

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

22.12.2019

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

Presbytery 01903 242624 / Church repository 01903 506890

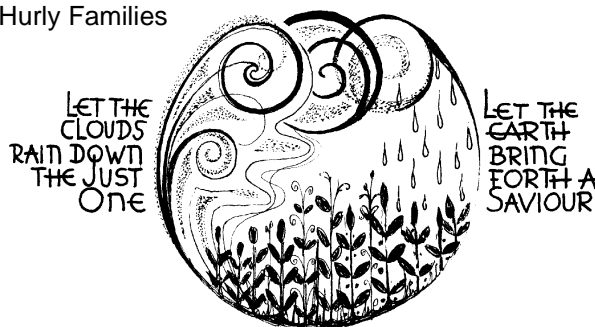
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Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday	21 st	6.00 pm	Roma & John Morey RIP
Sunday	22 nd	8.15 am	Bernard Bandy RIP
		10.30 am	Deceased members of the Dunne & Hurly Families
Monday	23 rd	9.30 am	Charlie Gillespie RIP
Christmas Eve	24 th	6.00 pm	Mike Steere RIP
		9.00 pm	The Parish
Christmas Day	25 th	8.15 am	Roger Davis RIP
		10.30 am	Intention of the Davitt Family
Thursday	26 th	No Mass	
Friday	27 th	9.30 am	Intention of Nicholas & Mary Murphy
Saturday	28 th	6.00 pm	Mary Stone RIP
Sunday	29 th	8.15 am	Baby Poppy Issacs – Dea Gratis
		10.30 am	Mary & Jack Haugh RIP
		6.00 pm	Polish Mass



SATURDAY: Holy Hour: 10.00 - 11.00am. Reconciliation: 10.15–10.45 am & 5.15 - 5.45 pm

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

COLLECTIONS: Church: £524 Stations of the Cross: £9,000 Thank you for your generosity.

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

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Audree Price, Mary Murphy, Anne Steere, Anthony Canneau, Lawrence Brownlee, Mike Yeulett, Margaret Birch, Lita Yong, Patrick Ryan, Brenda Peazold, Mary Wessel, Gina Palermo, Elizabeth Hoskins, Joan Cutmore, Christine Watson, Gordon Milne, Alfred Deacon, 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 and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Mamie Devine, Lionel Foster, Eileen Oxendale, Peggy Moutrie, Patrick Taylor, Helena Sparrow, Margaret Goldsworthy, Jim Flynn, Joan Foley, Doris Cronan, Mary Walton, Patsy Mannion, Michael Jarvis, Ernest Hare, Cyril Woodgar, George Welch, Mark Zenkteler,

3. 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.

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

5. CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR CHILDREN: For the last thirteen 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

6. CHRISTMAS DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

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 (*There will be no 8.15 am Mass*)

7. CHURCH CLEANERS REQUIRED to bring the church back up to perfection following the weekend Masses. Please meet at 10.00 am tomorrow (Monday)

8. KEEPING CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS: Worthing Knights of St Columba have provided Christmas posters, available in both porches, and ask that you take them home and display them as an act of Christian witness.

9. THE EDGE YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY A warm welcome to our young people from Year 7 upwards to the Edge Youth Group Christmas party in the Barn this Sunday 22 December, 7 to 9 p.m. Old and new members are very welcome.

10. THE 'CAFOD AUCTION' AND SUPPER will be held in The Barn on Saturday 18th January 2012 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

11. 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, (no more than this please as it makes them expensive to forward to the Missionary Society) and put them in the box in the Porch

Father Liam says: On 17th December 1914, the first Christmas of World War I, Pope Benedict XV called for a temporary truce and ceasefire on the battlefields. The war had been raging for barely five months but it had already descended into trench warfare. Germany agreed to the Pope's call but the other powers refused. On Christmas Eve German soldiers put candles in Christmas trees and decorated the edges of the trenches with items sent by loved ones. British soldiers were told to watch closely but not to open fire. We have this account of the event from Lieutenant Sir Edward Hulse: 'Time and again during the course of that day, the Eve of Christmas, there were wafted towards us from the trenches opposite the sounds of singing and merry making and occasionally the guttural tones of a German were to be heard shouting out lustily 'A Happy Christmas to you Englishmen!' In other areas the two sides exchanged Christmas carols. A British soldier, Private Oswald Tilley commented in a letter to his parents: 'They finished their carol and we thought that we ought to retaliate in some way, so we sang The First Noel and when we finished that they all began clapping and then they struck up another favourite of theirs 'O Tannenbaum.' And so it went on. First the Germans would sing one of their carols and then we would sing one of ours, until when we started up 'O Come all ye Faithful'. The Germans immediately joined in singing the same hymn to the Latin words 'Adeste Fideles' and I thought, well this is a most extraordinary thing, two nations singing the same carol in the middle of a war.' He went on: 'This experience has been the most practical demonstration of peace on earth and good will towards men. We hated their guts when they killed any of our friends...and we thought, well, poor so and so's, they're in the same kind of muck as we are.'

The singing in the trenches developed into something even greater as soldiers disobeyed their superior officers and fraternized with the 'enemy' along two thirds of the Western Front. Thousands of troops streamed across a no-man's land strewn with rotting corpses. They continued singing carols, exchanging photographs of loved ones back home, shared rations, played football. Soldiers embraced men they had been trying to kill and agreed to warn each other if their superior officers forced them to fire their weapons and to aim high. In his book 'The Christmas Truce' (Brown), a Corporal John Ferguson is quoted: 'We shook hands, wished each other a Merry Christmas and were soon conversing as if we had known each other for years... What a sight – little groups of Germans and British extending almost the length of our Front! Out of the darkness we could hear the laughter and see lighted matches. A German lighting a Scotsman's cigarette and vice versa, exchanging cigarettes and souvenirs. When they could not talk the language they were making themselves understood by signs and everyone seemed to be getting on nicely. Here we were laughing and chatting to men whom only a few hours before we were trying to kill.' When news of this reached the high command it was decided that action needed to be taken. On both sides the Generals declared the spontaneous peace-making as 'treasonous' and 'subject to Court Martial'. It did, however, take until March 1915 to fully suppress the fraternization. By the time of the Armistice in 1918, fifteen million people would have been killed.

Perhaps for Private Tilly and the countless other soldiers on both sides, the memories of past Christmases and the realisation of the waste and futility of war and the combatants together singing 'Adeste Fideles' moved them to recognise and celebrate their solidarity with one another. Who wrote Adeste Fideles? It was John Francis Wade who was born in 1711. The history of this carol was shrouded in mystery until 1947 when a Benedictine Monk in Buckfast Abbey in Devon by the name of John Stephan settled the matter. The origin of the music and the lyrics was almost solved the previous year by Rev. Maurice Frost of Oxford who discovered a new manuscript of the hymn. The cover was missing so there were no signatures or publishing marks. There was a reference to 'Regem nostrum Jacobum – Our King James. Someone had also written the words 'Regem angelorum' (King of Angels) which is quite close to Regem Angliorem (king of England). The dealers who sold the manuscript had dated it to around 1687 based on the reference to King James. Dom Stephen realised that this might not refer to James II but might well be his son James III, the Old Pretender who fled to France when he was unable to resist William of Orange who came to the throne in 1688. He is called 'Pretender' because he never gave up his claim to the throne. His son, Bonny Prince Charlie is known as the Young Pretender. The Old Pretender, with the support of King Louis XIV of France came to Ireland and vainly confronted the forces of King William at the Battle of the Boyne in July 1690.

After the final Jacobite rising of 1745, when the Young Pretender sought to regain the throne for the exiled House of Stuart and was defeated at Culloden he fled to permanent exile in France. Many Catholics fled with him, believing that all was lost. Among those who fled was John Francis Wade. He lived and worked as a professional music copyist at Douai, a flourishing town in France, twenty miles south of Lille. It was famous for its University and a College founded by Cardinal Allen in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. It was the place where many clergy were educated when the faith was outlawed in England. In the only composition to his credit – Adeste Fidelis – some think that as well as celebrating Jesus' birth, Wade is also rallying the French to the Jacobite cause. In the hymn 'the faithful' may mean the Jacobites and 'Bethlehem' is seen by some as a code word for England.