

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

12.01.2020

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

The Baptism of the Lord

Saturday	11 th	6.00 pm	Michael O'Driscoll RIP
Sunday	12 th	8.15 am	Sheila Bishop RIP
		10.30 am	Intention of Anne Steere
Monday	13 th	9.30 am	The Parish
Tuesday	14 th	9.30 am	Deceased Members of the Petter Family
Wednesday	15 th	9.30 am	Intention of John & Patricia O'Halloran
Thursday	16 th	9.30 am	Alec & Moira Marsh RIP
Friday	17 th	9.30 am	Tim & Kevin Corrigan RIP
		7.30 pm	Prayer Group
Saturday	18 th	6.00 pm	Bridget Eacott RIP
Sunday	19 th	8.15 am	Sarah Clarke RIP
		10.30 am	Intention of Dorrie Cooper
		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 42:1-4,6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Matthew 3:13-17

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6; Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:29-34

COLLECTIONS: Church: £523 Christmas Crib: £205 Thank you for your generosity.
THIS SUNDAY there will be a second collection for SPUC – please see Note 5 below

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Breda Gibson, 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: Ruby Bernardi, John O'Brian, Kathleen Bennett, John Evans, David Sheldon, Elizabeth Coleman, Johnny Johnson, Edith Murphy, Edward Hatton, Winifred Pearce, Bernard Hagel, John Flood, Philip Gilpin, Sheila Bishop, Kathleen Bull, Anne Wapshott, Mary Bertolini, Michael Lambert, Michael Mills, Kathleen Smyth, Beatrice Wilson, Marie Terry, Geoffrey Gilbert, Margaret Scott, John Nolan

3. CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR CHILDREN: Many thanks to all those who have so kindly donated presents for the children – I am sure they will be delighted

4 THE 'CAFOD AUCTION' AND SUPPER EXTRAVAGANZA will be held in The Barn **next** Saturday 18th January 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 **this** weekend price £7.50. Raffle prizes will also be gratefully received

5. WHITE FLOWER APPEAL 2020 – The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal **this** weekend. On 21 October 2019 the most extreme abortion regime in Europe was imposed on the people of Northern Ireland by the government at Westminster. Abortion will now be permitted for any reason up until at least 24 weeks, and even beyond that. The abortion lobby now wants to introduce this in England and Wales. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC defend unborn babies and their mothers from this new attack.

6. OUR GOLDEN JUBILEE MASS last Sunday was indeed a memorable occasion. It was great to have Bishop Richard with us as the Principal Celebrant. A big 'Thank you' to the choir and in particular to the organist, Margaret Murphy, for the splendid contribution. Margaret wrote the words for the final hymn especially for the occasion and what a joy it was. The flowers were beautifully arranged to suit the theme and what a splendid procession of Kings we had on an Epiphany to remember and treasure.

7. EDGE YOUTH GROUP will meet again **this** Sunday 12 January in the Barn, 7 to 8.30 p.m. Year 7 and upwards. An opportunity for food, relaxation and fun. New members always welcome.

8. CAKE SALE after next Sunday's 10.30 am Mass in the Barn to raise funds to enable Nathan Hunnisett and some other young people to go to Lourdes as 'Blue Shirts'

9. WORTHING SHAKERS TREMOR GROUP will be launched by the National Tremor Foundation on Saturday 18th January from 1.00 – 4.00 pm at Goring Methodist Hall, Bury Drive. You are invited to come along and meet others in a friendly environment. Family members are welcome and there will be a raffle in aid of NTF.

10. 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

11. 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: Geoffrey Chaucer died in the year 1400 without finishing his great masterpiece, The Canterbury Tales on which he had been working for a few years. Chaucer had certainly lived through some extraordinary times. The Great Pestilence – named by the Victorians 'The Black Death' – raged throughout Europe when Chaucer was a child, killing about half the population of England. A few years before his death the infamous Poll Tax of 1380 led to a great rebellion known as the Peasant's Revolt centred in Essex and Kent. It was not just peasants who rebelled and they had other grievances beside taxation. Chaucer himself, who had been elected a Knight of the Shire for Kent, fell upon hard times but spent the last few months of his life in comfort. He was too shrewd to comment on the troubled political times through which he lived.

An Augustinian monk, Henry Knight, who died in 1396 gives us an account in his Chronicle of England of the Pestilence, which he must have witnessed: 'In that year (1348-9) and the following year there was a general reign of death throughout the world. It first began in India, then spread to Tharsis, thence to the Saracens and at last to the Christians and the Jews... In that same year there was a marked disease of sheep everywhere in the realm... In one place more than 5,000 sheep died in a single pasture. Sheep and oxen strayed through the fields and among the crops and there was none to drive them off or collect them, but they perished in uncounted numbers for lack of shepherds. After the Pestilence many buildings fell into total ruin for lack of inhabitants. Similarly many small villages and hamlets became desolate and no houses were left in them, for all those who had dwelt in them were dead'.

Parliament could not be summoned immediately so Edward III 'considering the grievous inconveniences caused by the lack of ploughmen' issued a Royal ordinance freezing wages at their pre-pestilence levels and compelling workers to remain in their pre-pestilence employments. Two years later the Commons passed the Statute of Labourers on the same lines as the Royal ordinance, blaming the labourers for being so selfish as to refuse to work except for grossly inflated wages 'in the interests of their own ease and greed'. The Commons – totally free, of course, of any consideration of their own 'ease and greed' laid down maximum rates of pay for various categories of workers. The wages of such people as ploughmen were fixed at pre-pestilence levels. Their contract of employment was fixed at a whole year and they were forbidden to leave before it expired. Measures were put in place to deal with recalcitrant labourers. They were to be put in the stocks – every village was ordered to build some – and then sent to gaol. Special Justices were to be appointed to see that the statute was observed. Nevertheless the peasants found for the first time in their history they had power. They could now dictate their own terms. If they felt ill-treated they could leave, no matter what the law said. They could easily find work elsewhere on more favourable terms. Nevertheless discontent simmered below the surface.

At this time the War with the French – afterwards called the Hundred Years War – continued. Chaucer's contemporaries knew enough of the War to be increasingly critical of it. Edward III needed huge amounts of money for his war-chest. In 1371 a new form of tax was imposed – a 'Parish Tax' to quickly raise the much needed funds. There was widespread evasion and it didn't work. In 1379 a different and novel formula was tried – a graduated Poll Tax. It too was widely evaded. But the Poll Tax of 1380 was a step too far for the poorest. 'Every lay person, males and females of whatever estate or condition who had passed the age of fifteen years' except beggars, was to pay twelve pence. This was three times the amount payable to those at the bottom of the pile in the first Poll Tax. Payment was required in two instalments – two-thirds by the end of January 1381, the rest by June. It was imposed to finance a planned expedition into Brittany and for the defence of the realm and for 'keeping of the sea'. The Brittany expedition was a dismal and costly failure and the defence of the realm did not justify expensive campaigns overseas. The 'suitable persons' in charge of collecting the tax were perceived as letting the rich go tax free,, extorting money from the poor and enriching themselves. What happened next was widely recorded, but no chronicle written from the standpoint of the rebels survives. They were not in the habit of writing chronicles. The word 'peasant' did not come into circulation until later. The people who revolted were solid, self-respecting men and women who owned some sheep and a cow and could make a living from the land they cultivated or they were skilled artisans in town, eligible to become members of the prestigious Guilds. The rioters were even joined by some priests!

The conflagration flared in an Essex village, Fobbing, east of Tilbury. Things got out of hand and mayhem followed. The rioters took to the woods and, one chronicler claimed, they burned or destroyed the houses of all who would not join them. Events in Kent followed a similar course. But things got really serious when a group of rebels, led by Wat Tyler, went on to Canterbury. The Abbey's library was broken and legal documents of title were burned. Lives were lost and the rioters took the road to London and sympathetic Londoners joined their ranks. At a conference with Richard II in Smithfield blows were exchanged and Wat Tyler was beheaded. Finally the extraordinary died out. Poll Tax was never tried again until 1990 when it again provoked riots (on a much smaller scale) and had to be withdrawn. *(I am indebted to Liza Picard's 'Chaucer's People')*