

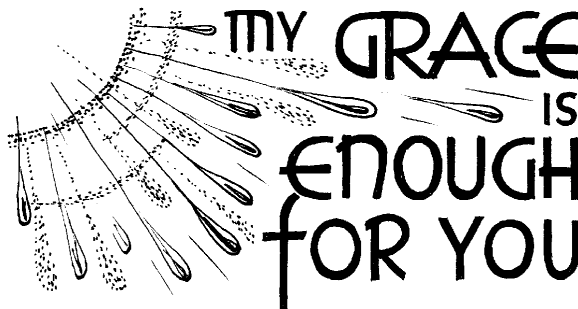
## Parish OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

4.07.2021

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](mailto:emgoring@english-martyrs.co.uk) Website: [www.english-martyrs.co.uk](http://www.english-martyrs.co.uk)  
Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514  
Arundel & Brighton Diocesan Trust is a Registered Charity No: 25287

### Fourteenth Sunday of the Year

Saturday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	6.00 pm	Nicholas Murphy RIP
Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup>	8.15am	Sheila Harris
		10.30 am	The Parish
		6.00 pm	Polish Mass
Monday	5 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Intention of John & Rose Dione
Tuesday	6 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Holy Souls
Wednesday	7 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Intention of Mary Murphy
Thursday	8 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Intention of Theresa McHaffie
Friday	9 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Colin Andrews RIP
Saturday	10 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Nora O'Toole
Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 am	Intention of Sr. Clare Jardine
		10.30 am	The Parish



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

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Ezekiel 2:2-5; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Mark 6:1-6

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Amos 7:12-15, Ephesians 1:3-14, Mark 6:7-13

**COLLECTIONS:** Church: £321 + £79 digital collection + June Standing Orders Total £1545.34

Thank you for your generosity.

*This Sunday there will be a Second Collection for Peter's Pence (NOT Gift Aided)*

Next weekend there will be a Second Collection for The Apostleship of the Sea. Please use the Special Envelopes available in both Porches if you wish to Gift Aid your donation.

**THESE ARE THE ONLY ENVELOPES THAT CAN BE USED FOR GIFT AID FOR THIS CHARITY**

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Siobhan Isaacs, Valerie Halley, Pat Duggan, Anne O'Halloran, Tony Grana, Sister Raymond, Liz Harvey, John Smith, Mick Brouder, Eileen Beech, Ian Threlfall, Thomas Duggan, Len Argent, Sister Catherine Lai, Justin Gould, Rose Little, Lelia Murray, Mary Murphy, Anne Steere, Margaret Birch, Lita Yong, Patrick Ryan, Brenda Peazold, Mary Wessel, Gina Palermo, Elizabeth Hoskins, Joan Cutmore, Gordon Milne, Alfred Deacon, Roni Horstead, Ronnie Tyler, Bill Hogg, Breda Schlimgen, Michaela Finn, Winifred Lyons, Yvette Allen, Kerry McStravick, Lydia Van Melsen

**2. THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY:** MICHAEL FERGUSON, PAT POTTER and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Thomas Fawl, Kathleen Johnson, Veronica Smith, Robert Turnbull, Lorna Painter, Rev Bill Timmons, Maura Morris, Ernest Howse, William Reilly, Walter 'Joe' Simmonds, Patricia Baker, Ernest Ryan, Brian Hearn, Sheila Payne, Donald Macdonald, Heather Reeves. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory.*

**3. OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS** for the work he has done for the Parish over many years as Chairman and Treasurer. In recognition of all the voluntary work that he has done for the Church throughout his life-time he will be presented with the Benemerenti Medal at the 10.30 Mass this weekend. This will be followed by a small Covid-safe reception in the Barn.

**4. GRANDPARENTS' PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINE AT WEST GRINSTEAD:** All Grandparents, or honorary grandparents, are invited to join Bishop Richard for our annual pilgrimage to West Grinstead next Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> July, from 10 am. This is always a lovely event. It is a day to meet other grandparents and share the joys and excitement of this wonderful vocation. There will be opportunities for Mass, Adoration, Reconciliation, Stations of the Cross, Rosary, and a visit to the Secret Chapel (flat shoes advised). Packed lunch needed. Drinks provided. Please carshare as limited parking. To book a place please contact: [katherine.bergin@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:katherine.bergin@abdiocese.org.uk)

**5. CAFOD UPDATE:** Thanks to your support, CAFOD has been helping communities around the world cope with the pandemic. Just in Zambia, in the past year, our reports show we've been able to reach 1,234,200 people with messages on COVID-19, provide 13,312 people with access to safe water, train 392 frontline health workers from Zambia's 11 dioceses on how to prepare and respond to COVID-19 in their local communities and donate over 1000 handwashing hygiene stations in communities to support handwashing measures. Thank you for standing alongside people in Zambia and for supporting people in more than 30 other countries worldwide.

**6. WE THANK** Bernie Stickley for agreeing to be Parish Charman, David-Wynn-Davies to be Vice-Chairman and Verona Burgon for taking on the role of Treasurer.

**7. MARY'S MEALS:** We need Toothbrushes, Colouring Pencils and Crayon. Many thanks to all who so generously contribute to these backpacks as they enable children to go to school and be fed a nourishing meal.

**8. TURNING TIDES (WCHP):** Items needed: Cereal bars, Sugar, Coffee, Small Juices, Cooking Oil, Squash, Carton Milk, Crisps. Also Hand Sanitisers, Liquid Soaps, Shampoo, Toilet Rolls, Kitchen Rolls, Toilet Cleaner, Washing Powder, Washing Liquid, Cream Cleaner, Black Sacks, Sandwich Bags, Ante-Bac Spray, Cereal Bowls, Small Tents, Bath Towels. Single Duvets. Men's Jeans, Jogging Bottoms, (Small/Medium) Men's Boxers (New please) Many thanks to those who are so generous in their donations.

**FATHER LIAM SAYS: The Bible comes to us from** the Eastern Mediterranean. The Old Testament contains 24 books and the New Testament contains 27. In spite of this the Old Testament is much larger as some books of the New Testament are very short. Jews, of course, do not regard the New Testament as part of their scriptures. They do not use the terms 'Old Testament' and 'New Testament' at all. They refer to the 24 books as the scriptures, which is precisely as Jesus himself referred to them. They were the only inspired Word of God that then existed.

'Bible' comes from the Greek word 'Biblia' meaning books. 'Scripture' literally means 'the writings'. They were the Books, the Writings, above all others. The term 'Old Testament' is not one that those of the Jewish faith would appreciate. In their eyes it has a negative and pejorative connotation. It could be seen as implying that Judaism has been supplanted by Christianity. But Christ said: 'I have come not to destroy but to fulfil'. Sometimes the term 'the Hebrew Bible' or 'the Hebrew Scriptures' are used instead of Old Testament. This is certainly more polite but it is not fully accurate. Not all the Books in the Old Testament were written in Hebrew. Some of these books were written by Jews living in various parts of the known world. Their language was Greek rather than Hebrew and many books written in Greek were regarded as just as truly the Word of God as were the Hebrew ones.

This remained the position until 40 years after Christ's Resurrection. The Scriptures were recognised by the Jewish authorities as containing books written in Greek as well as Hebrew. But in year 70, the Romans utterly destroyed Jerusalem and their glorious Temple. The Temple was the only place where the Jews could offer sacrifice. Its loss was a traumatic event for the Jews. It seemed like the end of the world. How could God have allowed it to happen? Had God abandoned his people? This could not be the case so they felt that they must have abandoned God. There was a great movement about the year 100 to bring about a return to God. As part of their reforms they decided that their Scriptures – to be truly the Word of God – should only be those that had been written in Hebrew.

To this day this is the Jewish position; the Greek books could still be revered but could not be regarded as scriptural. Books such as the First and Second Book of Maccabees and the Book of Wisdom are not now recognised by the Jews as part of the Word of God but the Christians retained them. One of the scriptural texts that Catholics use to support our practice of praying for those who have died comes from the Second Book of Maccabees (12:41-45). The passage encourages those who are living to pray for the dead that they may be released from their sins = some of the Jewish warriors who were killed in battle were found to have carried pagan objects of devotion on them. Their leader Judas Maccabees and his followers 'gave themselves to prayer, begging that the sin committed might be completely forgiven' Judas arranged for a donation to be sent to Jerusalem 'to have a sacrifice for sin offered, an action altogether fine and noble, prompted by his belief in their resurrection. For had he not expected the fallen to rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead. Whereas the thought was holy and devout. Hence he had this expiatory sacrifice offered for the dead that they may be released from their sin'

It is noteworthy that the New Testament quotes from every single book of the Old Testament with the possible exception of the Song of Songs and Esther. The quotations are cited with the formula 'it is written' or 'scripture says'. Whenever the New Testament speaks of the scriptures it refers to the Old Testament as it was some considerable time before it was definitely decided which books belonged to the New Testament. For fifteen hundred years all of Christendom was united in recognising as inspired the books of the Old Testament that were regarded as scripture at the time of Christ. It was only at the Reformation that some of those protestant leaders decided to reject as scripture the same books as the leaders of Judaism rejected seventy years after the Resurrection of Christ.

The Jewish scriptures contain wonderful treasures of prayer – especially the Book of Psalms. They have been prayed by Jesus and by Christians over thousands of years. They express a whole range of emotions and arise from so many situations. Some even contain the language of hatred and violence. These of course are not often used in the liturgy but their presence in the Bible teaches us that even strong emotions can be expressed to God who knows our hearts. If we recite those verses today we can apply the strong and angry words to Satan and all the forces which seek to undermine the coming of God's Kingdom. The Lord is my Shepherd enjoys enormous popularity. It beautifully pictures God as a caring shepherd and as a generous host who provides a banquet. It speaks of the steadfast love and constancy of the God who revealed himself to us so wonderfully in his Son, the Good Shepherd.

There are 150 Psalms. The Psalm 'The Lord is my Shepherd' is numbered 23 in Catholic Bibles but number 22 in other bibles. Why? The numbering of the Psalms was not done by those who wrote them just as the titles of the Gospels were not given by their authors. Psalms 1-8 are numbered identically in the earliest Hebrew and Greek and Latin Bibles. Psalms 9 and 10 are treated in Catholic and Orthodox Bibles as a single Psalm (Psalm 9) so after this all the numbers are reduced by one. Due to other divisions of Psalms all verses come together again near the end and the overall number of 150 is maintained with the last three psalms enjoying the same numbering in all Bibles.

