

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

8.01.2023

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

The Baptism of the Lord

Saturday	7 th	6.00 pm	Intention of Mary Murphy
Sunday	8 th	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Roger Davis RIP
Monday	9 th	9.30 am	David Rose RIP
Tuesday	10 th	9.30 am	Reg & Dorrie Marshall RIP
Wednesday	11 th	9.30 am	Anne & Mike Steere RIP
Thursday	12 th	9.30 am	Stephanie Shephard RIP
Friday	13 th	9.30 am	Tim McCann RIP
Saturday	14 th	6.00 pm	Michael O'Driscoll RIP
Sunday	15 th	8.15 am	Sheila Bishop RIP
		10.30 am	Roger Davis RIP



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

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Matthew 3:13-17

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6; Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:29-34

COLLECTIONS: Church: £303 Digital Collection: £20 Turning Tides: £501. 00 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 SPUC

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Maureen House, Joan Wand, Samuel Bezants, Thomas Boylan. John Mayock, Terry Stanley, Glenn, 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: KEN ELLIS and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Adriana Gaboli, Elvira Kelly, Janine Leyder, Marianne Fisher, Jessie Patten, Kathleen Page, Sarah Finnegan, Ella Turnbull, Robert Barber, Ruby Bernardi, John O'Brian, Kathleen Bennett, John Evans, David Sheldon, Elizabeth Coleman, Johnny Johnson, Edith Murphy, Edward Hatton, Winifred Pearce, Bernard Hagel, John Flood, Philip Gilpin, Andrée Price.
May they rest in peace and rise in glory

3. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2023: The first lesson for the children will be next Tuesday 10th January from 4.30 – 5.30 pm

4. THE 'CAFOD AUCTION' AND SUPPER EXTRAVAGANZA will be held in The Barn **next** Saturday 14th January at 7.00 pm. Please remember to save any 'surplus' gifts or unused items for the Auction. Call Charles for collection/information on 01903 505546. Tickets will be on sale after all Masses **this** weekend price £8.00. Raffle prizes will also be gratefully received

5. WHITE FLOWER APPEAL 2023 – The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal **this** weekend. SPUC wants a world where abortion is unthinkable and is raising awareness of the widespread problem of abortion coercion. According to an independent poll, 87% of GPs are concerned that the Government's 'pills by post' scheme leaves women vulnerable to coerced abortion. SPUC is calling on the Prime Minister to condemn this abhorrent tragedy. Please be as generous as you can to help defend unborn babies and their mothers by highlighting this urgent crisis.

6. WHAT IS YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION? Or should it be **'YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU!'** We are a busy parish with many good things happening in it but these only can happen if you are prepared to join in. At the moment help is urgently needed in Flower Arranging and why not join the Choir? At the end of March we open again to the public who wish to come and view the ceiling and our lovely stained glass windows. There is much to do but we really do need you to come and help where you can. Please contact Anne in the Parish Office for further information and with your offers of assistance.

7. 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.

8. CHOIR PRACTICE will resume of Tuesday 31st January.

9. 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! £239 sent off to Mary's Meals this week. Your donations will always be much appreciated.

10 TURNING TIDES WISH LIST is appealing for the many items that they need. Coffee, Long-life Milk, Sugar, Cooking Oil, Small bottled/carton drinks/water, Cereal Bars, Biscuits, Snack Pots, Tinned meat/fish. Also Toilet Rolls, Washing-up Liquid, Washing Powder, Dish-washer Tablets Deodorant. Many thanks to anyone who is able to help.

FATHER LIAM SAYS: The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord brings the Christmas season to an end. The Solemnity of the Epiphany, which we celebrated on Friday, led us to reflect on the mission of the Lord to bring salvation to all nations. Today's Feast marks the beginning of that mission as Jesus begins his public ministry. The Spirit of God descended like a dove on him and a voice from heaven revealed: 'This is my Son, the Beloved, in whom I am well pleased.'

We tend to think that Jesus in his public life was surrounded by a group of men consisting primarily of the twelve apostles. But at the very end of Mark's gospel – the first to be written – we are told 'that a large group of women who were with him in Galilee had accompanied him to Jerusalem and to Calvary.' Among them were Mary of Magdala, Mary, who was the mother of James the younger, and Joset and Salome. These used to follow him and look after him when he was in Galilee and many other women were there who had come up to Jerusalem with him'. (Ch 15:40-41) The presence of these women might prompt us to ask what was their role. Should we assume it was any different from that of the men. As we listen to the gospel readings Sunday by Sunday we must not imagine Jesus on the road with twelve men alone accompanying him. There is a large mixed group of women as well as men.

We also tend to think that the spread of Christianity after the Resurrection was something accomplished by men assisted, of course, by the Holy Spirit. The role of St Peter and St Paul is especially emphasised. We call St Paul the Apostle of the Gentiles, because he brought the gospel to the non-Jewish world while Peter's early ministry was devoted to leading those of the Jewish faith to Christ. But what of the role of women? Paul himself, in his letters mentions many women by name who worked with him in spreading the gospel message. His longest and perhaps most significant letter was written to the Romans. At this stage he had not been to Rome but intended going there. He wrote his letter to the Romans as a way of introducing himself to the Christian community there. Paul knew quite a few Christians there. Rome was the centre of a great empire so people were coming and going to Rome in a big way. In his letter he sends greetings to 26 people by name. Paul had worked with them in various other places. Peter at this time had not come to Rome either. There were a number of Christian communities in Rome but, of course, they had no church buildings. This letter is always the first of Paul's letters listed in the bible. This is because it is the longest. he wrote it before the year 60 AD – more than 5 years before he himself came to Rome. When he did come to Rome it was to defend himself and his message and he lived under house arrest until his martyrdom by beheading in the year 66.

This letter is proclaimed more often than any of {Paul's letters in our Sunday Mass. This is a passage which is never read at Mass but it throws a lot of light on how the early Church was organised and on who did the organising. This is how he begins the last chapter – chapter 16 – of his letter. The first person he mentions is Phoebe, to whom he has trusted this letter and who delivered it to the Christians in Rome. Cenchreae is near Corinth.

1. I would like you to welcome our sister Phoebe. She is a deacon of the church in Cenchreae.
2. I ask you to receive her as one who belongs to the Lord. Receive her in the way God's people should. Give her any help she may need from you. She has been a great help to many people, including me.
3. Greet Priscilla and Aquila. They work together with me in serving Christ Jesus.
4. They have put their lives in danger for me. I am thankful for them. So are all the Gentile churches.
5. Greet also the church that meets in the house of Priscilla and Aquila. Greet my dear friend Epenetus. He was the first person in Asia Minor to become a believer in Christ.
6. Greet Mary. She worked very hard for you.
7. Greet Andronicus and Junia, my fellow Jews. They have been in prison with me. They are leaders among the apostles. They became believers in Christ before I did.
8. Greet Ampliatus, my dear friend in the Lord.
9. Greet Urbanus. He works together with me in serving Christ. And greet my dear friend Stackys.
10. Greet Apelles. he remained faithful to Christ even when he was tested. Greet those who live at the house of Aristobulus.
11. Greet Herodiion, my fellow Jew. Greet the believers who live in the house of Narcissus.
12. Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa. Those women work hard for the Lord. Greet my dear friend Persis. She is another woman who has worked very hard for the Lord.
13. Greet Rufus. He is a chosen believer in the Lord. And greet his mother. She has been like a mother to me too.
14. Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon and Hermes. Greet Patrobas, Hermas and the other brothers and sisters with them.
15. Greet Philologus, Julia and his sister. Greet Olympas and all of the Lord's people who are with them.
16. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ send their greetings

In this passage there are 10 women mentioned by name as active promoters of the gospel. There are at least five homes which serve as houses where Christians meet. The women mentioned are Phoebe, Priscilla, Mary, Junia, Tryphosa, Tryphena, Persis and the mother of Rufus, Julia and the sister of Nerius.

It is interesting that Priscilla and her husband Aquila are mentioned four times in the New Testament and in each case Priscilla is named before her husband. In verse 7 Junia is called with her husband 'leaders among the apostles'. St John Chrysostom, who died in 407 had this to say: 'To be an apostle is something great. But to be outstanding among the apostles, just think what a wondrous song of praise that is. Truly how great the wisdom of this woman that she was deemed worthy of the title apostle'.