

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

5.07.2020

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

The Fourteenth Sunday of the Year

Saturday	4 th	6.00 pm	Patrick Brady RIP
Sunday	5 th	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Intention of the Davitt Family
Monday	6 th	9.30 am	Len Argent (ill)
Tuesday	7 th	9.30 am	Holy Souls
Wednesday	8 th	9.30 am	Andrea Pyle RIP
Thursday	9 th	9.30 am	Holy Souls
Friday	10 th	9.30 am	Holy Souls
Saturday	11 th	6.00 pm	Kathleen & Tom Corrigan RIP
Sunday	12 th	8.15 am	Holy Souls
		10.30 am	The Parish



TODAY'S READINGS: Zechariah 9:9-10, Paul to the Roman 8:9, 11-13, Matthew 11:25-30

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 55:10-11, St. Paul to the Romans 8:18-23, Matthew 13:1-23

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Len Argent, Sister Catherine Lai, Maithé Bennett, Frances Boylan, Justin Gould, Rose Little, Albert Davitt, Lelia Murray, 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: FATHER JOHN HEALY and those whose anniversary occurs about this time: Robert Turnbull, Lorna Painter, Rev Bill Timmons, Maura Morris, Ernest Howse, William Reilly, Walter 'Joe' Simmonds, Patricia Baker, Ernest Ryan, Donald Macdonald, Heather Reeves, Moira McCann
May they rest in peace and rise in glory

3. ARRANGEMENTS FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP: This weekend we will be celebrating Mass as a Parish once again. The Bishops of England and Wales emphasis that nobody is obliged at this time to participate publicly in the celebration of Mass.

- ❖ The church will be opened ten minutes before each Mass and will be closed again five minutes after the celebration has ended. Masks to be worn at all times. (Available at the church door if necessary)
- ❖ Entrance to the church will be through the Main Entrance. Please sanitise your hands as you enter and when you leave.
- ❖ Please collect Sunday Plus and Newsletter and take them home with you when you leave.
- ❖ A Steward will show you where to sit. You are asked to stay there until invited, by the Steward to go to Holy Communion. This is necessary so that the centre seats of the pews can be used while maintaining safe distancing.
- ❖ You are asked not to kneel in order to make sanitising the church easier.
- ❖ Mass will be celebrated without undue length. Homilies will be short and there will be no singing or Prayers of the Faithful.
- ❖ Before Holy Communion is distributed the priest will elevate the Host while saying 'The Body of Christ' All reply 'Amen' signifying our faith in the Real Presence
- ❖ Ministers of Holy Communion will sanitise their hands immediately before and after distributing Holy Communion and Communion will be received standing, holding out your hands at full stretch over a physical barrier. No words will be spoken. The Stewards will indicate to you when you may go up to Communion
- ❖ Disabled people will sit in the front row to the left of the altar and Communion will be brought to them when everyone else has received.
- ❖ So as not to detain anyone for longer than necessary, you will leave the church immediately after receiving Holy Communion by the West door. There will be leaflets available as you leave giving some prayers you might like to use.
- ❖ And what about the Collection? This is still possible – plates will be available as you enter and leave onto which you may place your donation. Gift Aid envelopes can also be placed there and all will be banked according to the safety guidelines.
- ❖ There will be no access to Toilets
- ❖ The entrance and exit doors will remain open during Mass so as to lessen any danger of infection

4. MORE SPONSORS NEEDED TO HELP CHESTNUT TREE HOUSE CHILDREN'S HOSPICE: Charities rely on big events like the London Marathon for much needed funds but this year it has been cancelled. 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 **500** press-ups per day because he is in school more frequently, and has completed **23,000 to date**. With just 3,200 to go he hopes to complete this challenge later this month. The charity he has chosen is the Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice, which is a charity already supported by the parish. **To date he has raised £1,030.** Donations may be made via this link <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/peter-clarke-press-up-challenge> and will go directly to the charity. Thank you in advance!

5. HAVE YOU BEEN ENJOYING MASS ON SUNDAY from English Martyrs? For those who are unable to watch the Mass the Knights of St. Columba have solved the problem by organising and sponsoring **Telephone Dial-a-Mass 01642 130 120**. You can now listen to Mass through your telephone at any time, from midday on Sunday until 11:59 a.m. the following Sunday. The cost to you is just that of a local call. The KSC meet the other costs of providing this facility. The number to call is 01642 130 120. *Please spread the word of this service to those who do not have access to streamed and recorded Masses.*

6. ARE YOU UNDER 70 YEARS OF AGE? We need your help as Stewards, Ministers of Communion (particularly 6.00 pm and 8.15 am) and Cleaners for each Mass both for weekend and weekdays. Please contact the Office if you are able to help. The recorded Mass will continue to be available on-line while the crisis continues

FATHER LIAM SAYS: We are approaching a new stage in our journey towards being able to come together as Church. For the past 14 weeks church-related public activities have been severely curtailed but the church has remained alive and strong because the Church is the people of God.

With attendance at Mass and reception of Holy Communion interrupted for the past months, the Covid-19 crisis has perhaps given us a new recognition of what makes us Church. So many people – of all faiths and none – have been reaching out to others selflessly and generously in Christ-like fashion. I saw a cartoon depicting God talking to the 'enemy'. The Devil is saying: 'With Covid-19 I have closed your churches'. God answers: 'On the contrary, I have opened a church in every home'.

There has been in many instances, a new discovery of the family as the Domestic Church. Some families have come together in ways they may not have done before to participate in Mass being transmitted online, in one way or another. People have gone online looking up how to pray the Rosary with, or for, loved ones who were ill or distressed. Some families set up little spaces in their home with a crucifix or statue as a focus for their prayer. I noticed a young journalist on 'What the Papers Say' who had a picture of Our Lady and another religious image (I can't remember which) on either side of the mantel piece.

Families have tried to be more sensitive towards one another in all the time when movement outside the house was restricted. We all know that there is no such thing as a perfect family but we all try to play our part and carry one another's burdens. Just as there are varieties of church buildings, each family is a different representation of the church in miniature. Many families have taken a new interest in the world of nature and have learned a new respect and sense of awe at all the wonders that surround us. The fifth anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical 'Laudate Si' occurred recently. There seems to have been a new awareness of the importance of taking care of our common home.

The episode that we are experiencing has reminded us of how dependant we are on people who are not as young as we used to be. No doubt we will be trying to encourage younger people to become more actively involved. 'Cocooning' has become a very popular word just now. It conjures up an image of an insect in its cocoon. These little insects are busy at work in their little shells out of sight, spinning their silver threads. We live in hope of a better day when we can confidently step out resplendent in our raiment of new silk. Cocooning was also used in the pre-Coronavirus world to describe the life-cycle of the butterfly, another positive image.

Another cartoon I saw 'A dog with mud half-way up his feet with another dog alongside him with mud up to his neck, with the question: 'How deep is the mud?' and the answer: 'all depends on who you ask!'

One of the most chilling scenes of the pandemic shown on TV several weeks ago was of a column of army trucks arriving at a crematorium in Florence carrying 60 bodies for cremation – far from their own place and from their families and friends. There was no place near their homes where the funerals could be held, so great was the number of fatalities from the virus. The words of the prophet Jeremiah from the Book of Lamentations seem appropriate: 'Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow, which was brought upon me.' (1:12)

Is God angry with the world? Is this why the pandemic has come? Is it a punishment or at least a warning? We don't know yet what exactly caused this disaster, but we should know for certain that God did not cause it. God is love. When his Son was made to suffer so terribly and put to death by crucifixion, God reacted not by violence and destruction but by raising Jesus from the dead. There is much that we don't know about the virus but we do know enough to realise that we must treat our environment with respect if we are to keep epidemics at bay. Unbridled exploitation of our natural resources and of living creatures and of our fellow human beings inevitably leads to the balance of nature being disturbed. God is certainly forgiving but Nature is not.

*May God Bless you,
Fr. Liam.*

