

## PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

12.11.2023

Father Liam O'Connor, 37 Compton Avenue,

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Presbytery 01903 242624 / Church repository 01903 506890

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

### Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	11 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Carmelina Cavalho RIP
Sunday	12 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Liz Harvey RIP
		3.00 pm	<b>SPUC Cream Tea</b>
Monday	13 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	In Thanksgiving for Venerable Mat Talbot
Tuesday	14 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Tony Casey RIP
		10.00 am	<b>An Advent Journey</b>
		7.00 pm	<b>Choir Practice</b>
Wednesday	15 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	<b>Rev John Carey RIP</b>
Thursday	16 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Rev Robert Ellis RIP
Friday	17 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Deceased relatives of the Bandy & Phillips Families
Saturday	18 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Peter Ayre RIP
Sunday	19 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Peter Boyle RIP



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

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Wisdom 6:12-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6; Matthew 25:14-30

**COLLECTIONS:** Church: £371 Digital Collection: £147 Retired Priests' Fund: £581

Thank you for your generosity.

Next weekend there will be a Second Collection for the Arundel Cathedral Maintenance Fund (Gift Aid)

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Sophie Abbott, Michelle Dielt, Helen Gillespie, Harold Forrest, Maria Brooks, Sarah Johnstone, 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, 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, Michaela Finn, Winifred Lyons, Yvette Allen, Kerry McStravick, Lydia Van Melsen

**2. THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY:** **BRIAN DUNNE** and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Maria Archer, Bernard O'Connor, Helenja Kamieniecka, John Biddles, Thomas Eze, Henry Weber, Baby Katie Wright, Elfriede Sinden, Jean Billing, Edith Pearce, Ruth Winter, Edith Carrod, Frances Fraser, Florence Peters. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory.*

**3. SPUC CREAM TEA** will take place in the Barn this Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 3pm in aid of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children. Tickets will be on sale this weekend £6 each. Raffle prizes gratefully received.

**4. CONFIRMATION 2023/24:** If you are in Year 10 or above and considering being Confirmed next year you are invited to join our preparation programme that will start with the Parent's Meeting on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00 pm and the first Confirmation Candidates Meeting on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November at 6.30 pm. Please collect an application form from the Sacristy and return, with a copy of your baptism certificate, to the Parish Office as soon as possible

**5. THE ANNUAL CONCELEBRATED REQUIEM MASS** for the deceased members of the Deanery Clergy will be held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 11.00 am at Our Lady Star of the Sea, East Preston. You are invited to make every effort to come to this very important annual occasion to remember in prayer the priests, now deceased, who once served in our Parishes.

**6. MINISTRY OF THE WORD FORMATION COURSE:** Everybody who proclaims the word of God in the liturgy needs, whether new to it or a long time minister, to reflect on the importance of what they are doing and to practice their proclamation. To assist with that there will be a Deanery 'Ministers of the Word Course' on Saturday 18 November from 10.30am-12pm at English Martyrs in the church. Numbers are limited. Please book by contacting Deacon Mark Woods on email [mark.woods@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:mark.woods@abdiocese.org.uk) or tel: 01903 877801.

**7. EXPLORING THE CATHOLIC FAITH** is a course aimed at those who are interested in exploring our faith in a relaxed informal setting with the aim to join or rejoin our Catholic family. Please phone the Parish Office on 01903 242624 or email Dermot: [dermot36@gmail.com](mailto:dermot36@gmail.com)

**8. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024:** 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 forms from the Sacristy and return it to the Parish Office as soon as possible. The first meeting for parents will be on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm in The Good Shepherd Chapel and the first lesson for the children will be on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January from 4.30 – 5.30 pm.

**9. AN ADVENT JOURNEY:** Focus on some of the key moments of the life of Christ as we Journey through to Christmas. We meet on Tuesdays at 10am for the next 6 weeks. For more information contact Dermot 07999488326 or Jane Anne 07765403883

**10. NOVEMBER – IS THE MONTH FOR HOLY SOULS:** The usual 'November envelopes' are available in both porches for those wishing to remember their loved ones at the Altar. Any donations will go towards offering Masses for the Holy Souls. Please fill in and hand in to the Sacristy as soon as possible.

**11. HOLY HOUR & BENEDICTION** will be reintroduced during Advent at 3pm on Sunday afternoons in the main church, for a time of quiet prayer for personal intentions and for peace in the world finishing with simple benediction. Please come and spend some time with Our Lord.

**12. THE CHURCH IS NOW CLOSED** to visitors to the ceiling until next April. Many thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who have so diligently greeted visitors and run the Repository – it is very much appreciated. The Repository will be open after Mass on a Friday morning as well as after each of the weekend Masses. A good place for Christmas cards etc

**13. 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.

**FATHER LIAM SAYS: The escalation of violence in Palestine since 7<sup>th</sup> October** has been unparalleled. On that day Hamas terrorists murdered some 1,400 Jews of all ages and took about 200 hostages. In retaliation, several thousands of Palestinians in Gaza have been killed and hundreds of thousands have been forced to flee from their homes. Countless homes have been destroyed and the supply of food, water, medication and fuel has been reduced to a trickle. The pounding of Gaza by the Israeli forces goes on relentlessly as they seek to put an end to Hamas. When Pope Francis made Mgr Pizzaballa, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, a Cardinal on 30<sup>th</sup> September no one could see how soon and how drastically the whole region would change. The newly created Cardinal offered himself in exchange for children taken hostage by Hamas in an effort to extend diplomatic leverage in the cause of reconciliation. It takes courage to be a Christian in the Holy land, especially when the numbers are so low. Christians in Israel and the Palestinian Territories number about 217,000 or 1.5 per cent of the population. They have been increasingly marginalised by Jews and Muslims over the years of tension and violence and many have left in search of a more peaceful life. In the aftermath of October 7<sup>th</sup>, the fear of Christians in the region spread far beyond Gaza and Southern Israel. Christians in the West Bank, who number about 37,000 are in a state of total shock and over 90% of pilgrims and visitors have left the country. Pilgrimages have been cancelled well into next year. This is a terrible crisis for many Christian families as 70% work in tourism. Many work as bus drivers, hoteliers and makers of religious objects. Many craft olive wood into rosaries, crosses and cribs. Many of you have bought some of the goods they have brought to our church. Many were already poor. Now they fear abject poverty. Fear of loss of business is compounded by the terror as the escalation of the conflict continues. The situation is little better in East Jerusalem, home to 10,000 Christians. Hotels are now used as barracks for the Reserve Army, as the tourists have left. Jerusalem is the holy city for Jews, Muslims and Christians. It should be a sign of peace and harmony for everybody. For Pope Francis, the dangers ahead could not be clearer. Pleading that everything be done to avoid the humanitarian catastrophe getting even greater he declared: 'War solves no problems. It only sows death and destruction, increased hatred, multiplies revenge. War erases the future.' Gaza's only Catholic Parish is dedicated to the Holy Family. There are about 150 Catholics taking shelter in their church and many more besides. Nearby is the Greek Orthodox church, which has 300 members being looked after. There are two priests caring for the Roman Catholics in Gaza. The Missionaries of Charity are working among them. These are the sisters founded by the now canonised Mother Theresa. Also there are Sisters of the Rosary looking after the disabled elderly. The Catholic charity for persecuted and other suffering Christians, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) is also trying to alleviate the distress all around. A further fear is that neighbouring countries could get drawn into the conflict. The Holy Family church in Gaza recently held a candlelight vigil to celebrate the baptism of a little child Daniel. Whatever lies ahead for Daniel and the other Christians and all those in the Holy Land, their very future depends on all sides working together to ensure that the region will enjoy a growth in peace and reconciliation. Anglicans in the occupied West Bank recently wrote to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, saying that for the first time in its 2,000-year history there was 'a serious threat to extinguish the Christian presence from Gaza.' If only the United Nations could show – even now – a strong commitment to address the root causes of the violence that has gone on for decades.