

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

1.12.2019

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

First Sunday of Advent

Saturday	30 th	6.00 pm	Frank Burns RIP
Sunday	1 st	8.15 am	Michael Aherne RIP
		10.30 am	Chithra Silva RIP
		6.00 pm	Polish Mass
Monday	2 nd	9.30 am	The Parish
Tuesday	3 rd	9.30 am	Holy Souls
		7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	4 th	9.30 am	Singarayer & Arulammah RIP
		7.00 pm	Divine Mercy Prayer Group
Thursday	5 th	7.30 pm	Josephine Hills
Friday	6 th	9.30 am	Tim & Angela Ryan RIP
		7.30 pm	Prayer Group
Saturday	7 th	6.00 pm	Michael O'Driscoll RIP
Sunday	8 th	8.15 am	Amelia Bambridge RIP
		10.30 am	Dennis Bevans RIP



SATURDAY: Holy Hour: 10.00 - 11.00am. Reconciliation: 10.15–10.45 am & 5.15 - 5:45 pm

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12

COLLECTIONS: Church: £490 Stations of the Cross: £8,000 Thank you for your generosity.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Mary Murphy, Anne Steere, Anthony Canneaux, Lawrence Brownlee, Mike Yeulett, Peggy Gallagher, Margaret Birch, Lita Yong, Patrick Ryan, Brenda Peazold, Mary Wessel, Gina Palermo, Elizabeth Hoskins, Joan Cutmore, Christine Watson, Gordon Milne, Alfred Deacon, Ester Park, Marie Garselis, Roni Horstead, Ronnie Tyler, Jenny Begley, Bill Hogg, Breda Schlimgen, Michaela Finn, Winifred Lyons, Yvette Allen, Kerry McStravick, Lydia Van Melsen

2. THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY: MARY MUSTO (VERA), EILEEN DASHFORD and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Walter Jackson, Frank Burns, Theresa Rhodes, Margaret Newman, Bridget White, Winifred Rose, Elizabeth Burtwell, Rob Connor, Leslie Hines, Rosa Ransley, Roy Pritchard, Angela McGowan, Bridget Daly, David Mitchell, Margaret Mould, David Mitchell, Chris Boucher

3. 'CURRY & CAROLS' full of Christmas festivities and a sing-a-long, will take place in the Barn **next** Saturday 7th December at 7.00 pm (following the 6.00 pm Mass). The proceeds will go to the Parish project in Kalingalinga. Tickets will be on sale after all Masses **this** weekend - Adults £7.50 Children £4.00 Raffle prizes please!

4. WEEK OF GUIDED PRAYER. Sunday 12th to Friday 17th January 2020. This experience offers you the chance to meet each day for 30 minutes with an experienced Prayer Guide, one-to-one. The role of the Prayer Guide is to help you to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit in your heart. It is the Holy Spirit who guides us in prayer. A daily informal and confidential meeting, at a time to suit you, will be agreed with the Prayer Guide. In a way, you have this beautiful opportunity of a week of retreat in the midst of your ordinary, everyday life. Places will go quickly. Please take a leaflet and application form from the church entrance and return as soon as possible (details are listed there). The leaflet also provides clear information about the week. This is for you! It is at the initiative of Bishop Richard

5. GLOBAL AWARENESS – A PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION in the Good Shepherd Chapel **this** Sunday 1st December at 3.00 pm. Led by Ashley Ralston, Chairman of the Social Action Commission and National Justice and Peace Network Environment Group. How do our everyday decisions impact the lives of people around the globe? How can we help to create a more just and peaceful society? For further information please contact Madelaine 01903 505546

6. ENGLISH MARTYRS SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE - SATURDAY 7th DECEMBER - Doors open at 11am. There will be a range of games and stalls, from the popular Bottle tombola and hamper raffles to the Christmas crafts and games that the children love to play! Teas, coffees, festive hot chocolate and cakes will also be available for you to enjoy. Father Christmas will also be visiting - tickets will cost £3 per child.

7. HAVE YOU VISITED THE REPOSITORY RECENTLY? We have a wide array of Christmas Cards, a TRADCRAFT Chocolate filled Advent Calendar with Christmas Story Activity Book, Candles, Diaries etc

8. 'STAR OF WONDER' celebrates the journey of the Christmas Star to Bethlehem in a Service of carols and readings to be followed by refreshments in the Barn on Sunday 15th December at 3.00 pm All are welcome.

9. CHRISTMAS DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Saturday 7th December - 7.00 pm - Curry & Carols Night
Sunday 15th December - 3.00 pm – 'Star of Wonder' Christmas Carols, Mulled Wine & Mince Pies
Thursday 19th December - 7.30 pm - Advent Reconciliation Service
Saturday 21st December 10.30 am - Carol Singing at the the Mulberry Shops
Tuesday 24th December - 6.00 pm - First Mass of Christmas especially for children
- 9.00 pm - Mass preceded by Carols from 8.30 pm
Wednesday 25th December - 8.15 am and 10.30 am Mass
Sunday 5th January 2020 - 10.30 am Golden Jubilee Mass with Bishop Richard

10. MARY'S MEALS: We are now in particular need of Crayons, Colouring Pencils, Toothpaste, Tooth Brushes, Soap and Flannels. Many thanks to all who so generously contribute to these backpacks

11. TURNING TIDES (WCHP) are appealing for: Coffee, Sugar, Tinned Tuna, Tinned meals, Biscuits, Tinned Tomatoes, Marmite, Squash, Tinned Rice Pud, Tinned meat, Gravy and Cooking Oil. Boxer Shorts, Men's Socks, Razors and Cleaning Products. Many thanks for your continued and generous help

Father Liam says: Did the Apostles or their immediate followers venerate the places which Jesus trod on his way to Calvary? We do not know, but we do know that Jerusalem had a special attraction for pilgrims since earliest times. St Jerome, who translated the Bible into Latin, the language most people in the Roman Empire spoke by his time, was moved to live for many years in the Holy Land until his death in 420. The Jerusalem of Christ's time has been destroyed many times, so it is now impossible to trace the exact route along which Jesus carried the Cross.

Muslim rule in the Holy Land caused a big decline in the number of Christian pilgrims since the seventh century. Reformation doctrine rejected the spiritual benefits of venerating the Holy Places, so the practice almost died in Northern Europe. But it continued in the Catholic countries of southern Europe and in the Orthodox nations. For Russian Orthodox worshippers who embraced Christianity in the late 10th Century, pilgrimage became an important feature of their worship. But only a few privileged pilgrims could make their way across Europe to Jerusalem and experience the Holy Places for themselves. The devotion that we know as the Station of the Cross began to evolve in the Middle Ages through the inspiration of saints like St Bernard and St Francis of Assisi. They encouraged people to join Jesus in spirit on his way to Calvary and to do this in their local church and indeed in their own home. The Stations gradually evolved as the great means for prayerfully meditating on the Passion of Jesus. Each of these 'Stations' remind us of some painful stop which Jesus had as he walked the Way of Sorrows to his death on the Cross. 'Station' literally means 'a place where we stand' – a stage on a journey. The Stations are our spiritual journey as we reflect on Christ's last journey.

The earliest mention of Stations of the Cross occurs in the writings of an English Pilgrim, William Wey, who visited Jerusalem in 1458 and again in 1462. He mentions that pilgrims followed in the footsteps of Christ but went from Calvary to the House of Pilate. Wey's account mentions fourteen sites in Jerusalem but only five correspond to our current Stations. A further seven are only remotely connected with the Way of the Cross accepted today.

During the 16th Century manuals of devotion produced for those visiting Jerusalem mention a variety of Stations – numbering 19, 25, 37. A manual published in 1584 describes the Stations and these correspond to the first 12 of the modern Stations. But obviously most people could not read so would not use manuals of prayer. We are told by a great mystic, Henry Suzo, that 'they reproduced on pillar after pillar, and from chapel to chapel in their village churches the self-same journey which the pilgrims made along the streets of Jerusalem.'

The Stations of the Cross became standardised over time until we have the 14 'stops' that we have today. Not all of these are mentioned in the gospel accounts of Jesus final journey to Calvary. There is no mention in the gospels of the meeting of Jesus and his mother on the way to Calvary. St John tells us that the mother of Jesus stood by the Cross. We are not told of the three falls of Jesus as he carried the Cross nor are we told of the woman wiping the face of Jesus. Tradition calls her Veronica – which means 'true likeness', a reference to the image of Jesus said to have been left on the cloth.

In 1991 Pope St John-Paul II while leading the Way of the Cross in the Colosseum in Rome on the evening of Good Friday replaced these Stations not mentioned in the gospels with 'other Stations' that do appear. The Alternative Stations he used were of Jesus Agony in the Garden, Jesus betrayed by Judas and abandoned by his disciples, Jesus denied by Peter, Jesus condemned by the Sanhedrin, Jesus promising his Kingdom to the good thief. It was made clear that 'with the biblical Way of the Cross, the intention was not to change the traditional text, which remains fully valid, but quite simply to highlight a few important Stations which in the traditional text are either absent or in the background and indeed this only emphasises the extraordinary richness of the Way of the Cross, which no schema can ever fully exhaust.' Sometimes a fifteenth Station is added in which the Resurrection of Jesus and his Victory over death is remembered. This is how John Paul II commemorated it in 1991 and afterwards at the Colosseum.

Most of the Stations that our Parish Steering Committee looked at in various brochures did not have a fifteenth Station. The Resurrection took place in any case at the scene of the burial and was witnessed by no human being. The whole prayer of the Stations is carried out in the light of the Resurrection. This glorious finale gives meaning to the entire journey and to the entire life of Christ and to the journey and life of all his followers. The Cross is in reality Christ's instrument of victory. St Paul says: 'The only thing I can boast about is the Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ through which the world is crucified to me and I to the world. In him is our salvation, our life and our Resurrection. By him we have been saved and made free.' (Galatians 3:14)