

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

2.06.2019

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

Presbytery 01903 242624 / Church repository 01903 506890

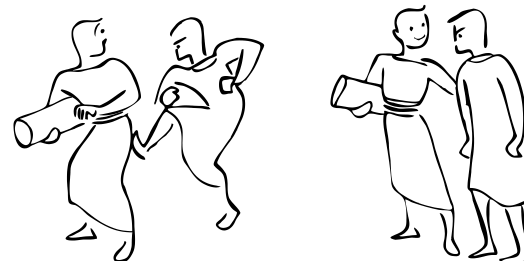
Email: emgoring@english-martyrs.co.uk Website: www.english-martyrs.co.uk

Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

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

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Saturday	1 st	6.00 pm	Intention of the Spinks Family
Sunday	2 nd	8.15 am	Michael Aherne RIP
		10.30 am	Intention of the Bolton Family
		6.00 pm	Polish Mass
Monday	3 rd	9.30 am	The Parish
Tuesday	4 th	9.30 am	Holy Souls
		7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	5 th	9.30 am	Ann Bandy RIP
Thursday	6 th	2.30 pm	Memorial Mass
		7.30 pm	Holy Souls
Friday	7 th	9.30 am	Intention of Norma Markham
Saturday	8 th	6.00 pm	Sivyer Family Past & Present
Sunday	9 th	8.15 am	Intention of Ken Ellis
		10.30 am	Father Eric Flood RIP



*If someone has done you wrong,
do not repay him with a wrong. (Romans 12:17)*

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

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts of the Apostles 7:55-60; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20; John 17:20-26

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11; Romans 8:8-17; John 14:15-16, 23-26

COLLECTIONS: Church: £ 587 Missionary Endeavour of the Diocese: £407

Thank you for your generosity.

This weekend there will be a Second Collection for the Catholic Communications Network (No Gift Aid)

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Brian Dunne, Patrick Ryan, Sheila Tune, Michael Butler, Brenda Peazold, Rosie Grove, Mary Wessel, Gina Palermo, Elizabeth Hoskins, Peggy Gallagher, Joan Cutmore, Christine Watson, Gordon Milne, Bernard Bandy, Deacon Pat Moloney, Alfred Deacon, Ester Park, Marie Garselis, Roni Horstead, Ronnie Tyler, Jenny Begley, Bill Hogg, Breda Schlinggen, 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: Geoffrey Clarey, Sarah Hancox, Simon Sims, Barbara Dancy, Joan Curley, Ellen Pye, Moya Gilbert, Frederick Childs, Bridget Stapleton, Roger Gochmanski, Marion McCabe, Julia Rippin, Rita Healy

3. WELCOME TO ANY VISITORS to our Parish this weekend. We do hope that you have enjoyed your stay

4. A MEMORIAL MASS will be held here **this** Thursday 6th June at 2.30 pm to remember those who have died in recent years. An opportunity to make an act of remembrance for a loved one by lighting a candle will take place during Mass which will be followed by Afternoon Tea. All are welcome.

5. ENGLISH MARTYRS GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS: In September there will be (with your help) an Exhibition in the church entitled 'Our Church' and Adrian and Breda, who have kindly agreed to organise it, are looking for the following: Any photos/memorabilia from Weddings, First Holy Communion, Marriages; written memories of those who recall the move from the Barn to the 'new church'; a photograph of the Martyrs Window in colour or the church pre Sistine Chapel ceiling? Do take a look among your photographic memories and written memories and lend them to us to make this a really fascinating walk 'down memory lane'.

6. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION will be received by fifteen of our children next Sunday during the 10.30 am Mass. Please pray for: Marc Ambros, James Buckley, Keavy Burrows, Aude Calmet, Florence Fitzjohn, Kaitlin Greeney, Annie Howell, Mia Katine, Amalia Lenik, Kirsten Lock, Erin Parkinson, Milena Ramashkevich, Maisie Salloum, Nickeisha Sarpong, Owyn Winton and their families.

7. PARENTS OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CANDIDATES: There will be a meeting for you in the Good Shepherd Chapel **this** Thursday 6th June at 8.00 pm.

8. RACE FOR LIFE 2019 is coming to Worthing on 16th June and this year 'Males' may also participate. The event raises awareness to cancer and provides vital funds for research and cure. For further details see: www.raceforlife/worthing

9. USED POSTAGE STAMPS are not just for Christmas...please remember to collect them throughout the year and drop them into the box in the Main Porch. (They need half an inch of envelope around them so that the little perforations are not damaged.) They are then sent on to St Patrick's Missionary Society where they sell them to raise money for the Missions

10. Arundel Cathedral Festival of Corpus Christi and Carpet of Flowers: Free Entry. 9.30 am to 8 pm on Wednesday 19th and 9.30 am to 5.30 pm on Thursday 20th June. Solemn Mass and Procession to Castle at 5.30 pm on 20th. Refreshments in the Cathedral Centre. All welcome!

11. MARY'S MEALS: We are now in particular need of Soap, Toothpaste and Pencil Cases. Many thanks to all who so generously contribute to these backpacks

12. TURNING TIDES (Worthing Churches Homeless Projects): Items they currently need: Coffee, Sugar, Baked Beans, Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Meals, Jams and Spreads, Tinned Tuna, Rice Pudding, Cooking Oil, Juice, Biscuits. Also Baking Trays, Saucepans, Tea Towels, Cleaning products and Washing Tablets/Powders. In clothing they need small waist Jeans, Men's Hoodies. Boxers and Men's T-Shirts. Many thanks to those who are so generous in their donations throughout the year.

Father Liam says: Mark paints a beautiful scene for us from the ministry of Jesus in Chapter 4 of his Gospel: 'Jesus begins to teach beside the lake. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the lake and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the lake. He began to teach them many things in parables.' This bay has been identified, not far from Capernaum. It resembles the semi-circle of a Graeco-Roman theatre. Experiments have shown that a person sitting or standing in a boat in the middle of the bay can be heard clearly by people even on the upper slopes of the natural theatre.

Mark goes on to tell us something of what Jesus said to the crowd on that occasion. He spoke of a man spreading seed on his field. We can easily imagine that Jesus was referring to an event that was happening before their eyes. He loved to speak of ordinary activities and objects as he raised their attention to the deeper meanings of what was happening in their daily lives. And he used the lie of the land to help him get his message across.

We see a similar situation on Chapter 5 of Matthew. Jesus is about to proclaim his Sermon on the Beatitudes – a key part of his teaching and he carefully chooses his setting. Matthew sets the scene for us: 'When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountains. After he sat down his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak and he taught them.' On the top of the hill called 'Mount of the Beatitudes' the church of the Beatitudes was built in 1938 and it attracts many tourists. Up there the wind tends to blow so fiercely that one would have great difficulty in understanding what anyone was saying. Why would Jesus choose such a place for getting his message across? But about 200 yards downhill from the church there is a natural semi-circle and an even surface which still looks like the stage of a Graeco-Roman theatre. Anyone standing in the centre of this stage can speak quietly and will still be understood. It is rather like the Whispering Gallery of St Paul's Cathedral. Jesus was a skilled public speaker and he knew what he was doing. It was no accident that he used that bay and that hillside and many other locations. Possibly he knew more about the world of the theatre than we imagine.

When Jesus was three years old and living with Mary & Joseph at Nazareth they were just four miles from Sepphoris when it was burnt down and all its inhabitants sold into slavery. When Herod the Great died in 4AD there was a Jewish revolt in Galilee and the Roman officer Varus crucified some 2,000 of the revolutionaries. Several years later Sepphoris was rebuilt by Herod Antipas more beautifully than ever and elevated to the rank of capital city of Galilee. It remained the capital until 20 AD when Antipas built Tiberias and made it the capital. The most striking building in Sepphoris, completed about 20AD, was the theatre with a diameter of 74 metres. It had 5,000 seats and the city had roughly 25,000 inhabitants. This shows that there was a lively interest in drama. Greek was the language of the theatre in the east of the Roman Empire. No Aramaic or Hebrew plays were written or performed and Latin was the official language of the west of the Empire. This city had a sizeable Jewish majority so it must be assumed that Jews too attended the performances. A majestic theatre would not be built if many of the population did not go. There were Jewish playwrights but they wrote in Greek. It is now believed that many of the Jewish population were fluent in Greek and they were theatre-goers. Galilee was always more cosmopolitan than Judaea and Samaria. It is called Galilee of the Nations in the Gospel.

Many people think that Joseph, later joined by Jesus, would have taken part in the rebuilding of Sepphoris. This was the only major building site in the area at the time and it would have kept many builders and craftsmen in employment for many years. The Gospel tells us that Joseph and Jesus were builders. The Greek word 'Tekton' means 'a builder.' 'Carpenter' is a poor translation. The word 'architect' is derived from the word 'Tekton' and means chief builder. Perhaps Jesus was involved in the building of the splendid theatre in Sepphoris. It was only later when theatrical tastes grew coarse that Jews and Christians were discouraged from going. Perhaps Jesus went to the theatre. The classics of Greek tragedy lived on in the theatre in Jesus time. On the road to Damascus the Risen Lord's words to Paul: 'it hurts you to kick against the goad (Acts 26:13) are taken from a play by Aeschylus (525-456 BC). It is rather like us quoting a line from Shakespeare. Similarly Paul's words 'Bad company ruins good morals (1 Corinthians 15:33) are found in a play by Euripides (480-406 BC)

The truth is that we don't know a great deal – in fact we know very little – of the life of Jesus before he began his public ministry. But we are learning more about the times in which he lived – thanks to archaeologists and scholars.

NOTICES

A TEXAN EVENING will take held in the Barn tonight following the 6.00 pm Mass.