

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

24.05.2020

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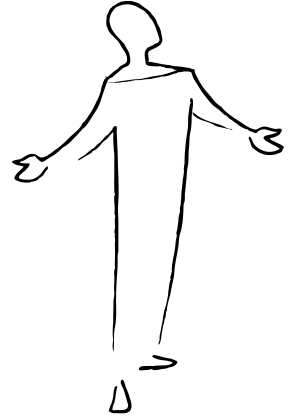
Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

Arundel & Brighton Diocesan Trust is a Registered Charity No: 25287

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Masses will be celebrated without a congregation

Saturday	23 rd	Patrick O'Sullivan RIP
Sunday	24 th	Norbert McCabe RIP
Monday	25 th	The Parish
Tuesday	26 th	Andrea Pyle RIP
Wednesday	27 th	Holy Souls
Thursday	28 th	Audrée Price RIP
Friday	29 th	Father Geoffrey Nixon RIP
Saturday	30 th	Robert & Jennifer Hutchison (Golden Anniversary)
Sunday	31 st	Intention of Al Davitt



"Father, the hour has come." (John 17.1)

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 1:12-14; 1 Peter 4:13-16; John 17:1-11

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Acts 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13; John 20:19-31.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Sister Catherine Lai, Maithé Bennett, Frances Boylan, Halina Kuczyńska-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 and those whose anniversary occurs about this time: Ray Hudson, Mary Murphy-Sopp, Ernest Wyant, Frank Featherstone, Eileen Kennedy, Hay Fraser, Cherry Stone. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

3. SPONSORS NEEDED TO HELP CHESTNUT TREE HOUSE CHILDREN'S HOSPICE: After the London Marathon was cancelled, Mr Byrne, the Head, challenged the Chatsmore school community to consider doing a '26.2 challenge' to raise money for charity. Charities rely on big events like the London Marathon for much needed funds. So, Peter Clarke had a think about what he could do from home and decided he would do 26,200 press-ups! He is no fitness fanatic so this is a tough personal challenge. He is now up to 400 press-ups per day and has completed 4,200 to date. He hopes to complete this challenge in July. The charity he has chosen is the Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice, which is a charity already supported by the parish. Donations may be made via this link <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/peter-clarke-press-up-challenge> and will go directly to the charity. For those without the internet, please drop any sponsorship money into the Presbytery in an envelope marked 'Peter Clarke's Chestnut Tree Challenge'. Thank you in advance!

4. PENTECOST SUNDAY – NATIONAL ROSARY RALLY will take place, in our homes from 9.00 am – 9.00pm across England, Wales and Scotland in answer to Pope Francis call to join online Rosary initiatives to pray to Our Lady for deliverance from Covid-19. The Diocese of Arundel & Brighton has been allocated 9.00 am and English Martyrs will be participating via the website

5. PENTECOST EVENING HOLY HOUR in front of the Blessed Sacrament in the Good Shepherd Chapel will be on-line from 7.00 pm next Saturday evening. We do hope that you will join us for this special time

6 '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. Five gone already!

7 FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: A few of the catechetical weekly meetings will be scheduled when we are in a position to make some plans and the young people will make their First Holy Communion some time in the autumn. We continue to keep them and their families in our prayers. Shortly after our First Holy Communion Sunday the preparation programme for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion for those who will be in Year 3 and over will commence.

FATHER LIAM SAYS: Richard Strauss, the famous German composer, was fifty years old when the First World War broke out. He outlived the Second World War by four years. He certainly knew more than his fair share of grief. He spent many years in Vienna, the capital of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. That empire ceased to exist in 1919 and Vienna, like much of the world, was trying to come to terms with what had befallen it.

By this time Richard Strauss was well known. He had composed his most famous work 'Der Rosenkavalier' in 1911. The First World War was followed by the so-called Spanish Flu pandemic. Schools, churches and theatres were closed in the large towns all over Europe. Mass gatherings were prohibited. Social distancing and the use of face coverings were recommended. By the time it was finished Spanish Flu is estimated to have claimed more than 50 million lives – many more than were lost in the Great War. The world was truly desolate. Strauss said: 'I cannot bear the tragedy of the present time. I want to create joy.'

These are the sentiments of everybody at this time. Parents of young children – and of not so young – are doing what they can to keep their families' spirits up and no doubt children are, hopefully, a great joy to their parents – and grandparents - whatever way they can communicate with one another.

Richard Strauss attempted to create joy by composing a comic Viennese ballet called Schlagobers. This was the name given to an Austrian treat beloved of children – a whipped delicacy for special occasions, like their First Holy Communion breakfast. The family might go to a typical cake shop to enjoy their Schlagobers. In Strauss' musical work of that name a young boy over-indulges and on his First Holy Communion day he has to be carried off to hospital. But that is only the beginning of the joys! He ends up in the land of sweets and takes part in the Marzipan Marches and the Cocoa dances.

No doubt this work of Strauss brought much joy but it was not appreciated by many of the musical experts of the day – but it was not composed for them!

Our First Holy Communions were meant to have taken place last Sunday and there would have been a celebration meal today in the Barn with the children wearing their First Holy Communion outfits. But the church and the Barn remain locked. We don't know when we will be celebrating the happy occasion of the children's First Holy Communion. There is an awful lot that we do not know but when it happens it will be celebrated with greater joy than ever – and the bash in the Barn on the following Sunday somebody might even produce some Schlagobers for the occasion! Incidentally I had bought a lot of little Easter Eggs before we had any inkling of the lockdown. They have been in the fridge ever since. Next Sunday – Pentecost Sunday – marks the end of the Easter Season and I have not eaten even one! Aren't I good! But I look forward to having my fridge back!

Richard Strauss was no relation of the composers of the same name who are associated with the Viennese Waltzes. Johann Strauss and his more famous son, also Johann, were born in Vienna and both had died before the dawn of the 20th Century. Richard Strauss was from Bavaria and lived in the era of Hitler. He certainly had no sympathies for the views and policies of Hitler but his prestige in the world of music protected him from the anger and reprisals of that regime.

At the end of April 1945 – at the time when Hitler committed suicide – American troops occupied the town of Garmisch where Strauss lived. When they were about to enter his house, the old man of 81 confronted them saying in English: ‘I am Richard Strauss, the composer of the Rosenkavalier’. At that they left the house. He continued to compose powerful music culminating in his ‘Four Last Songs’ in 1948 – the year before he died.

Richard Strauss said: ‘I want to create joy’. The Church exists to celebrate joy – and we are the Church. Our task is to bring the joy of the Risen Christ to the world. The liturgical colour of joy is white. The Church uses white as the colour of the vestments and tabernacle veil everyday throughout the 50 days of the Easter Season – except next Sunday which is Pentecost Sunday – the colour is red. The Liturgical colour of white continues to be used on the two Sundays after Pentecost. These are the feasts of The Blessed Trinity and the Body and Blood of Christ. This is a very long time in which the Church dons the garments of joy. There is another – but shorter - time of rejoicing throughout the Christmas Season when white is again worn. Christmas and Easter are not celebrated just as special days – they are joyous seasons. Each of these seasons is preceded by a preparatory Season. Advent helps get ready for Christmas and Lent helps us to get ready for Easter and we are meant to prepare by making extra efforts to get ourselves more fit. Before Sport’s Day, which is another casualty this year, we do a little training so as to perform a little better. During the Seasons of Lent and Advent the Church wears purple in its vestments, to encourage us to take training seriously so as to be more ready for the celebration of the great feasts of Easter and Christmas.

Apart from the times of preparation and celebration of the great feasts of Christmas and Easter there is another block of time that the Church sometimes refers to as Ordinary time. After the Feast of Corpus Christi we will move into Ordinary Time on 21st June. It will be the 12th Sunday of Ordinary Time. The colour of Ordinary Time is green – the colour representing life and growth. Ordinary Time is a technical name. It does not imply that any part of the year is ordinary. Every day is special and a precious gift from God. Ordinary in this context means Sundays and weeks that are numerically ordered. So the 1st Sunday of Ordinary time is the Sunday following the Season of Christmas and the numbering of Sundays continued this year until 23rd February, which was the Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time. The Season of Lent brought a temporary end to Ordinary or Ordered time and Ordinary Time resumes on 21st June when green becomes the liturgical colour. However, this year green changes to red on the following Sunday because we will then be celebrating the Feast of St Peter and St Paul. Red is the colour used on Pentecost Sunday because it reminds us that the Holy Spirit came to the disciples in the form of tongues of fire which rested on each one of them. Red is the colour of martyrs, signifying their willingness to shed their blood for Christ. Red is also used on Passion Sunday and Good Friday in honour of Christ laying down his life for us. After the Feast of St Peter and St Paul Ordinary time will resume with the 14th Sunday of Ordinary Time and continue until we arrive at Advent. Because of Peter and Paul there will be no 13th Sunday this year.

But, I hear you ask, if the last time we celebrated ordered time was the 7th Sunday of Ordinary Time (also called the 7th Sunday of the Year) why is not Sunday 21st June – when Ordinary Time resumes – called the 8th Sunday of the Year? When Ordinary Time resumes after Corpus Christi each year, the Sundays are numbered in reverse order. They are counted backwards from the Last Sunday of the liturgical year which is always numbered as the 34th Sunday of ordered or Ordinary Time. Ordinary time is quite complicated. It is indeed extraordinary.

I must admit I am looking forward to Ordinary Time – or ordered time – and to the liturgical colour of green – the colour of growth and life. When we gather we will be surprised to see how much many of your young people have grown since we last saw them. We all will have grown – at least our hair will have! We will have to wait several weeks to get an appointment to see our hairdresser. We might need name tags to remind one another who we are!

May God bless you,
Fr. Liam.