

## PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

29.12.2019

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

Presbytery 01903 242624 / Church repository 01903 506890

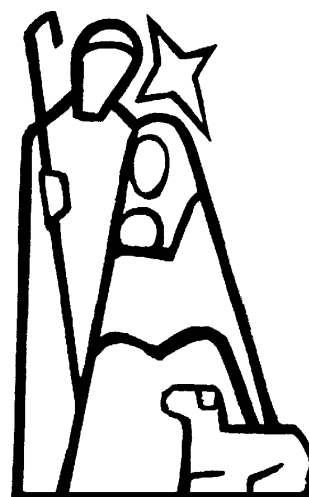
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### The Holy Family

Saturday	28 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Mary Stone
Sunday	29 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 am	Baby Poppy Issacs – Deo Gratis
		10.30 am	Mary & Jack Haugh RIP
Monday	30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>REQUIEM FOR ESTER PARK RIP</b>
Tuesday	31 <sup>st</sup>	9.30 am	In Memory of Lottie Mae
Wednesday	1 <sup>st</sup>	9.30 am	NO MASS
Thursday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.00 pm	Intention of Peggy Seary
		<b>7.30 pm</b>	<b>Choir Practice</b>
Friday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30 am	John Byrne RIP
Saturday	4 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Pauline McCaul RIP
Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	The Parish
		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:** Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

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

**COLLECTIONS:** Church: £505 Stations of the Cross: £9,100 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:** Audree Price, Mary Murphy, Anne Steere, Anthony Canneaux, 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: Gordon Daniel, Elsie Butlin, Margaret Simpson, Harold Birch, Peter Giles, Veronica Parker, Effie Downs, Catherine Brooks, Ted Bellenger, Giulia Grainger, Father Enda Naughton, Lilian Willmoth, Marion Hack, John Bennett, Vivienne Clarke, Agnes Clarke, Phyllis Spratt, Thomas O'Meara, Janine North, Bob Carey, John Donald, Maureen Barrass, Patricia Wyant, Charles Simpson, Herbert Foreman, Beryl Snadden

**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 have been away for Christmas you might like to use these envelopes to make your gift.

**4 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

**5. RE 8.15 am MASS NEXT SUNDAY:** There will be no 8.15 am Mass next Sunday, the Feast of the Epiphany, because the 10.30 am Mass is our special Jubilee Mass at which the Bishop is chief celebrant and will bless the new Stations of the Cross. Mass will be followed by a reception in the Barn. All are very welcome

**6. THE 'CAFOD AUCTION' AND SUPPER EXTRAVAGANZA** will be held in The Barn on Saturday 18<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. 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.

**8. 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.'

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

**10. 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

**11. 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

**12. 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: Next Sunday we observe the Feast of the Epiphany.** It is now celebrated in this country always on a Sunday even though traditionally it is known as the Twelfth day of Christmas – which is 6<sup>th</sup> January. The Gospel is always from St Matthew's Gospel as this is the only gospel that speaks of the star leading the Magi to the Child Jesus. But this year – since it is the Year of Matthew – our gospel for today's Feast of the Holy Family is also about the Magi but now they have left Bethlehem. Our gospel reading today omits to mention that they tricked Herod by returning to their own country by another way and does not mention the massacre of the infants.; that will be for another day. Today the emphasis is on Joseph taking the Child and his mother out of harms way by fleeing to the land of Egypt. The Church puts before us in today's reading what is directly relevant to the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Next year it will be put before us on the Feast of the Holy Family an incident that only Luke mentions – the presentation of Jesus in the Temple where Simeon and Anna recognised how special the Child was.

Luke and Matthew are the only gospel writers who give us any narrative about the infancy of Jesus. All the other books of the New Testament are completely silent about it. Luke and Matthew approach the conception, birth and infancy of Jesus in entirely different ways. They were writing their gospel accounts with their own Christian communities in mind. So they wrote from different perspectives and were probably not even aware of what the other was writing. It took a long time for the Church to decide which books were inspired and belonged to the Sacred Scriptures.

Matthew was writing for a Christian community that had come to the faith from Judaism. They were very familiar with the Jewish scriptures and Matthew was at great pains to emphasise that Jesus was indeed the Messiah that their scriptures had foretold. In today's gospel, for example, he quotes twice from the Sacred Books of Israel to reinforce the message that Jesus is indeed the Christ – the Messiah. Some of his community – under pressure from their fellow Jews – were wavering. To strengthen them in their faith he wrote his gospel in the way he did. When Matthew's readers heard the name Joseph they would have thought of Joseph, the Patriarch. He was the Bible's most famous interpreter of revelation in dreams. He is called the 'Master of Dreams' in Genesis 37:19. He went down to Egypt where he rose to great eminence and influence with pharaoh through his dream-mastery. He was able to save his family and many families from famine. It is not accidental that in Matthew's Gospel, Joseph the husband of Mary, is the principal New Testament figure to receive revelations in a series of dreams and the only one to go down to Egypt.

In the Old Testament, after the Patriarch Joseph brought the Israelites to Egypt, a wicked Pharaoh tried to kill all the Hebrew male children because the Jews were becoming so numerous. The infant Moses escaped ultimately to save his people by leading them out of Egypt. Similarly in Matthew's Gospel the wicked King Herod sought to kill all the male children at Bethlehem. The infant Jesus (whom Matthew portrays as the new Moses) escapes the wicked designs of Herod to ultimately return from Egypt and save his people. On Moses' way to the Promised Land he meets a famous Magus from the East, Balaam. Balaam and his two servants are rather like the Magi in Matthew's Gospel. Balaam was enabled to see the star of the future King David rising from Israel. The wicked King Balak tried to employ Balaam against the Israelites. The Book of Numbers (24:17) speaks of Balaam's prediction: 'a star shall come forth from Jacob, and a sceptre shall arise from Israel.' Similarly Matthew's Magi obey God rather than the wicked King Herod because they have seen the Rising Star of the true King of the Jews.

Both Matthew and Luke stress that Jesus' descent is to be traced genealogically through Joseph who was of the House of David. According to Jewish Law, Joseph's acknowledgement of Jesus would make him the legal father of the child. Being legal father did not depend on physical fatherhood and so Jesus was truly a Son of David.

Matthew and Luke also stress that Jesus was conceived by the creative power of the Holy Spirit. So he was truly the Son of God. The identity of Jesus as Son of David and Son of God is the major message the Gospels were written to convey. Neither Matthew nor Luke were simply composing a life of Jesus. They were conveying a religious message. The infancy narratives were not primarily written to satisfy our thirst for information about the early life of Jesus.

**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 2020.