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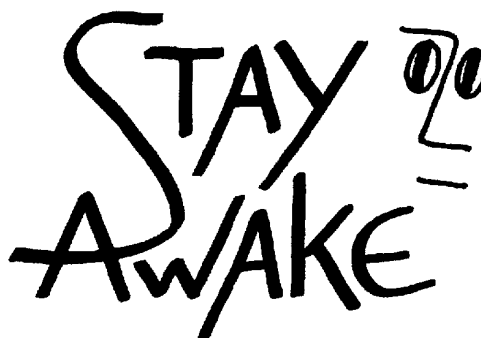
Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

Safeguarding Rep. Anne Niven 01903 242624

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

First Sunday of Advent

Saturday	26 th	6.00 pm	Deceased Relatives of Gina Marshall
Sunday	27 th	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Holy Souls
Monday	28 th	9.30 am	Catherine Bandy RIP
Tuesday	29 th	9.30 am	Roger Davis RIP
		7.00 pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	30 th	9.30 am	Frank Burns RIP
Thursday	1 st	9.30 am	Intention of the Taylor Family
Friday	2 nd	9.30 am	Anne & Mike Steere RIP
Saturday	3 rd	6.00 pm	Margaret Metcalf RIP
Sunday	4 th	8.15 am	Douglas Doll RIP
		10.30 am	Albert Davitt RIP



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

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12

COLLECTIONS: Church: £323 + Digital Collection: £40 Arundel Cathedral Maintenance Fund: £273

Thank you for your generosity.

This weekend there will be a Second Collection for LEPRO. Please see Note 3

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Samuel Bezants, 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, 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: HUMPHREY NIVEN and those whose anniversaries occur about now: George Maw, Reginald Austin, Anne McNamara, William Fleming, Douglas Hastie, Francis Cooke, Maisie Maloney, Joe Gunstone, Nick Sherman, Catherine Bandy, Walter Jackson, Frank Burns, Theresa Rhodes, Margaret Newman, Bridget White, Winifred Rose, Elizabeth Burtwell, Rob Connor, Leslie Hines, *May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

3. LEPRO is an international charity, established in 1924, working to beat leprosy. They work directly with people in India and Bangladesh, supporting people affected by leprosy and referring them for treatment. Leprosy affects the skin and attacks nerves in the hands, feet and eyes. If detected early enough it is curable with a combination of antibiotics known as multidrug therapy. If left untreated it can cause severe disabilities and even blindness. Reconstructive surgery followed by physiotherapy can reverse damage, helping people to use their hands, feet and eyes again. Please visit lepra.org.uk to find out more about this cruel disease.

4. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2023: Is your son or daughter in Year 3 this term? If so, they are at the age where they can start the preparation course for First Holy Communion. Please collect a letter and application form from the Sacristy and return it to the Parish Office as soon as possible. The first meeting for parents will be on Thursday 5th January at 7.30 pm in the church and the first lesson for the children will be on Tuesday 10th January from 4.30 – 5.30 pm

5. 'CURRY & CAROLS', full of Christmas festivities and a sing-along, will take place in the Barn on Saturday 10th December at 7.00 pm (following the 6.00 pm Mass). The proceeds will go to the Parish project in Kalingalinga. Tickets will be on sale after all Masses **this** weekend - Adults £8.00 Children £4.00 Raffle prizes please!

6. AN ADVENT GROUP will meet on Tuesday mornings at 10.15 am in the Good Shepherd Chapel to follow a new Advent Course, which includes a short video followed by discussion. The dates are 29th November and 6th, 13th and 20th December. For those unable to come at that time the course will be repeated later the same day at 7.00 pm by Zoom. If you wish to join the Zoom course, please contact Dermot for a link – 07999 488326

7. ENGLISH MARTYRS SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR will be held on Thursday 1st December 3.15pm – 4.30pm for games, crafts, fun and refreshments. All are welcome

8. THE FRIENDS OF SAINT OSCAR ROMERO SCHOOL are holding a Christmas Fair on Friday, 2nd December from 5.45pm - 9pm at St Oscar Romero Catholic School, Goring Street BN12 5AF. Santa and the Worthing Town Crier will officially open the Fair at 6pm. We have a number of artisan stallholders selling a selection of handmade gifts, jewellery, Christmas decorations, skincare products and homemade food. There will be plenty of Christmas games to play for all ages, tombola and loads of prizes to be won. We will be offering a selection of hot food, including a BBQ, homemade sausage rolls and soup. Hot Chocolate, soft drinks, Shmoo milkshakes, sweets and a licensed bar; not forgetting hot mulled wine! They just need you to join in the fun!

9. SPUC LUNCH: Many thanks to all those who helped or supported the delicious lunch last Sunday. £350 was raised for SPUC

10. MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION are invited to attend an afternoon formation session on Saturday 10th December, from 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm at the Holy Family Church, Lancing [BN15 9BB]. It is suitable for both new ministers and existing ministers who would like a refresher and update. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Home Communion for the Sick will be covered. To apply please speak to Father Liam

11. THE PARISH PRAYER GROUP meets on 1st and 3rd Thursday evenings, from 7.30 - 9.00 pm, in the Good Shepherd Chapel. All are very welcome.

12. MARY'S MEALS COLLECTION POINT is one of the small boxes under the notice board to the right in the Front Porch. It costs just £15.90 to feed one child for a year! Your donations will always be much appreciated.

13. TURNING TIDES WISH LIST is appealing for the many items that they need in their stock cupboards to help the many homeless throughout the year. Spreads, Small bottled and carton drinks/water Cereal bars, Snack pots, Tinned ham, corned beef and fish. Tinned meals - meat and Tinned pies - meat and vegetarian, Pot noodles Tin custard and rice pudding, Cooking sauces. Shampoo and conditioner, Shaving gels and razors, Deodorants, Bath towels Men's boxers, Women's briefs, Women & men's tee-shirts. Many thanks to anyone who is able to help. The collection box is under the bench in the West Porch..

FATHER LIAM SAYS: Perhaps we are still only beginning to get accustomed to having a King. The majority of us have spent our whole lives with Queen Elizabeth as our monarch. One of my earliest memories is of hearing of the death of King George VI on the radio. Today 'God save the King' still seems a bit strange. By the time the Coronation comes round we will have got used to it.

Two thousand years ago there was a special word to describe the 'State Visit' of an Emperor or his taking up office. In Latin the word was Advent and in Greek it was Epiphany. Advent simply means the arrival of someone special and Epiphany means how that person's identity is revealed. As we know, we now use these terms in church circles to refer to the coming of Christ among us and how we celebrate it year by year in our liturgy. But it took the Church more than three centuries before they began to celebrate Advent or Epiphany or indeed, Christmas. In the earliest centuries the Church had only one feast and it celebrated it weekly and annually – the Feast of Easter. Every Sunday was regarded as Easter and the Sunday Eucharist was their weekly Easter celebration. It was celebrated with great solemnity – even though they referred to it as 'Little Easter'. It was only surpassed by the annual paschal celebration of the Great Three Days – the Sacred Triduum – Holy Thursday, Good Friday culminating in the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection – sometimes called the 'Great Sunday'. The Catholic Church in its liturgy does not tend to use the word, Easter. It speaks of the Feast of the Passover and the Paschal Mystery. It uses profoundly Jewish words expressing how God's great work of salvation finds its fullest expression in the saving mystery of Jesus in his death and Resurrection. Easter, on the other hand, is a pagan word derived from the name of a German goddess Eastre, associated with the Spring Equinox.

We have arrived at Advent – the beginning of the liturgical year. The Church tries to make us more attentive to the great advent of God. The focus of Advent is not altogether on the coming season of Christmas. The word Christmas is not even mentioned in the prayers of today's Mass, nor do the readings direct our minds to it. The church building has even been stripped of flowers as if to deflect us from thinking of it – though the whole world of media is intent on it. The advent of Christ whom we are encouraged to meet refers to his second coming at the end of time and his coming to us in the here and now. Our psalm reminds us that we are on a journey to meet him in our homeland of peace and justice and love for which this life is a preparation.

Outside the United Nations building in New York is a bronze statue entitled 'Let us beat our swords into ploughshares' by the Russian sculptor, Evgeniy Vuchetich. It was presented to the United Nations by the former Soviet Union. The strong, muscular male figure holds a sword in one hand and in the other he wields a hammer with which he is beating the sword into a ploughshare. At the base of the statue is inscribed the words of Isaiah, which we have in today's first reading. 'They shall beat their swords into ploughshares'. How badly our world needs weapons of war to be melted down and beaten into instruments of peace, that will enhance life rather than destroy it. Paul in his letter to the Romans speaks of the arms that the Christians should take up. 'Let us arm ourselves and appear in the light... Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ'. Paul is confident that the coming of Christ in glory is good news. 'Our salvation is ever nearer'. 'The night is almost over'. Another translation has it: 'Our salvation is closer and the day is drawing near.' We should be like children, counting the days!

But Cop 27 reminds us of our responsibilities. The United Nations have made some progress but it seems that limiting global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels is now almost impossible. St Paul sums up our situation well: 'The good that I would, that I do not. The evil that I would not, that I do.' (Romans 7:15)