

Parish OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

17.01.2021

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

The Second Sunday of the Year

Saturday	16 th	6.00 pm	Charmian Hargreaves
Sunday	17 th	8.15am	Sheila Bishop RIP
		10.30 am	Alf Puttick RIP
		6.00 pm	Polish Mass
Monday	18 th	9.30 am	Mary Webber RIP
Tuesday	19 th	9.30 am	Andrea Pyle RIP
Wednesday	20 th	9.30 am	Intentions of the Markham Family
Thursday	21 st	9.30 am	The Parish
Friday	22 nd	9.30 am	Lottie Mae RIP
Saturday	23 rd	6.00 pm	Catherine Bandy RIP
Sunday	24 th	8.15 am	Tony Towers RIP
		10.30 am	Intention of Ellen Leahy



SATURDAY: Reconciliation: 10.15–10.45 am and 5.15 – 5.45 pm

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 3:3-10,19, 1 St Paul to 1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20, John 1:35-42

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jonah 3:1-5, 10, 1 Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20

COLLECTIONS: Church: £177 SPUC: £111 Thank you for your generosity.
THIS SUNDAY there will be a **Second Collection** for **Mary's Meals** (See Note 4)

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Susan Perriman, Tony Grana, Peter Williams, Sister Raymond, Liz Harvey, Mick Brouder, John Smith, Father Chris Ingle, Eileen Beech, Ian Threlfall, Thomas Duggan, Len Argent, Sister Catherine Lai, Maithé Bennett, Justin Gould, Rose Little, 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: **PETER WILLIAMS** and those whose anniversaries occur about now. Kathleen Smyth, Beatrice Wilson, Marie Terry, Geoffrey Gilbert, Margaret Scott, John Nolan, Alan Pockney, Phyllis Welling, Doug Headon, Andrea Pyle, Bernard Davy, Agnes Winn, Christopher Sheridan. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

3. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES: Will be resumed as soon as permission is granted

4. MARY'S MEALS: There will be a special collection this weekend. Gift Aid forms, for those who are tax payers and able to Gift Aid, are available in both porches. Thanks to Double The Love, your donations will go even further! Give until 31 January 2021, and the UK government will match public donations, up to £2 million, helping Mary's Meals to reach more hungry children in Liberia. Also be sure to read 'Father Liam says! Part 2'
We here at English Martyrs have been supporting Mary's Meals since August 2013 by tracking down back packs and all the items needed to fill them. To date 4,980 completed back-packs have been sent and there are 19 more waiting to be sent when the ports re-open and the packs can be delivered to the children who need them. Meantime, even though the schools are closed because of the Coronavirus Pandemic, Mary's Meals is distributing food to the villages, where it is prepared and re-distributed to the villages where the children live. Your donations will be much appreciated at this particularly difficult time.

5 WHAT IS YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION? Or should it be **'ARE YOU UNDER 70 - YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU!'** We are, in normal times, a busy parish with many good things happening in it but with Covid-19 we are not able to use our very able over 70's, 80's and 90's thus creating a real need for assistance from those who are under 70. This can only happen if **you** are prepared help. Help is needed with Stewarding at the weekend Masses, Ministers of the Eucharist, Ministers of the Word, Cleaners after each Mass, Flower Arranging. We have a small band of helpers who have been 'on duty' every weekend since 4th July to whom we say a 'Very Big Thank You'. With more helpers it would be possible to expand the Rota. Please don't leave it to someone else – the Parish really needs **your** help. Please contact Anne in the Parish Office for further information and with your offers of assistance.

FATHER LIAM SAYS: Bishop Richard in his visit to the parish last year commended us on our support for various charities. One of the charities that we help is Mary's Meals. Tony Headon is the local champion of Mary's Meals and encourages us in our efforts to ensure that it continues its great work of providing children in the poorest parts of the world with a daily meal in their place of education.

Mary's Meals got off the ground about 25 years ago through the efforts of a young man, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow and his family who lived near Dalmally in Scotland. The MacFarlane-Barrows were a devout Catholic family who had a great devotion to Our Lady. Through visiting Medjugorje they came to see the suffering of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina embroiled in a cruel war situation. They collected items of food, medicine and clothes and brought them in their several journeys to that war zone. Little convoys of small trucks like theirs similarly piled high with supplies were making similar journeys. It was this experience that led the young Magnus to eventually set up Mary's Meals. I have been reading his account of how it all came about in his book 'The Shed that fed a Million Children'. The donations of aid that kept arriving at their home were stored in a shed – which is still in use.

The family downsized and moved out of their house, Craig Lodge, which they converted to a Catholic Retreat Centre. Through that Retreat Centre very many people were drawn into supporting the work of Mary's Meals in the years that followed. More and more people were learning about the work and supporting it and doors were opening in extraordinary ways. Often these new connections and opportunities originated at Craig Lodge House of Prayer or through Medjugorje. For some years a regular visitor to Craig Lodge was Milona von Habsburg. She was an Archduchess of the famous Habsburg Royal family who had sat on the thrones of Europe for centuries, most notably those of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire. But Milona did not live 'like royalty' She had visited Medjugorje in the early 1980's and had become friends with the visionaries. Her fluency in seven European languages was a wonderful gift to the visionaries and priests as they were becoming overwhelmed with pilgrims.

Once when Magnus and his wife Ruth had returned from Malawi they were asked to give a talk at the retreat that Milona and a friend were leading at Craig Lodge. Afterwards Milona told them that when she was listening to their talk she felt a call to give her life to help the work of Mary's Meals. Very soon she was working for Mary's Meals as an ambassador, giving talks and introducing us to lots of wonderful people with huge hearts. Notable among them were the Prince and Princess of Liechtenstein. As a result Magnus and Ruth were asked to speak to the Red Cross in Liechtenstein as she was their Patron and they had been fund raising for Mary's Meals. Magnus was invited to give a talk at a prayer evening in St Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna. One of the Medjugorje visionaries also spoke and Cardinal Schonborn celebrated Mass. He became a powerful advocate of the work of Mary's Meals. The support in Austria has continued to grow in the years since.

Staying for a short time at Craig Lodge House of Prayer was Brother Paul, a 95 year-old Marist brother. He mentioned to Magnus that his grand nephew was Sir Terry Leahy, the C E O of Tesco and Brother Paul wrote to him about Mary's Meals. After a series of meetings with Sir Terry and other board members Tesco began to support Mary's Meals through their Foundation.

Soon after establishing Mary's Meals in Malawi it was decided that Liberia should be next on the list. The series of civil wars had at last ended in 2003 and the largest UN Peacekeeping Force in the world had just been deployed. The people were suffering abject poverty and Liberia had one of the lowest rates of Primary School enrolment in the world. Once again families were taking the first steps towards re-building their lives. It was made clear to the community leaders that Mary's Meals could only start if the local people were willing to volunteer to do the daily cooking and serving of the food. This was met with an overwhelmingly positive and excited response. Many of the children were under-nourished and hunger and poverty was often keeping them from school. All had been traumatised in some way by war. In one class the children were asked if anyone had seen someone being killed. Every child raised their hand. Mary's Meals visited the local Health Clinic every week. It was a leper colony and those suffering the disease had been neglected for many years prior to the arrival of Father Garry Jenkin, an English priest who made determined efforts to help them. Mary's Meals dispensed medication for leprosy and other ailments and had been providing food for the sick. There were a few mud-wattle classrooms and in them 162 children were being taught by teachers who were volunteers and there was no government provision. Mary's Meals policy was to buy locally grown food but here they were completely reliant on imported food. Eventually the children were invited to line up for the meals – rice, vegetables and small dried fish served in colourful plastic plates. Their parents gathered beside the kitchen to clap and sing their joy. Before long Mary's Meals were being served in a number of other local schools and the number of children enrolling increased quickly and dramatically.

An interesting event is narrated by Magnus in the book 'The Shed'. Pope Benedict was about to make a historic first State Visit by a Pope to the UK in 2010. He was to be received by the Queen at the beginning of his trip at Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh and Magnus was among the guests invited to the historic meeting. Mary's Meals were also invited by the Catholic Church in Scotland to be present on the streets of Edinburgh among the crowds in order to raise awareness of their work and collect donations. Many volunteers from all over Scotland, Ireland and England arrived to help on the day. As the Popemobile made its way along Princes Street, the blue Mary's Meals T-shirts were visible everywhere among the crowd.

About a year previously Magnus had been invited by the Queen to lunch at Buckingham Palace. He was ushered in with ten other guests and introduced to the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. The Queen surprised him by being so well informed about the work of Mary's Meals. She had a keen interest in Liberia and their work there. She shared some vivid and amusing memories of a visit she had made there a few years previously. At lunch he was sitting beside Joanna Lumley. Noticing that Magnus was having a bit of difficulty with the correct order of assorted cutlery in front of him, she would nudge him and discreetly indicate. He didn't know why he had been invited but later learned that the Queen and Duke liked to invite people to lunch with them now and again. Let's hope they can soon resume doing so.