

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

26.11.2023

Father Liam O'Connor, 37 Compton Avenue,

Goring-by-Sea, West Sussex. BN12 4UE

Presbytery 01903 242624 / Church repository 01903 506890

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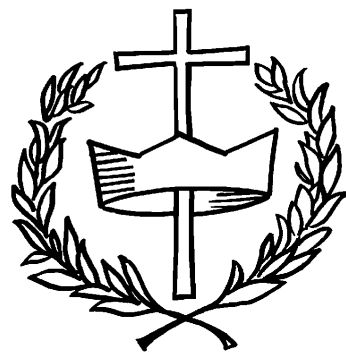
Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

Safeguarding Rep. Anne Niven 01903 242624

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

Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King

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|-----------|------------------|----------|------------------------------------|
| Saturday | 25 th | 6.00 pm | William & Doris Evans RIP |
| Sunday | 26 th | 8.15 am | Anne O'Connor RIP |
| | | 10.30 am | Peggy Gallagher RIP |
| Monday | 27 th | 9.30 am | Tony Casey RIP |
| Tuesday | 28 th | 9.30 am | Catherine Bandy RIP |
| | | 10.00 am | An Advent Journey |
| | | 7.00 pm | Choir Practice |
| Wednesday | 29 th | 9.30 am | Roger Davis RIP |
| Thursday | 30 th | 9.30 am | Michael Shiel |
| Friday | 1 st | 9.30 am | Intention of Adrian Burholt |
| | | 11.45 am | REQUIEM FOR BRIAN DUNNE RIP |
| Saturday | 2 nd | 6.00 pm | Piety & Melita Carvalho RIP |
| Sunday | 3 rd | 8.15 am | The Parish |
| | | 10.30 am | Matt Farrelly RIP |
| | | 3.00 pm | Holy Hour and Benediction |



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

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17, Corinthians 15:20-26, 28, Matthew 25:31-46

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1,3-8, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:33-37

COLLECTIONS: Church: £490 Digital Collection: £40 Arundel Cathedral Maintenance Fund: £304

Thank you for your generosity.

Next weekend there will be a Second Collection for HOMESTART – Special Gift Aid envelopes available in both porches Please see Note 9

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Camilla Jane, Sophie Abbott, Michelle Dielt, Helen Gillespie, Harold Forrest, Maria Brooks, Sarah Johnstone, 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 and those whose anniversaries occur about now: George Maw, Reginald Austin, Eileen Kavenagh, Anne McNamara, William Fleming, Douglas Hastie, Francis Cooke, Maisie Maloney, Joe Gunstone, Nick Sherman, Catherine Bandy, Walter Jackson, Frank Burns, Theresa Rhodes, Margaret Newman.
May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

3. CONFIRMATION 2023/24: The course has now started and meets on Tuesdays at 6.30 pm.

4. 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

5. 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 4th January at 7.30pm in The Good Shepherd Chapel and the first lesson for the children will be on Tuesday 9th January from 4.30 – 5.30 pm.

6. 'CURRY & CAROLS', full of Christmas festivities and a sing-along, will take place in the Barn on Saturday 9th 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!

MINISTERS ROTAS FOR DECEMBER AND CHRISTMAS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE SACRISTY

7. THE '100 CLUB' – This is your last chance to buy a number, after all Masses this weekend (£12 cash required). If you would like a second or third number to increase your chances of a win next Sunday, there should be a few available. Don't forget December's prizes are £25, £10 and three of £5.

8 A MESSAGE FROM HOMESTART Arun, Worthing and Adur: 'This year has been the toughest for so many local families trying to make ends meet whilst trying to do the best for their children. I am writing to ask you to consider us as a charity to receive an Advent collection this Christmas. We were overwhelmed by the support your congregation gave to our families last Christmas and would be so grateful for your support again. They made a significant difference to the lives of local families in need at what can often be a difficult time of year for many.' We will hold a Second Collection on the first Sunday in Advent (3rd December). Further information and Gift Aid envelopes are available in both porches. (This is the charity for which we used to leave toys under the Christmas Tree)

9. ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year and the community of English Martyrs parish are warmly invited to their celebration Mass in the school with Bishop Richard Moth on Wednesday 6th December at 9.30am. If you are able to join them please let them know by emailing office@englishmartyrs.school or telephone 01903 502868

10. GATWICK DETAINEES: we are asking initially for your thoughts and prayers regarding the Gatwick detainees, many of whom are housed in prison like conditions. This exacerbates the traumatising experiences and bereavements they have suffered in their own countries. We are looking into ways of helping more specifically in the near future especially within the worsening economic situation.

11. 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.

11. TURNING TIDES: Copies of the 'Christmas Hampers4Homeless Shopping List' are available in both porches. Please collect one and support the work of Turning Tides as they help the many homeless people in our area. Many thanks to all who are able to help.

FATHER LIAM SAYS: We are often reminded of the fact that a growing number of parishes no longer have a resident priest. When I was first ordained most parishes had at least two priests – sometimes more. Now it is unusual to have two priests, even in large parishes and the number of priests who serve two or three parishes is ever increasing.

One response to this situation in several dioceses around the country is to invite priests from other countries, such as Poland, Nigeria and India. This has the added advantage of bringing another experience of church and pastoral practice to bear on parishes. It gives parishioners a sense of being part of a global church. It can be quite a challenge for a priest from abroad to come and serve in a parish here. There would need to be an adequate support system. When Irish missionaries went abroad, they were mostly members of religious congregations, or diocesan priests who worked with existing missionary orders or societies. They were not lone rangers.

Sometimes priests speak of priest-less parishes. But is there such a parish? A parish is a community of baptised disciples of Christ. By Baptism we have been incorporated into the Body of Christ and so we are a priestly people. St Peter wrote to encourage newly baptised people in Asia Minor, Modern Turkey, stressing the dignity that baptism bestowed on them: 'You are a chosen race, a kingdom of priests, a holy nation, a people to be his personal possession to sing the praises of God who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light'. (1 Peter 2:9) But we need an ordained ministerial priesthood. 'Without our Sunday celebration we simply cannot live'. This is what Emeritus said when the 49 martyrs of Abitenae in North Africa gathered on the Lord's Day in violation of the decree of the emperor and suffered death as a result. The gathering (ecclesia, church) of Christians at the Table of the Lord is integral to our Baptismal Vocation. This is what Christ's disciples did from the earliest days of the Church in answer to Christ's invitation 'Do this in memory of me'.

We hear calls to pray for vocations to the priesthood. We seem to be almost saying to people that it is their fault that we are short of priests – you are not praying enough! Not enough of you are coming forward for the ordained priesthood! Perhaps Church authorities should be asking 'what do we need to change that our parishes will not be deprived of the celebration of the Eucharist each Sunday?' Our present system has not been divinely ordained. It has not always been like this. At the beginning, the early missionaries, following the example of St Paul and the others, stayed in places for a limited time and moved on – but not without ensuring that the newly formed communities could be nourished and formed at the Table of the Lord. Seminaries only began to exist 400 years ago. Are they the best answer?

Should we be inviting priests from areas of the world where the shortage of priests is even greater? About 19% of the world's Catholics are in Africa and they have about 12% of the Church's priests. Europe has about 20% of the world's Catholics and 40% of its priests. Asia has 11% of the world's Catholics and 17% of the Church's priests. Perhaps Asian countries such as India and the Philippines could be considered as sources of priests in the West. When we say that Europe has 40% of the world's priests, we should look at the age profile of its priests. The average age of priests in Europe is likely to be well over 60!

The permanent diaconate is a significant ministry in the Church. At the Second Vatican Council, when its re-introduction was being discussed, one of the reasons for doing so was that it would help the young Church in Africa. However, it was not availed of to any significant degree in Africa because the bishops there felt that it would impede the ministry of catechists, which was very well established on that Continent. As we know, the permanent diaconate is now firmly established in most dioceses in England. In our deanery there is at least one deacon in all of our parishes. We would welcome another deacon in our parish. If you know of someone whom you think might be a candidate, perhaps you could have an encouraging word with him.

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