

## PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS, Goring Way

30.12.2018

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](http://www.english-martyrs.co.uk)

Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

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

### The Holy Family

Saturday	29 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Intention of Tommy O'Toole
Sunday	30 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 am	Dr Alfie Donovan RIP
		10.30 am	Mary & Jack Haugh RIP
Monday	31 <sup>st</sup>	9.30 am	The Parish
Tuesday	1 <sup>st</sup>	9.30 am	No Mass
Wednesday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30 am	Peter Giles RIP
		7.00 pm	Divine Mercy Group
Thursday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30 pm	James Mernagh RIP
Friday	4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Michael Farrell RIP
		11.00 am	<b>FUNERAL SERVICE FOR JOHN BURNETT RIP</b>
Saturday	5 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Michael O'Driscoll RIP
Sunday	6 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 am	Reg Marshall RIP
		10.30 am	Intentions of Anne Steere
		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:** 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2: 41-52

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

**COLLECTIONS:** Church: £678 Thank you for your generosity.

**Contributions to the Christmas Crib will be sent to Friends of the Holy Land**  
**This SUNDAY there will be a second collection for the Turning Tides (W C H P)**

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Michael Butler, 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: Veronica Parker, Effie Downs, Catherine Brooks, Ted Bellenger, Giulia Grainger, Father Enda Naughton, Lilian Willmoth, Marion Hack, John Bennett, Agnes Clarke, Phyllis Spratt, Thomas O'Meara, Janine North, Bob Carey, John Donald, Maureen Barrass, Patricia Wyant, Charles Simpson, Herbert Foreman, Beryl Snadden, Brenda McDonald, Donald Perriman, Peggy Smith

**3 A BIG THANK YOU** to all who helped in any way to make the first Friendship in the Barn Christmas lunch so successful. It was greatly enjoyed by all who came.

**4. 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

**5. READERS & MINISTERS OF COMMUNION:** Rosters for January are now available in the Sacristy

**6. THE 'CAFOD AUCTION' AND SUPPER EXTRAVAGANZA** will be held in The Barn on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> 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. Tickets will be on sale after all Masses **next** weekend price £7.50. Raffle prizes will also be gratefully received

**7. CRIB DONATIONS:** This year this parish will be sending crib donations to Friends of the Holy Land. Every penny will help the poorest Christian families, especially in and around Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza and Israel, with education, employment, health or housing costs and initiatives. FHL is non-political and ecumenical. Please keep our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land in your prayers at this time.'

**8. THE DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2019** is now available in the Repository price £5.00

**9. WHAT IS YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?** Or should it be **'YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU!'** We are a busy parish with many good things happening in it but these only can happen if you are prepared to join in. At the moment help is needed with Flower Arranging, Cleaning, and assistance with Friendship in the Barn. At the beginning of April we open again to the public who wish to come and view the ceiling and our lovely stained glass windows. There is much to do but we really do need you to come and help where you can. Please contact Anne in the Parish Office for further information and with your offers of assistance

**10. THE CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH** in the Barn was most enjoyable and greatly appreciated. Another **BIG** thank you to all who made it happen

**11. LEARNING ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH:** 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, will be starting on Saturday 5th January at 13.00 pm in the Good Shepherd Chapel. If you know of anyone who would like to join us, please ask them to ring Father Liam on 01903 242624 for details. This course would also be suitable for those wanting to return to the practise of their Catholic faith.

**12. 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

**13. TURNING TIDES (Worthing Churches Homeless Projects):** Many thanks to those who are so generous in their donations throughout the year. It is much needed and appreciated

**Father Liam says: In the Eastern Church the important feast** at this time of year is not Christmas but the Epiphany of the Lord – celebrating that Jesus was revealed as the Saviour of all mankind. The coming of the Magi represented the fact that he had not come for one people only but for all peoples. The Christians of the East celebrate the Baptism of the Lord as another Epiphany – a showing forth of the glory of God.

But the whole universe is a tremendous epiphany. As the Psalmist says: 'The heavens show forth the glory of God'. Our earth is spinning from east to west at the rate of about 900 miles an hour. At the same time the earth is orbiting around the Sun at about 66,000 miles an hour. The Sun is not stationary. It is carrying itself and its planets towards the star Vega at about 31,000 miles an hour. The Sun and Vega move around the Galaxy at the speed of 700,000 miles an hour. The Galaxy itself rotates at about 600,000 miles an hour. Our Galaxy moves in relation to all other Galaxies as they race through the Universe at a speed of more than 1 million miles an hour. When I sit here absolutely still, I am moving in six wildly different directions at an accumulated speed of maybe two and a half million miles an hour.

When we contemplate the coming of God among us in human flesh in the mystery of the incarnation we acknowledge that the child Jesus, helpless as he is, the beginning and end of all things. He is the Word of God through whom all things were made. He is 'the love that moves the sun and all the stars' (Dante) The Universe is full of surprises. He has made us immortal as an eternity in his presence could not exhaust all that we can learn of his beauty and love. Jesus came to reveal something of the majesty of the Father and of the care he has for each one of us. We are surrounded by mystery and we should be content to live with mystery. The infancy narratives in Luke and Mark try to express the mystery of God coming to us in human flesh.

On Christmas Day 1969 this church building came into use. The first Mass here would have been the Midnight Mass. What would the feelings of the parishioners have been? For many years they had gathered in the Barn for the celebration of Mass and the other great events of their Christian lives. Many had been baptised and married in the Barn. And now – at Christmas when the world was celebrating the birth of Jesus in a barn – Luke tells us that he was placed in a manger – the people of this parish celebrated his nativity in a new church. There must have been a lot of mixed feelings among the congregation. Some would have been delighted to have Christmas as the first Mass in their new church while others would not be quite so glad. We are so blessed to have both the Barn and the church of the English Martyrs. On Christmas Day 2019 it will be exactly 50 years since our present church was thronged with worshippers for the first time.

The Golden Jubilee Mass will be on the Feast of the Epiphany, January 5th 2020. Bishop Richard will be the chief celebrant – it would be totally out of the question to expect him to come here on 25th December. On Christmas Day the Bishop likes to say Mass at two of the prisons in our diocese – as well as saying Midnight Mass at the Cathedral. He will officiate at the 10.30 am Mass on the Epiphany – a year from now. Obviously the weather is a limiting factor in mid-winter so we are hoping to organise a number of events in the months leading up to it – a relatively short time from now.

Nearer at hand we have Epiphany 2019. Many people take down their Christmas decorations several days before the Epiphany. They put them up too early and take them down too early. The season of Christmas ends with the Feast of the Lord's Baptism but the crib sometimes is not taken down until 2nd February – the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the temple when he was 40 days old. By then, for most of us Christmas will have been a distant memory

**I wish to thank** you all for your good wishes and very generous Christmas offerings. May I also take this opportunity to thank you all for your magnificent support for the Parish, as always. We ask God to continue to bestow his blessings on us all as we move into 2019.