

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

31.12.2023

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 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

The Holy Family

Saturday	30 th	6.00 pm	Frank Burns RIP
Sunday	31 st	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Mary & Jack Haugh RIP
Monday	1 st	9.30 am	No Mass
Tuesday	2 nd	9.30 am	The Parish
Wednesday	3 rd	9.30 am	Intention of Mick O'Sullivan
Thursday	4 th	9.30 am	Nora RIP & Thomas O'Toole & Family
Friday	5 th	9.30 am	Reg Marshall RIP
Saturday	6 th	6.00 pm	Deceased Relatives of Gina Marshall
Sunday	7 th	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Nicholas Murphy RIP



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

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Hebrews 11:8, 11-12,14-19; Luke 2:22-40

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6; Matthew 2:1-12 – The Epiphany of the Lord

Contributions to the Christmas Crib will be sent to the Friends of the Holy Land

THIS SUNDAY there will be a second collection for 'Turning Tides'

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Jim Simpson, 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 and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Ken Ellis, Father Enda Naughton, Lilian Willmoth, Marion Hack, John Bennett, Agnes Clarke, Phyllis Spratt, Thomas O'Meara, Janine North, Bob Carey, John Donald, Maureen Barrass, Patricia Wyant, Charles Simpson, Herbert Foreman, Beryl Snadden, Brenda McDonald, Donald Perriman, Peggy Smith, Fiona Hague, Kathleen McCarney, Mary Castanes, Anna De Vido, *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 **this** 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, which is the closing date for application.

4. YOUR OFFERINGS AT THE CHRISTMAS MASSES are your personal gift to Father Liam (Gift Aid applies). If you are not Gift Aiding, special envelopes are available in the Porch. Thank you very much for your generous offerings and seasonal good wishes.

5. THE 'CAFOD AUCTION' AND SUPPER EXTRAVAGANZA will be held in The Barn on Saturday 13th January 2024 at 7.00 pm following the 6.00 pm Mass. Please remember to save any 'surplus' gifts or unused items for the Auction. If you would like them to be collected, please contact Charles 01903 505546. Tickets will be on sale after all Masses **this** weekend price £10.00. Raffle prizes will also be gratefully received.

6. USED POSTAGE STAMPS FOR THE MISSIONS: As the Christmas Cards have arrived, please remember to rescue all those beautiful stamps, leaving about half an inch of envelope around the edges, (no more than this please as it makes them expensive to forward to the Missionary Society) and put them in the box in the Porch

7. WHAT IS YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION? Or should it be '**YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU!**' We are a busy parish with many good things happening in it but these only can happen if you are prepared to join in. At the moment help is needed with Flower Arranging, assistance with The Little Angels Mother and Toddler Group, the Music Group and Friendship in the Barn. At the beginning of April we open again to the public who wish to come and view the ceiling and our lovely stained glass windows. There is much to do but we really do need you to come and help where you can. Please contact Anne in the Parish Office for further information and with your offers of assistance

8. THE DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2024 is now available in the Repository price £5.00

9. Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Word – Saturday 20 January 2024

Bishop Richard will lead a day of reflection and formation for Ministers of the Word at Sacred Heart Church, Cobham, 11-4pm. Including Lectio Divina and Mass, plus talks on Sacred Scripture, the Liturgy of the Word, the Lectionary, and practical aspects of the ministry. Please register using the link W: [Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Word \(20-Jan-2024\) - ChurchSuite Events](#)

10. Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Eucharist – Saturday 10 February 2024

Bishop Richard will lead a day of reflection and formation for Ministers of the Eucharist at St Michael's, High Salvington, Worthing 11-4pm. The day will include theological and practical talks, Eucharistic Adoration and mass. Please register using the link W: [Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Eucharist \(10-Feb-2024\) - ChurchSuite Events](#)

NB To find out about and book events hosted by the Diocese please visit the Diocesan website events calendar W: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events>

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.

12. TURNING TIDES: Everyday items are always 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. Many thanks to all who are able to help.

FATHER LIAM SAYS: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph is obviously very different from any other family. But of course, every family is different from any other family. Families, like people, come in all kinds of shapes and sizes and our changing world has hastened the pace of our understanding of family. There will be a referendum in Ireland in March concerning family life. It has become increasingly obvious that the picture of the family that was envisaged in the Constitution of 1932 does not correspond to life as it is lived today. No doubt there will be much discussion and controversy as these issues are re-examined. Hopefully this will prove to be a very healthy exercise. The gospels have very little to tell us of the Holy Family. Jesus of course is at the very centre but not many words are put into the mouth of Mary and Joseph does not utter a single recorded word. Joseph comes and goes quietly. His role is to protect and support Mary and Jesus and what a wonderful role that was. But we all are called to be protectors – protectors of one another, protectors of the Good News entrusted to us, protector of Christian values and protectors of our environment and our planet.

In his book, 'Living Faith', the former U.S president Jimmy Carter writes about a group of Christians involved in missionary work. They came to a small village near an Amish Settlement. Seeking a possible convert they asked an Amish farmer. "Brother are you a Christian?" He thought for a moment and then said "wait just a few minutes." He wrote down a list of names and handed it to the missionary. "Here is a list of people who know me best. Please ask them if I am a Christian." Would we be ready to make our list? A New Year beckons. More importantly God beckons. He who is mighty has done great things for all of us, for all of his family. We all belong to his Holy Family and he expects us to play our part. He equips us to play our part.

Nelson Mandela, in his address as president of South Africa in 1994, said "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, talented and fabulous. Actually, who are you not to be, you are a child of God. Playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking, so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We were born to make manifest the glory of God within us. It is not just in some of us. It is in everyone. And as we let our own light shine we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear our presence automatically liberates others".

These words of Mandela are magnificent - they are scriptural. Did not Jesus say to all who listened to him. "you are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world", but we are afraid of our light. As never before we must embrace the light that Christ has given us. We are all needed to play our part in the life of our community and in the life of the Church. We are the Church. The bishop has been consulting with deaneries and other groups in the diocese for a number of years about how to get this message across. The time of consultation is over and he is emphasising the importance of forming our parishes into real communities committed to reaching out to one another and together build up God's Kingdom.

May I suggest that our New Year's Resolution should be this, that we liberate ourselves from what we fear and remind ourselves of who we are. The bishop is calling on all the parishes to be alert to the fact that a change to our way of thinking and acting is challenging and is a gospel imperative.