

Parish OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

21.02.2021

Father Liam O'Connor, 37 Compton Avenue, Goring-by-Sea, West Sussex. BN12 4UE

Presbytery 01903 242624 / Church repository 01903 506890

Email: emgoring@english-martyrs.co.uk Website: www.english-martyrs.co.uk

Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

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The First Sunday of Lent

Saturday	20 th	6.00 pm	Johanne O'Driscoll RIP
Sunday	21 st	8.15am	Winifred Aherne RIP
		10.30 am	Susan Perriman RIP
		6.00 pm	Polish Mass
Monday	22 nd	9.30 am	Katherine Drohan RIP
Tuesday	23 rd	9.30 am	John Smith RIP
Wednesday	24 th	9.30 pm	Toni Judd RIP
Thursday	25 th	9.30 am	Wellbeing of Eamon McClusky
Friday	26 th	9.30 am	Intention of Lily Barrow
Saturday	27 th	6.00 pm	Jessica Forte RIP
Sunday	28 th	8.15 am	Winifred Aherne RIP
		10.30 am	Amelia MacDonald RIP



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

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 9:8-15; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18, Romans 8:31-34, Mark 9:2-10

COLLECTIONS: Church: £291 Lourdes Pilgrimage fund: £362

Thank you for your generosity.

Next Friday is CAFOD Lent Fast Day, a day of prayer for the hungry and needy of the world. Please take a special envelope and return it, enclosing your donation, at the second collection next Sunday, remembering to fill in the attached Gift Aid form if you are a tax-payer. When you give up something on Fast Day and share what you have, you prove that poverty is not inevitable. Please see Note 5

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Mary Burchfield, Patricia Knapman, Tony Grana, Sister Raymond, Liz Harvey, John Smith, Mick Brouder, 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, 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 anniversaries occur about now. Frank Wilcockson, Ann Morris, Marie Angel, Timothy Babington, Francis McHugh, Leonard Bainbridge, Marion Gapp, Kathleen Geal, June Jakes, Joseph Shepherd, Noreen Sumner, Sheila Szymuda, Eileen Fusciardi, Ron Watson. Cecelia Boakes, Mary Hancy, Ted Leach. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

3. A PARISH LENT COURSE Called 'Discovering Jesus Through Lent' will be run via zoom and will consist of a short 30 minute film followed by sharing and discussion. The Course will start on Monday 22nd February at 11am. It requires no study but an open heart!!! Contact Dermot and Jane Anne on 07765403883

4. WORLD DAY OF PRAYER will be held on Friday 5th March at 2.30pm. Due to current COVID restrictions it has been decided that the service this year will be held on Zoom. If you would like to take part either by Zoom or at home with a booklet please contact Sandy on 01903 241236.

5. CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY: This week our Parish is marking CAFOD's Family Fast Day, a day on which we are invited to pray, fast and give to help people like Abdella. Abdella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says: 'I am wasting my life. I am a young man, I should be doing something else.' Your gift will help vulnerable communities around the world have access to clean water and provide other vital support. You could donate online at cafod.org.uk/give or by using one of the special CAFOD envelopes available in both porches. You can also easily give via text. Text LENT to 70460 to donate £10.00.

6. CONFIRMATION 2021 will be celebrated in the Autumn. If you are in Year 10 or above and are considering joining the Confirmation course, via zoom, please email the Office (emgoring@english-martyrs.co.uk) for an Application Form.

7. INVITED LENT 2021 – The Diocesan mission. Online access is via www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited

8. HAND MADE MOTHERS DAY AND EASTER CARDS are now available in the Repository. All proceeds go to the Parish Project in Kalingalinga

FATHER LIAM SAYS: One of the great Catholic heroes of the last century was Edith Stein who lost her life in the Concentration Camp at Auschwitz in 1942. She was beatified in 1987. She was born in 1891 into an affluent orthodox Jewish family on the most solemn of Judaism's holy days – the Day of Atonement – which that year fell on 12th October. Her father, a successful timber merchant, died when Edith was 2 years old. The family was grounded in Scripture and in German culture. Edith was the youngest of seven children and her mother continued to run the family business in the City of Breslau – now the Polish city of Wroclaw. She studied philosophy and psychology at the University of Breslau and later at the University of Goettingen under Edmund Husserl, the most famous German philosopher of his time. With the outbreak of the Great War she decided to enlist with the Red Cross and to volunteer as a nurse's aide to care for the war wounded in various hospitals. By 1916 she was back in the University working for her Doctor's degree in Philosophy.

She became interested in Catholicism in 1921 through reading the Life of Saint Teresa of Avila and began rising at dawn each day to go to Mass. On 1st January 1922 she was baptised. She went to tell her mother who broke down and cried. Edith later described this as the most painful thing in her life. She had made her way to the top in the masculine world of Philosophy but becoming a Catholic closed these doors to her. She got a job as a teacher in a Convent School and continued her research and her writings and her study of Catholic Theology.

Ever since reading about Teresa of Avila she had been attracted to the Carmelite way of life. In 1933 – the year of Hitler's rise to power – she entered the Carmelite Convent in Cologne as a postulant. She was 42 and took the name of Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. In a little over a year from entering she was requested to devote herself to writing the large philosophical work she had begun earlier. In September 1935 her mother died. After being baptised her mother at first did not write to her but they were later reconciled. A year after her mother's death, Edith's favourite sister became a Catholic and they were able to be close together.

In 1938 Edith took her final vows. After the Crystal Night, Nazi hostility and persecution meant it was no longer safe for her to remain. She and her sister Rose – who had become a Carmelite Tertiary – were transferred to a Convent in Holland and in 1942 they were about to be transferred to a Convent near Fribourg in Switzerland – but time ran out. The Dutch had a long history of helping persecuted people and had helped persecuted Jews in particular. Though Edith – Sister Teresa Benedicta – was Catholic she was still Jewish. When the Nazis ordered that Jewish children must be taught by Jewish teachers, the Archbishop of Utrecht replied: 'Never will Catholic educators exclude children from their schools because of blood'. Hitler responded by ordering a decree to be posted on all public buildings: 'Forbidden to Jews'. The Dutch bishops declared that no such notice would be posted on any Catholic building. On 26th July a Pastoral letter was read in every church in which the bishops pleaded with all who called themselves Christians to be strong and stand fast with Christ. 'Let us implore through the intercession of the Mother of Mercy that God may soon give to the world a just peace and that he may strengthen the people of Israel so bitterly tried in these days'.

The Nazi response was immediate. All Jews who had become Catholic were to be seized 'as a counter-measure against the pastoral letter of 26th July...Catholic Jews we must consider our worst enemies and for this reason we must see that they are deported East.' On 2nd August the sisters were in choir at Evening Prayers when 2 SS men entered the enclosure. They commanded: 'In ten minutes Sister Stein must leave.' Taking the few things allowed, including food for three days, Edith and her sister left the Convent for ever.

At the camp at Westerbork, 1,200 Catholic Jews had been rounded up. One of them wrote on 6th August: 'You probably know that we are here and awaiting deportation to Poland. Tomorrow morning we move on. With me are two Trappist monks and two priests and a Lay Brother of the Dominican Abbey. On Thursday, the Feast of our holy Founder Dominic, we were sent to Westerbork. I know good Father that you are sincerely living all this with all of us. Your spiritual child Judith is here, as well as the Carmelite sisters from Echt.' That Carmelite sister was Edith Stein. By 7th August they were travelling to Auschwitz. Just before they left the camp at Westerbork one of Edith's fellow deportees told her Father confessor in a letter that all of them gathered at the camp wished to thank the Dutch bishops for speaking out in the name of Jesus.

On the way a former pupil recognised Edith. She gave him a note: 'Give my love to the Sisters of St Magdalena. Greetings from my journey to Poland.' A Jewish prisoner who survived later wrote: 'The distress in the camp and confusion among the new-comers cannot be described. But Sister Benedicta stood out by her calm and composure, going among the women, comforting, helping, bringing peace like an angel.' Some mothers had become mentally unhinged. Sister Benedicta took their unfed, unwashed children under her care, cleaned them up, collected food to feed them and gave them love. 'All the while she was in the camp she showed such vigilant love that everyone marvelled.

On their way to Auschwitz, Edith found time to dash off a note to her Prioress: 'I am content with everything. A knowledge of the Cross can be gained only if one is made to feel the cross to the depth of one's being.'

NOTICES