

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

Safeguarding Rep. Anne Niven 01903 242624

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

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	24 th	6.00 pm	Lily Barrow RIP
Sunday	25 th	8.15 am	Siobhan Cronin RIP
		0.30 am	Michael Farrell RIP
Monday	26 th	9.00 am	Patrick Grealish RIP
Tuesday	27 th	9.30 am	Maria Petter RIP
		7.00 pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	28 th	9.00 am	Mike & Anne Steere RIP
Thursday	29 th	9.30 am	No Mass
Friday	30 th	9.30 am	Intention of Rosalind Burholt
Saturday	1 st	6.00 pm	John Clarke RIP
Sunday	2 nd	8.15 am	Joan Williams RIP
		10.30 am	Intention of David & Theresa Steadmen



SATURDAY: Reconciliation: 10.15 -10.45 am and 5.15 - 5:45 pm

TODAY'S READINGS: Amos 6:1, 4-7; 1Timothy 6:11-16; Luke 16:19-31

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Habakkuk 1:2-3, 2:2-4; 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14; Luke 17:5-10

COLLECTIONS: Church: £318 + Digital Collection: £35 *Home Missions:* £301 Thank you for your generosity.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Thomas Boylan, John Mayock, Terry Stanley, Glenn, Ken Ellis, Helena & Vittorio Villa, Peggy Gallagher, Lena, Ken Harvey, Sienna Coates, Kathleen Brennan, Chris Judge, Brian Caplin, Valerie Halley, Pat Duggan, Tony Grana, Sister Raymond, John Smith, Mick Brouder, Ian Threlfall, Lelia Murray, Mary Murphy, Brenda Peazold, Mary Wessel, 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 and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Patricia Brown, Kathleen Tyler, Pamela Simblett, Martine Jackson, Neville Shopland, Tom McErlean, Alice Perry, Edna Whitehouse, Margaret Hollander, Allan Bradbury, Sophia Kapture, Walter Storey, Josephine Shorten-Rule, Arthur Oakley, Cecily Grundon, Rosa Champ, David Tuttlebee. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory.*

3. WELCOME TO ANY VISITORS to our Parish this weekend. We do hope that you have enjoyed your stay

4. WILLIAM CLARKE & DOMINIC WINTON will speak at all Masses this weekend about their recent experiences in Lourdes as Red Coats.

5. MARY'S MEALS SPECIAL APPEAL: 'Until the 30th September, if you set up a Direct Debit to Mary's Meals, your first three donations will be tripled - thanks to a group of generous donors who have made funds available up to £150,000. We know the cost of living is affecting many of our dedicated sponsors here in the UK – this is a wonderful opportunity to make your donations go even further.'

6. WORLD SMILE DAY 'is celebrated annually on the first Friday of October and is a day dedicated to feeling happy and to doing acts of kindness for others. On Friday 7th October, this year's 'World Smile Day', we are having a service to mark the occasion with hymns and readings. These reflect the goodness of God as the source of our humanity and stress the importance of being kind to others in the world we live in, regardless of any differences we may have. This service will be followed by a social gathering in the Barn, to meet and enjoy the company of other people. Light refreshments will be served and there will be the opportunity to make small gifts that can be passed on to others as gestures of friendship to brighten their lives. All are most welcome and donations will be given to 'Pyjama Fairies', a charity that provides garments which are comfortable and enjoyable to wear for children while they are in hospital.



7. CAFOD HARVEST SUPPER: Many thanks to all those who helped create and those who supported the Harvest Supper. £575 was raised

8. READERS & MINISTERS OF COMMUNION: Rosters for October are now available in the Sacristy

9. APF RED BOX HOLDERS please return your red boxes for counting. You can leave them in the Front Porch for Teresa to collect and count. If you have difficulty bringing the box to church please phone 01903 529260 and it will be collected..

10. CONFIRMATION 2022/23: If you are in Year 10 or above and considering being Confirmed next year you are invited to join our preparation programme that will be starting soon. Please collect an application form from the Sacristy and return to the Parish Office as soon as possible

11. SAINT OSCAR ROMERO SCHOOL OPEN EVENING takes place on Tuesday, 4th October at 6pm. The evening will consist of a number of short presentations and performances, before allowing you to tour the school and meet students and staff in each department. There is no need to book for this evening. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Godfrey, our Admissions Manager, by email kgodfrey@stromeros.co.uk or telephone 01903 241368.

12. TURNING TIDES HARVEST REQUESTS for the many items that they need in their stock cupboards to help the many homeless throughout the year. Please see the Posters and leaflets in both porches, which contain lists of all that they require. Please take a leaflet with you and see if you could donate just one (or more!) items to this wonderful work.

FATHER LIAM SAYS: The Relics of St Bernadette have been brought to Britain and will be venerated in several churches in the course of the coming two months. They will be brought to places all over England, Scotland and Wales, between now and 1st November. In this diocese they will be in Woking from 21st to 22nd October, at Arundel Cathedral from 22nd to 23rd and at Worth Abbey from 23rd to 24th. These days will be marked by liturgical celebrations and opportunities for private prayer, modelled on the celebrations that take place in Lourdes.

Saint Bernadette Soubirous of Lourdes was a most unassuming saint. She said that the Virgin Mary had chosen her to be a broom and when her job was finished, she was to be put back into the cupboard. She was born in Lourdes, a town in the Pyrenees in 1844, the eldest of four children. She faithfully passed on the words which she received from the 'beautiful Lady' who appeared to her in the grotto of Massabielle, a remote cave on the edge of the town, between 11th February and 16th July 1858 in 18 apparitions. Through the call to penance, to prayer, to pilgrimage and the call to build a new church, the message of Lourdes revived the Church in France and beyond and still does today.

At the time of her vision, Bernadette was fourteen years old and barely literate. She had to look after her younger brothers while her mother went out cleaning. On 11th February 1858, while Bernadette was collecting wood with her sister Toinette and her friend Jeanne, Bernadette, who was sickly and asthmatic held back from wading through the stream as it was so cold. She heard a voice and she later reported: 'I raised my head and looked towards the grotto. I saw a Lady dressed in white with a blue girdle and a yellow rose on each foot, the same colour as the chain of her rosary. The beads of her rosary were white. The Lady beckoned but when Bernadette did not approach, she vanished. The girls with Bernadette saw nothing and, at first, Bernadette did not tell them but they got the story out of her and told her parents. The Soubirous family forbade Bernadette to visit the grotto again but the girl told her local priest about the vision. On 14th February Bernadette's mother relented and the girl took a bottle of holy water to the grotto and knelt down to say the rosary. The Lady appeared again. Bernadette said: 'I started throwing holy water at her and told her that if she came from God to stay and if not, to go.' The vision smiled and Bernadette in fright threw the rest of the holy water at her and the vision disappeared.' There were many apparitions and the Lady spoke in the Lourdes dialect, 'sweet and gentle', and not in French.

On the 25th March, the Feast of the Annunciation, Mary spoke to her for the last time and told her that she was the Immaculate Conception. Four years before these events Pope Pius IX had proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception – that Mary was free of any taint of sin. Catholics had believed this for centuries but in 1854 it became part of the Church's official teaching.

Bernadette's accounts of the visions caused mixed reactions. The local police inspector interrogated her and tried in vain to muddle her testimony. The notes of the interview have been preserved. The Public Prosecutor tried to rig Bernadette's account but the locals hammered on his door, as they had done previously in the case of the police inspector, and he was forced to release her. Later, Bernadette said: 'There was something in me that enabled me to rise above everything. I was tackled from all sides but nothing mattered and I was not afraid.' Her parish priest became her strongest supporter. On 3rd June, the Feast of Corpus Christi, Bernadette made her First Communion. It was many years later that St Pope Pius X encouraged people to begin receiving Holy Communion at an earlier age.

In 1862 a series of interrogations by bishops began. They were impressed 'by her simplicity, candour and modesty, the wisdom of her answers, her calm imagination and common-sense beyond her age.' To those who doubted her she replied: 'I have been told to tell you about it. I have not been told to make you believe it.' The Bishop of Tarbes authenticated the visions and Bernadette applied to join the nuns in a local convent. She was turned down because, among other things, she was frail and they did not want to be overrun by pilgrims and tourists. In March she became very ill but recovered sufficiently to nurse old people in the hospice at Lourdes.

In April 1866 she succeeded in becoming a postulant at Nevers. On her first day she was told to recount her visions to the whole community and then never speak of them again. She continued to suffer from poor health and for the last four years of her life she was a complete invalid. She died on 16th April 1879 aged 35. She had tuberculosis and endured great pain. She spoke of her pain as 'my job'. She also suffered much grief from the early death of her parents and other relations. She was beatified in 1925 and canonised in 1933.

Twenty years after her death her body was exhumed and was found to be intact. After leaving Lourdes in 1866 to become a nun, Bernadette never returned. When she first went to tell the parish priest to build a church and come in procession, as Mary had told her to do, the priest mocked her. She was 14 years old, 4 feet 6 inches tall, illiterate and from a very poor background. But she did not flinch. Through the Synod we too are encouraged to speak out and to be heard, to play a full part in the Church and not be afraid.