

## PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

10.09.2023

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

Safeguarding Rep. Anne Niven 01903 242624

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

### Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	9 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Paul Roe RIP
Sunday	10 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Dawn Copping RIP
Monday	11 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Jerry Gilligan
Tuesday	12 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Peggy Burke RIP
		<b>7.00 pm</b>	<b>Choir Practice</b>
Wednesday	13 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Chloe Angela & Sue RIP
Thursday	14 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Paul Tomkins RIP
Friday	15 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Deceased Members of the Ellis Family
Saturday	16 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Eileen Ryan RIP
Sunday	17 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Janice Keyes RIP



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

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Ezekiel 33:7-9, St Paul to the Romans 13:8-10, Matthew 18:15-20

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Ecclesiasticus 27:30, 28:7, St Paul to the Romans 14:7-9, Matthew 18:21-35

**COLLECTIONS:** Church: £409 Digital Collection: £143 Thank you for your generosity  
There will be a Thank you and Appeal next weekend for Missio Red Boxes.

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Philip Jenkins, Sarah Johnstone, Brian Dunne, Ian Follett, Tony Kearney, Ella Doll, Paul Curd, Lola Samengo-Meehan, Maureen House, Joan Wand, Samuel Bezants, Thomas Boylan, John Mayock, Terry Stanley, Glenn, Helena & Vittorio Villa, Peggy Gallagher, Lena, Ken Harvey, Sienna Coates, Brian Caplin, Valerie Halley, Pat Duggan, Tony Grana, Sister Raymond, John Smith, Ian Threlfall, Lelia Murray, Mary Murphy, Brenda Peazold, Mary Wessel, Gordon Milne, Alfred Deacon, Roni Horstead, Ronnie Tyler, Bill Hogg, Michaela Finn, Winifred Lyons, Yvette Allen, Kerry McStravick, Lydia Van Melsen

**2. THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY:** JOHN DAVIDSON and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Ted Short, Roy Parker, Desmond Healey, Cyril Price, Pat Hare, Dawn Copping, Florence Morrell, James Wiley, Dr John Clarke, Bob Plumtree, Philip Shave, Kathleen Foley, Richard Barnard, Catherine Mansfield, William Hebdige, Anthony Woodman, Hilda Smith, Alan Soper, Bernard Bleach, *May they rest in peace and rise in glory.*

**3. EDUCATION SUNDAY** is celebrated this Sunday and we welcome staff and pupils from English Martyrs School

**4. CAFOD HARVEST SUPPER** will take place next Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September following the 6.00 pm Mass. The food will be delicious and there will be a raffle. Prizes would be welcome. Tickets will be on sale after all Masses **this** weekend Adults £8.00, Children £4.00. For further information please contact Teresa 01903 529260.

**5. MISSION RED BOX THANK YOU AND APPEAL:** Next weekend we will welcome Father Noah Monday Mbabazi to give a Red Box Appeal. Missio is the Pope's charity for World Mission and through the Red Box we support the Church around the world where it is young and in need. Please do consider supporting this important cause by taking a Red Box or signing up to give via Direct Debit.

**6. BEAUTIFUL HANDMADE CARDS** are now available in the shop. All proceeds will go to the Parish Mission in Kalingalinga, Lusaka

**7. ENGLISH MARTYRS SCHOOL** has organised a beach clean next Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September. Meet on the beach green opposite Withdean Avenue at 2pm. They would love members of the parish to join them. Equipment supplied, just bring suitable clothing and snacks and drinks and enthusiasm. Please see the link for more details or contact the school on 502868. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/677080304417?aff=oddtcreator>

**8. MARY'S MEALS COLLECTION POINT** is one of the small boxes under the notice board to the right in the Front Porch. It now costs £19.15 to feed one child for a year! Your donations will always be much appreciated.

**9. TURNING TIDES HARVEST WISH LIST** is appealing for the many items that they need in their Harvest4Homeless Wish List. Copies of the complete List are available in both porches. Some of the items on the list are: Coffee, Long-life Milk, Sugar, Carton juice – large/small, Ketchup, Brown Sauce, Cereals (not Oats), Marmalade, Jam, Cooking Oil, Custard, Rice Pudding, Cooking Sauces, Shampoo, Conditioner, Shaving Gels, Razors, Shower Gel, Deodorant, Toilet Rolls, Washing up liquid. Many thanks to anyone who is able to help.

**FATHER LIAM SAYS: Europe's oldest surviving monastery is on the island** of Lérins, in the south of France. A writer in about the year 415 reported that the rocky islands of the coast were inhabited by a strange new breed, scruffy fellows who had turned their backs on worldly pleasures. Sixteen centuries later, they are still there – though rather less scruffy. The man who founded this monastery was St Honoratus. Like most early monks he had been inspired by reading the life of St Anthony, the original Christian hermit in his cave in the Egyptian desert. Honoratus seems to have spent some years in Egypt before coming back to Europe in 410 and settling in Lérins.

The year 410 was a turning point in Western history. In that year an army of barbarians captured Rome. For centuries, peoples from outside the Empire had been making trouble. It was nearly 800 years since any foreign enemy had entered Rome. So the fall of the capital city came as a profound shock. The emperor had already left Rome because of its instability and had established a new capital in Constantinople, the city of Constantine, formerly Byzantium. St Jerome wrote about this new crisis: 'A remnant of us survives not by our merit but by the mercy of God. Innumerable savage peoples have occupied the whole of Gaul. Who could believe that Rome, on her own soil, fights no longer for glory but for her own existence – and no longer even fights but purchases her life with gold and precious things'.

The barbarians had much to learn from Rome but they had also a lively culture of their own. In the past historians tended to dismiss them as primitive but more recently they are viewed more positively. All of Europe's most ferocious migrants came from Scandinavia and the snowbound north gave them a strong reason to move elsewhere and so they came – Goths, Vandals, Angles, Saxons, Danes, Vikings, Norsemen. It was the Goths who reached Rome and sacked it in 410. The Vandals sacked it once again in 455. Perhaps some of the monks coming to join Honoratus on the island of Lérins did so to get away from a Europe that was falling into chaos. They could not have foreseen that they were, themselves, establishing a monastic tradition that would in the long term do much to restore order to Europe. Over the water in North Africa, St Augustine of Hippo was commenting on the developments. He was to become a hugely influential Christian theologian. He wrote his famous book 'The City of God' in response to the sacking of Rome in 410. How was it, people were asking, that Rome's walls had been breached after so many centuries? What had changed since the great days of the empire? Some said that what had changed was that the old gods of the empire had been abandoned. It was Christianity, the empire's new religion, which was to blame. So Augustine wrote his book to argue the Christian case. The fall of Rome, he said, was not really important because it was an earthly city. All that really mattered was the city of God and this could never fall because all of its citizens were immortal. Some were already in heaven. The faithful Christians still on earth must play their part in life but their real home was with God. They were in this world and yet out of it.

When Augustine died in 430, the Vandals were besieging his town of Hippo. Five years later they made it their North African capital. It needed remarkable faith to see anything but darkness in the future. But in the building of that future Lérins had its part to play. It is thought that while Honoratus was still alive St Patrick was a monk at Lérins and when he decided to take the faith to Ireland in 432 it was the eastern type of monasticism that he established there, which was noted for its rigid discipline. Monasticism flourished in Ireland under the influence of St Patrick. The Roman Empire and the Barbarian Invasions never reached Ireland, which was deemed too remote. It was perceived, of course, as the end of the earth.

The rest of Europe was overrun by the various tribes. The Angles and Saxons were among those who settled here. England of course, takes its name from the Angles. The Irish at the time, for some reason, were known as Scots while the inhabitants of Scotland were known as Picts. In these Celtic monasteries the monks were busy copying and illustrating the sacred texts. Some of the most beautiful of early Christian manuscripts were produced in their draughty cells. The monks wrote in the margins occasional complaints about their working conditions but the results were magnificent. We find remarks such as 'Twenty days to Easter Monday and I am cold and tired' 'Thin ink, bad vellum, difficult text'. 'Do not reproach me concerning the letters, the ink is bad, the parchment scanty, the days dark'.

Many left Ireland founding Celtic monasteries as far away as Switzerland and Italy. The first step had been across the Irish Sea to Iona where St Columba settled in about 563 with 12 disciples. Later some came down from Scotland into Northumbria and settled in Lindisfarne. In the sixth century Irish monks were at work all over Europe, helping to build up Christianity after the devastation of the barbarian tribes and had astonishing success. A less strict form of monasticism later came on the scene. It derived from St Benedict who established a monastery in Subiaco, forty miles from Rome soon after the year 500. In the valley of Subiaco, he established 12 monasteries and they played a huge part in unifying the new Europe. In 1964 Pope St Paul VI declared St Benedict the patron saint of Europe.

Pope Gregory the Great had been a Benedictine Abbot when he was elected Pope. He sent a party of monks from his former Abbey under Augustine to England in 596. The Celtic monks had been operating in the North of England and working southwards. The Roman monks centred in Canterbury were working northwards. They had many different viewpoints, especially about the date of Easter. The Synod of Whitby did much to iron out these differences in 664.