 'CAFOD AUCTION' AND SUPPER will be held in The Barn on Saturday 19th January 2019 at 7.00 pm. Please remember to save any 'surplus' gifts or unused items for the Auction. Call Charles for collection/information on 01903 505546

14. AMELIA SENDS CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO ALL. Her address is: 29, Greenhurst Drive, Bluebell Gate, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 3NE

15. 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

16. 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: Christmas Eve in Tudor England before the Reformation in the 1530's was a day of fasting. It was the last day of Advent. Tradition demanded that houses were not decorated until Christmas Eve. Adults and children went cheerfully into the countryside to gather evergreens such as holly and ivy to deck their homes and their local churches. Most people lived in the countryside and towns and cities were much smaller. Queen Elizabeth herself paid for the churches adjacent to her palaces to be adorned with holly and ivy.

Evergreens were highly regarded for staying alive while other trees and plants were devoid of colour or signs of life. Holly and ivy, bays and mistletoe were seen to symbolise eternal life and carrying them into the houses was held to bring good fortune – but not before Christmas Eve. Holly became a symbol of Christ's crown of thorns and some even claimed that his cross had been made from hollywood. Prickly holly was seen as a male plant and smooth holly was female. Whichever type was brought into the house first dictated who would hold sway in the following year – the husband or wife! Evergreens had been used since pre-Christian times to celebrate the Winter Solstice. The Druids apparently used mistletoe in those ceremonies and for healing. It is a parasite and white-clad Druids climbed the sacred oaks to cut down the mistletoe and used it in their rituals and sacrifices. But it came to symbolise friendship and reconciliation. When enemies met under a mistletoe they had to lay down their arms and observe a truce – for a day at least! Because of its pagan connections churches and abbeys – with the exception of York Minster – banned mistletoe.

Holly and ivy were the mainstay of English Christmas decorations in churches for hundreds of years. In some countries such decorations were burned because of their pagan connections. The purchase of these evergreens is mentioned regularly in churchwarden's accounts in the towns. In the countryside they would be there for the taking. Bays and rosemary would also be used in churches and houses and were seen as protective plants. Their association with Christmas held until the late 17th century. There was a rhyme from 1557 which ran: 'when other fruits and flowers decay, the bay yet grows full green.'

Christmas Day was a time for feasting, dancing, singing and watching plays. Above all it was a time for splendid religious observances. It began with three Masses and the chanting of Christ's genealogy as congregations held lighted tapers symbolising the coming of the 'Light of the World'. At Court, the King wore new clothes and Royal attendants and servants were given new attire and uniforms. Everyone put on their best at Christmas in honour of the season. Christmas feasting was relative, of course. For the poor, meat was a rare luxury but they might manage pork or whatever birds they could catch. The better off might enjoy poultry such as chicken or goose. There is a record of the first turkeys arriving in England from the New World in 1526, when six birds sold at Bristol for 2 pence each. There was a widespread idea that turkeys came from the East, via Turkey, which is why they got their name. The French thought they came from India so they called it d'Inde (now dinde) Turkey was soon prized for its flavour and became a domestic fowl in the 1530's. It began to be part of Christmas dishes by the end of Queen Elizabeth's reign and began to slowly replace peacock or swan on the tables of the rich. Stuffing is first known to be served with poultry and Brussels sprouts in 1587. Plum Pudding started life as Plum Porridge as an appetiser but the Victorians removed the meat and turned it into a dessert. An alternative was the Figgy Pudding, which features in the carol 'We wish you a merry Christmas'. Figgy Pudding was enjoyed as a festive appetiser for centuries. There was a belief that Christ had eaten figs on his last journey to Jerusalem. Mince Pies or Christmas Pies were made with the shredded leftover meats and had thirteen ingredients in honour of Christ and his apostles. These were much larger than the ones we have today. The first piece was given to the youngest person present who made a wish while eating it. Christmas cards, Christmas crackers, Christmas trees and Father Christmas all came much later with Queen Victoria, Prince Albert and Charles Dickens.