

## PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

3.12.2023

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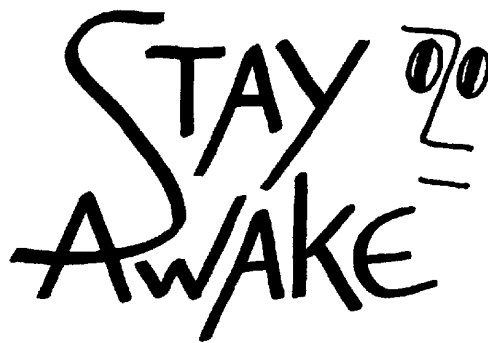
Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

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

### First Sunday of Advent

Saturday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	6.00 pm	Piety & Melita Carvalho RIP
Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Matt Farrelly RIP
		3.00 pm	Holy Hour and Benediction
Monday	4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Anne & Mike Steere RIP
Tuesday	5 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Tony Casey RIP
		10.00 am	An Advent Journey
		7.00 pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	6 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	NO MASS
Thursday	7 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	William & Patrick O'Toole RIP
		11.00 am	REQUIEM FOR MARY BROGAN RIP
Friday	8 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Michael O'Driscoll RIP
Saturday	9 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Elizabeth Cambell RIP
Sunday	10 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 am	Iago/Hudson Families RIP
		10.30 am	The Parish



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

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

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11, 2 Peter 3:8-14, Mark 1:1-8

**Friday is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

**COLLECTIONS:** Church: £504 Digital Collection: £ 70 Thank you for your generosity.

This weekend there will be a Second Collection for HOMESTART – Special Gift Aid envelopes available in both porches Please see Note 8

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Breda O'Connor, 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: Bridget White, Winifred Rose, Elizabeth Burtwell, Rob Connor, Leslie Hines, Rosa Ransley, Roy Pritchard, Angela McGowan, Bridget Daly, Margaret Mould, David Mitchell, Chris Boucher, Amelia MacDonald, Nancy Leonard, Harry King, Cesare de Nero, Ida Crowley, Evelyn Foster. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory.*

**3. 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.

**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](mailto:dermot36@gmail.com)

**5. 'CURRY & CAROLS'**, full of Christmas festivities and a sing-along, will take place in the Barn on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> 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 £10.00 Children £5.00 Raffle prizes please!

**6. ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL** is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary their celebration Mass in the school with Bishop Richard Moth on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am. If you are able to join them please let them know by emailing [office@englishmartyrs.school](mailto:office@englishmartyrs.school) or telephone 01903 502868

**7. THE '100 CLUB'** –This Sunday the first Draw will be drawn. 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 (3<sup>rd</sup> 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. CHRISTMAS DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES**

Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	- 7.00 pm - Curry & Carols Night
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	- 7.30 pm - Advent Reconciliation Service
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	- 7.00 pm - Christmas Carols and Mulled Wine
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	- 6.00 pm – 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	- 9.00 am – 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	- 6.00 pm - First Mass of Christmas especially for children
	- 9.00 pm - Mass preceded by Carols from 8.30 pm
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	- 8.15 am and 10.30 am Mass

**10. THE PARISH CAROL SERVICE** is on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm. It will be a festive opportunity for everyone to celebrate the coming of Christmas by taking part in our service of traditional carols and readings in the church, to be followed by refreshments of mulled wine and mince pies in the Barn. All are most welcome so please come and join us!

**11. 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.

**12. 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:** Our homes are the Church in miniature – they are the little church. Families have the privilege and task of seeking to make God present to each of its members and to the world.

The liturgy of the Church is the principal means by which most of us receive nourishment and strength for our task as Christians. The feasts and seasons of the Church year and the cycle of its worship and celebrations throughout the generations formed the basis for a Christian culture – a culture that is gradually being lost. Modern civilisation, for all its many benefits, seem to regard religious belief as quaint, at best. Many of our contemporaries regard religious rituals as evidence of ignorance and superstition. It is up to us who know the Lord and love his Church to bear witness to his love and presence in our world.

Many parents in particular are concerned about the excessive commercialisation of the Christmas Season. Most of us remember the Christmas celebrations of our childhood as being significant affirmations of our faith and spiritual values. Families today have an ever greater challenge to ensure that their celebration of Christmas truly brings them closer to Christ. Parents, hopefully with the assistance of their own parents, need to be pro-active to counteract the trivialisation of the great event of Christmas. We celebrate Christmas above all because we treasure Christ.

Advent means 'the coming'. It is about the coming of Jesus, our Saviour, into our world and how we are meant to respond to him. At our Sunday Masses we now begin to read from the Gospel of Mark – the earliest writer comprehensively to set before us the words and deeds of Christ. He will be the one who sets the Good News of Christ before us Sunday by Sunday for the next twelve months. Today's reading is about waiting for the return of the Lord when he comes again. This is the most prominent theme in the first weeks of the Advent Season; the importance of waiting in joyful hope for him. We do not begin today at the beginning of Mark's Gospel. The opening verses of the first chapter of Mark's Gospel will be heard next week. And he begins magnificently! He doesn't introduce himself. He does not tell us who he is. None of the four evangelists tell us who they are. Only later did the early Christians ascribe these writings to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The word 'Gospel' to describe these four New Testament writings has a very precise meaning. It refers to the fact that these accounts of Christ's life and death were written in the light of his Resurrection. But Mark pioneered the work of setting to [paper a comprehensive account of how God met mankind in the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. He begins with a glorious statement of his intention to tell 'the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God'.

His work is the beginning of the Good News. To proclaim 'good news' in the world of the Emperors of Rome was meant to announce an important message about the Emperor – such as his birthday or the birth of his son. Mark is announcing that the beginning or the foundation of the Good News is not about the Emperor but about Jesus. This was a brave statement to make. And in making it he was encouraging others to do the same – to proclaim Jesus. Jesus, Mark announces, is the Messiah, the anointed One, the one whom the Jewish scriptures foretold and whom the prophets spoke about. To his contemporaries Jesus was referred to as Jesus, son of Joseph or Jesus of Nazareth. Mark names him 'Son of God'. These opening words of the gospel alert right into the middle of Jesus coming into the world. This is why Mark wrote his Gospel and why he lived it. He shows us that Jesus' story didn't begin with his birth on earth. The Son of God, the Messiah, has no beginning and no end. Mark discovered a new way of conveying to others the beauty and truth of the Son of God, who shared our life. Perhaps parents might find in the Repository material to help them in passing on this treasure.