

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

10.05.2020

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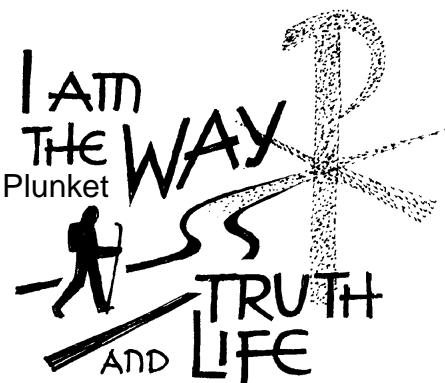
Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Masses will be celebrated without a congregation

Saturday	9 th	Caroline Roe RIP
Sunday	10 th	The Parish
Monday	11 th	Michelle Tucker (III)
Tuesday	12 th	In Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Knock & St Oliver Plunket
Wednesday	13 th	Jeffrey Thomson RIP
Thursday	14 th	Maria Petter RIP
Friday	15 th	Holy Souls
Saturday	16 th	Andrea Pyle RIP
Sunday	17 th	Audrée Price RIP



TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 6:1-7; 1 Peter 2:4-9; John 14:1-12

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Peter 3:15-18; John 14:15-21

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Frances Boylan, Halina Kuczynska-Mills & family, Rose Little, Albert Davitt, Lelia Murray, Nicholas & Mary Murphy, Anne Steere, Anthony Canneaux, Lawrence Brownlee, Margaret Birch, Lita Yong, Patrick Ryan, Brenda Peazold, Mary Wessel, Gina Palermo, Elizabeth Hoskins, Joan Cutmore, Christine Watson, Gordon Milne, Alfred Deacon, 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: Lucy Cocking, David Toley, Greta Clarke, Margaret Edwards, John Bernardi, Jim Maloney, Sylvia Phillips, Isabella Ions,
May they rest in peace and rise in glory

3. 'MY DAY BY DAY BOOK': If you are one of the ten people who regularly collect this little book from the Front Porch please either email or phone the office to let me know and I will send the next two out to you.

FATHER LIAM SAYS: This year the Season of Easter ends on 31st May, which is fifty days after Easter Sunday. Pentecost literally means 'the fiftieth day'. The Jewish feast of Pentecost occurs fifty days after the great Jewish Feast of Passover. At Sunday Masses during Eastertide the Easter Candle is alight and we look forward to the easing of restrictions and being able to come together to celebrate Mass, if conditions allow.

At the Masses on weekdays and Sundays of this Season the Gospel of St John is proclaimed. John sees the whole life-story of Jesus in the light of the glory of Easter. The glow of the Resurrection lights up John's accounts of even the terrible events of Good Friday. Our Gospel readings of this time are mainly taken from Our Lord's discourse at the Last Supper.

The first reading of all the Eastertide Masses on both weekdays and Sundays is taken from the Acts of the Apostles. Normally, the first reading of our Sunday Mass is taken from the Old Testament. But not at this special time. The only Old Testament text at all the Masses

of the Easter Season is the Psalm and at Mass this is not referred to as a Reading because the Psalm is meant to be sung.

Our readings at all the Easter Masses are from the New Testament as this is the time of fulfilment. The prophecies of the Old Testament are now fulfilled and it is in the writings that come from that first Christian community that this fulfilment is celebrated and proclaimed.

The readings of this season emphasise that the way of life of these followers of Christ was a living witness to his Resurrection. The Good News of the Resurrection is the central message of the New Testament writings because it is the central message of the preaching of the Apostles. All the New Testament writings were written in Greek, which was the language most people within the Roman Empire then spoke. The Roman Empire was a recent phenomenon and it took time for Latin to become the vernacular. The real title for the book we know as the Acts of the Apostles should be Acts of Apostles. The definite articles are deliberately not used because Luke who wrote it did not set out to tell us about what all the Apostles did in their witness to Christ. He would not have known what the very most of them did because they went their various ways. Jesus had told them to go out to the whole world. Luke called his work, which was the sequel to his Gospel, 'Acts of Apostles' because it tells us of some of the activities of some of the Apostles. In today's reading the Apostles are still together in Jerusalem and Paul is not yet a follower of Christ.

Acts deals with the infant Church. When Paul was converted rather than persecuting the Church he became its greatest preacher and defender. Luke accompanied him in a number of his great missionary journeys. That is why so much of the Acts is telling us more about the ministry of Paul and his companions and what an exciting and heroic story he has to tell us. In the early chapters Luke has much to tell us about Peter and others of the twelve – before Paul comes on the scene, first as a persecutor and then as an Apostle.

In today's reading Luke tells us of some friction that broke out in the Church in Jerusalem. Even the first Christians had their disagreements so while we might find that disappointing it also provides hope for us. This particular quarrel was between Jewish converts to Christianity who were natives of Palestine (these are called the Hebrews) and those from the Greek speaking countries outside Palestine (the Hellenists). The Hellenist widows felt that they were being neglected and that the Hebrew widows were getting better treatment. The whole community of Christians in Jerusalem was called together by the Apostles to elect a group of men to attend to the problem. The Apostles saw that a need had arisen to organise and structure the Church under the pressure of events. It was clear to them that Jesus had not left a blueprint of how every difficult situation should be dealt with. We see how the early Church was ready to adapt and to change in the face of new circumstances. The infant community could not hope to survive if it did not maintain this kind of flexibility. The efforts of Pope Francis to act similarly today are being constantly resisted in certain quarters.

How many of us are listening as he calls us 'to care for the earth, our garden home'. Recently, on World Earth Day he said 'There is a Spanish saying that is very clear. It says 'God forgives always, we humans forgive sometimes, the Earth never forgives.'.. If we have despoiled the Earth, the response will be very bad'. He went on: 'We can overcome global challenges only by showing solidarity with one another and embracing the most vulnerable in our midst'. Acts of Apostles in our first reading today tell us how the infant Church knew the importance of embracing the most vulnerable in their midst – the widows of the Jewish community who originated outside of Palestine

Pope Francis set up the Vatican's own Covid Taskforce to co-ordinate the Church's response to this pandemic. It is fronted by an Argentine priest, Augusto Zampini, who has worked in some of the poorest neighbourhoods of Buenos Aires – Pope Francis' city. Before becoming a priest he worked for years as an international lawyer. He met (virtually) the press in Rome to explain the thinking behind the Taskforce. He pointed out that all the Holy See's best intelligence from local Caritas groups and Dioceses worldwide raises the

prospect of famine in the post-Covid world especially in the global south. Zampini spoke in English. He said: 'This is really, really serious. People say we are all in the same boat, but that's not true. We are facing the same storm, gigantic waves – but we are not all in the same boat. Some of us are in a good boat that probably won't sink, others are in tiny little boats and they are desperate. They are saying that maybe the next wave, we will all die.' In parts of India, Africa and Latin America will limited health systems be able to cope? When a vaccine is found will it be easily available in the global south or will the rich north have priority? Zampini points out that for its own good the rich north needs to be concerned about the global south and needs to help it to eradicate the killer virus. He said: 'At the end of the day we are all vulnerable and the best way of addressing vulnerability is to look after each other especially the ones who are most vulnerable – not to leave them out, not to be indifferent but rather to promote a culture of caring for both people and nature'.

May God bless you,
Fr. Lian.