

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 Website: 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

Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday	9 th	6.00 pm	Sr Elizabeth Cambell RIP
Sunday	10 th	8.15 am	Iago/Hudson Families RIP
		10.30 am	The Parish
		3.00 pm	Holy Hour and Benediction
Monday	11 th	9.30 am	Bernard Bandy RIP
Tuesday	12 th	9.30 am	Antonin Beary7 RIP
		10.00 am	An Advent Journey
		7.00 pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	13 th	9.30 am	Lorraine Cawley RIP
Thursday	14 th	9.30 am	Bill & Nell O'Keeffe RIP
		7.00 pm	Advent Reconciliation Service
Friday	15 th	9.30 am	Intention of Sarah Johnstone
Saturday	16 th	6.00 pm	George & Nita Roe RIP
Sunday	17 th	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	John Davidson



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

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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11, St Paul to Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28

COLLECTIONS: Church: £312 Digital Collection: £68 HOMESTART: £776 Thank you for your generosity.

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, 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: JOHN MAYOCK and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Ester Park, Daphne Day, Desmond Monaghan, Mary Doran, Louis Hofmann, Raymond Dew, Frederick Franklin, Doris Dowling, Lilian Mutton, Mary Mackay, Ethel Baker, Margaret Mattingley.. *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 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.

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. CHRISTMAS DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Thursday 14 th December	- 7.30 pm - Advent Reconciliation Service
Tuesday 19 th December	- 7.00 pm - Christmas Carols and Mulled Wine
Friday 22 nd December	- 10.00 am Christmas Church Clean + Tea/Coffee & Mince Pies
Saturday 23 rd December	- 6.00 pm – 4 th Sunday of Advent
Sunday 24 th December	- 9.00 am – 4 th Sunday of Advent
Sunday 24 th December	- 6.00 pm - First Mass of Christmas especially for children
	- 9.00 pm - Mass preceded by Carols from 8.30 pm
Monday 25 th December	- 8.15 am and 10.30 am Mass

6. THE '100 CLUB' now has 100 members and the first draw took part on Sunday. Prize winners' names are in the main porch.

7. THE PARISH CAROL SERVICE is on Tuesday 19th 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. There will be a retiring collection for Home Start. All are most welcome so please come and join us!

THE ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE will be held here **this** Thursday, 14th December at 7.30pm. There will be a choice of confessors as there will be at the other Reconciliation Services in the Deanery. These are listed in both porches

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. TURNING TIDES: Copies of the 'Christmas Hampers4Homelssss Shopping List' are available in both porches. Everyday items are also needed: Coffee, Sugar, Long-life Milk, Carton juice - large and small, Ketchup, Brown sauce, Marmalade, Jam, Cooking Oil, Hot Chocolate, Tinned Ham, Corned Beef, Tinned Fish, Tinned Meat and Vegetarian Meals Fray Bentos Pies, Tinned Custard and Rice Pudding, Cooking Sauces, Breakfast Cereal Snack-bars, Snack Pots, Pot Noodles, Pasta-n-Sauce, Crisps, Biscuits, Sandwich Spreads, Peanut Butter, Marmite, Chocolate Spread. Also Toilet Rolls and Kitchen Roll, Toilet Cleaner, Washing-up Liquid, Washing Powder, All-purpose Cleaning Sprays, Dish-washer Tablets, Black Sacks, Head-torches, New Men's Boxers, New Socks/Thermal Socks - Men's and Women's. Many thanks to all who are able to help.

FATHER LIAM SAYS: In Tudor England before the Reformation of the 1530's the Season of Advent was a time of penitence, when people observed fasting to prepare themselves spiritually for the celebration of Christ's coming. On the Ember days – the Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays before Christmas, they were meant to avoid meat, cheese and eggs. The fast ended on Christmas Eve afternoon. The feasting that would begin on Christmas Day would be all the more appreciated after the restricted fare of Advent. Houses were not decorated until Christmas Eve when their homes were bedecked with holly and ivy as were their churches. The countryside and woodlands furnished a wide variety of greenery.

Until the early seventeenth century, the English Christmas was celebrated much as it had been in the Middle Ages. But after Henry VIII broke with Rome and made himself the Supreme Head of the Church in England in 1534, everything the Church had ever taught was brought into question. Christmas was seen by some reformers as pagan in origin and little more than an excuse for merriment. Many feast days and the veneration of Saints and Christmas itself became points of contention although Martin Luther, the father of the Reformation, remained attached to the marking of Christ's Nativity. The influential Swiss Reformer, John Calvin, was intent on purging Christmas of what he saw as the excesses traditionally associated with the feast. John Knox was an ardent, Scottish follower of Calvin and he was the driving force behind the Scottish Reformation in 1560. He wanted to worship only when specifically commanded in the Bible, not on the dates associated originally with a Roman God. He and the Puritans after him, pointed out that nowhere in the Scriptures was there any command or justification to celebrate the birth of Christ – especially on 25th December.

In Scotland, clear stands against Christmas were taken by the Kirk, the established church of Scotland in 1560, before the festival was abolished in 1583. It was reinstated by James VI and banned again in 1640. 'The Kirk within this Kingdom is now purged of all superstitious observations of days'. Christmas Day would not be a holiday again in Scotland until 1958 and Boxing Day not until 1974. The New Year's Eve festivity, Hogmanay, was by far the biggest celebration in Scotland.

The Reformation in England largely embraced Christmas. Carol singing declined, despite Martin Luther and other reformers encouraging the use of carols in worship. The mandatory Advent fast was no longer observed as it was now perceived as a Papist practice. The Reformed church believed that the time and manner of fasting should be left to the individuals discretion. Christmas rituals continued much as before until the reign of Henry VIII's son, Edward VI. But the Mass itself was given an entirely new meaning and form, with the outlawing of the celebration of the Catholic Mass. The very names of the great feasts, such as Christmas, Candlemas and Michaelmas, remind us of their essential link to the celebration of Mass.

Edward VI came to the throne at the age of 9 on the death of his father in 1547 and he reigned until 1553. He had been raised by Protestant Reformers with strong views against Catholicism. In 1550 Parliament ordered that all images be removed from churches and in 1552 the Act of Uniformity eliminated any vestiges of the old faith. Churches had been very colourful. It was usual that biblical scenes would be painted on the interior walls. When most people could not read and when the liturgy was celebrated in a language they could not understand, these paintings helped people to contemplate the great truths of the gospel. Now they were painted over and obliterated. The underlying paintings have, in some cases been rediscovered in the last century giving us a great insight into the worship and devotion of our ancestors.