

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

25.12.2022

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

Christmas Day

Saturday	24 th	6.00 pm	Mary Stone RIP
		9.00 pm	The Parish (8.30 pm Carols & Readings)
Sunday	25 th	8.15 am	Roger Davis RIP
		10.30 am	Anne O'Connor RIP
Monday	26 th	9.30 am	No Mass
Tuesday	27 th	9.30 am	Intention of Ann Turner
Wednesday	28 th	9.30 am	Lottie Mae RIP
Thursday	29 th	9.30 am	Thanksgiving (Patrick Bird)
Friday	30 th	9.30 am	John Walsh RIP
Saturday	31 st	6.00 pm	Intention of Bernadette & Marvyn Allstot
Sunday	1 st	8.15 am	Sandra Moore RIP
		10.30 am	Mary & Jack Haugh RIP



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

TODAY'S READINGS: Vary at all four Masses

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Numbers 6:22-27, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:16-21

Next Sunday is the Feast of Mary, Mother of God. It is New Years Day

COLLECTIONS: Church: £447 + Digital Collection: £124 HomeStart: £1,759 Thank you for your generosity.

Contributions to the Christmas Crib will be sent to Friends of the Holy Land

NEXT SUNDAY there will be a second collection for 'Turning Tides' (Worthing Churches Homeless Project)

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Joan Wand, 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: Michael Barton and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Jim Flynn, Joan Foley, Doris Cronan, Mary Walton, Patsy Mannion, Michael Jarvis, Ernest Hare, Cyril Woodgar, George Welch, Mark Zenkteler, Gordon Daniel, Elsie Butlin, Margaret Simpson, Harold Birch, Peter Giles, Veronica Parker, Effie Downs, Catherine Brooks, Ted Bellenger, Giulia Grainger, Father Enda Naughton. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

3. 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

4. THE PARISH CAROL SERVICE last Tuesday was very well attended. We thank Margaret Murphy for choosing such beautiful readings and leading the choir in singing such beautiful pieces of music. The congregation sang the carols delightfully and the choir excelled themselves. The very happy occasion was rounded off with seasonal refreshments in the Barn, kindly created by Teresa Boyle.

5. CRIB DONATIONS: We will be sending crib donations to Friends of the Holy Land. Every penny will help the poorest Christian families, especially in and around Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza and Israel, with education, employment, health or housing costs and initiatives. FHL is non-political and ecumenical.

6. YOUR OFFERINGS AT THE CHRISTMAS MASSES are your personal gift to Father Liam (Gift Aid applies). If you are not Gift Aiding, special envelopes are available in the Porch. If you will be away for Christmas you might like to use these envelopes to make your gift either beforehand or afterwards.

9. THE CAFOD AUCTION will take place on Saturday 14th January. Please keep those gifts or unused/good condition items that could be auctioned to raise funds for the work of CAFOD.

10. FRIENDSHIP LUNCH: Many thanks to Teresa and her team for creating, (in difficult circumstances), the delicious Christmas Lunch. Many thanks to you for coming and joining in the fun.

11. UKRAINIAN CHRISTMAS MASS IN LEWES For Eastern Rite Catholics (often referred to as 'Greek Catholics') Christmas Day falls on 7 January, as it does for Orthodox Christians. There will be a Christmas Day Mass in Ukrainian (celebrated by Fr Maksym Krat) at 12 noon on **Saturday 7 January 2023** in St Pancras, Lewes, followed by traditional Ukrainian food. If you have Ukrainian refugees in your parish, please let them know that they would be very welcome to join the Ukrainian families in Lewes for this celebration. For further details, please WhatsApp Maryana on +380970343783.

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 Winter Wish List. Lists are available in both porches. with suggestions. Many thanks to anyone who is able to help.

FATHER LIAM SAYS: In one respect at least, celebrating Christmas this year is much easier than it was last year. With Christmas Day falling on a Sunday it has made life easier – not least for the clergy. Last year this great feast fell on a Saturday, which meant that the Christmas Eve Masses were on Friday, followed by a further two on Saturday – Christmas Day – and then there were the Sunday morning Masses. A year from now, with Christmas Day being on the Monday, it will be a similar situation. I, for one, am very grateful for this year's Christmas arrangements. Then there are the double Bank Holiday on Monday and Tuesday. It may not benefit the country's economy but we will, hopefully, not allow that to get in the way of making the best of things!

Things are probably different in Scotland. They have a history of dealing with Christmas differently. The New Year's Eve festivity of Hogmanay tends to be a huge celebration up there and the Extra Public Holiday then rounds off the celebrations. In fact, Christmas Day in Scotland was not a public holiday for hundreds of years – right up to 1958. Boxing Day in Scotland did not become a Public Holiday until 1974. Why did Christmas come to be treated in this way in Scotland? How did it fare south of the border?

At the time of the Reformation, Protestant leaders were critical of the way Christmas was celebrated. All over the Christian world people tended to drink to excess and generally behave rather badly during the Season. Martin Luther, father of the Reformation, nevertheless remained attached to the celebration of the Nativity, in spite of his reservations. In fact he composed a number of Christmas Carols to help keep the true meaning of the Festival to the fore. In Scotland, John Knox was the chief driving force of the Reformation. Like Luther he had been a Catholic priest. Knox was an ardent follower of Calvin, the prominent Swiss Reformer. Calvin was very hard-line and extremely intolerant of what he saw as Catholic excesses. Knox brought the same mindset to Scotland. He developed a total dislike of Christmas because in the Scriptures he found no evidence that Christians should celebrate the birth of Christ. And of course, the scriptures provide no evidence that Christ had been born on 25th December. John Knox and the puritans after him had a huge influence on the Christian thinking of the people in Scotland but they did not succeed as much as they would have wished in turning them away from celebrating Christmas.

In the later years of Queen Elizabeth's reign, there was a series of disastrous harvests between 1594 and 1597. Most people suffered a huge reduction in their standard of living, which had not been great at the best of times. They had to scale down their Christmas celebrations – for economic reasons rather than from the disapproval of religious leaders.

The real attack on Christmas came in the next century. Relations between the Crown and Parliament became more and more strained, partly because of the lavish extravagances of King Charles I and his wife, Henrietta Maria and the court and nobles. The breakdown between King and Parliament led eventually in 1642 to the bloody Civil War. Under Oliver Cromwell the forces of the Crown were defeated and King Charles was beheaded and the monarchy was abolished.

The elected Parliament with Cromwell's approval passed a series of Acts between 1644 – 47, criminalising the celebration of Christmas along with other holy days. They asserted that 'more mischief is that time committed than in all the year besides... what dicing and carding, what eating and drinking, what banqueting and feasting is then used to the great dishonour of God and impoverishing of the Realm. Instead 'Christmas' should be kept, if at all, merely as a day of fasting and seeking the Lord with the more solemn humiliation because it may call to remembrance our sins and the sins of our forefathers who have turned this feast, pretending the memory of Christ, into an extreme forgetfulness of him.'

It was decreed that 'The observance of Christmas having been deemed a sacrilege, the exchange of gifts and greetings are hereby forbidden, with the offender liable to a fine of five shillings.' There were to be no carols and no prayers or sermons in the church on 25th December and 'whosoever shall hang at his door any Rosemary, Holly or Bays, or other superstitious herb shall be liable to the penalties decreed by ordinance, and whosoever shall make or cause to be made either plum pudding or Nativity Pies is hereby warned that it is contrary to the said ordinances.' Parliament also ordered that ships and markets were to stay open for business on 25th December. Anyone caught breaking the law was liable to a fine or imprisonment.

So strong was the popular attachment to Christmas that many riots broke out. Local tradesmen who dared to open their shops on Christmas Day were threatened. A crowd of protestors in Canterbury smashed up the shops that had opened and went on to seize control of the whole city. This led to a major insurrection in 1648. A series of risings against parliament and in favour of King Charles was suppressed only with great difficulty by the forces of Cromwell. In 1648, at Christmas, Charles was in prison and was executed weeks later. He is buried in St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle. Cromwell became Lord Protector in 1653 and the celebration of Christmas continued to be proscribed. In 1660, with the Restoration

of the Monarchy and with Charles II on the throne anti-Christmas legislation was soon swept away. But in Scotland, the influence of John Knox remained strong.