

## PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

14.01.2024

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## The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	13 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Jessica Forte RIP
Sunday	14 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 am	Sheila Bishop RIP
		10.30 am	Domini, Lourdu, Mary Mark, Magdaline RIP
Monday	15 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	The Parish
Tuesday	16 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Intention of Bella de la Croix
Wednesday	17 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Venustiano Viardo RIP)
Thursday	18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Alf Puttick RIP
Friday	19 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Bill O Keeffe RIP
Saturday	20 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Intention of Mary Murphy
Sunday	21 <sup>st</sup>	8.15 am	Julie Alfranan-Heron RIP
		10.30 am	The Parish



**SATURDAY:** Reconciliation: 10.15 -10.45 am and 5.15 - 5.45 pm

**TODAY'S READINGS:** 1 Samuel 3:3-10,19, 1 St Paul to 1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20, John 1:35-42

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Jonah 3:1-5, 10, 1 Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20

**COLLECTIONS:** Church: £440 Digital Collection: £70 Friends of the Holy Land (Crib Collection) £360  
Thank you for your generosity.

**THIS SUNDAY** there will be a second collection for SPUC – Please see Note 3 below

**NEXT SUNDAY** there will be a second collection for Mary's Meals See Note 4 below

**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: Sheila Bishop, Kathleen Bull, Anne Wapshott, Mary Bertolini, Michael Lambert, Michael Mills, Kathleen Smyth, Beatrice Wilson, Marie Terry, Geoffrey Gilbert, Margaret Scott, John Nolan, Alan Pockney, Phyllis Welling, Doug Headon, Andrea Pyle, Susan Perriman, Bernard Davy. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory.*

**3. WHITE FLOWER APPEAL 2024:** The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal this weekend. SPUC's vision is for a world where abortion is unthinkable. This year's appeal calls for the Government to end the pills-by-post DIY abortion policy. As well as ending the lives of precious babies, this policy lacks safeguards against illegal late-term abortions, and puts mothers at physical and psychological risk. 86% of GPs are concerned that this scheme leaves women vulnerable to coerced abortion. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC defend unborn babies and their mothers by highlighting this urgent crisis

**4. MARY'S MEALS – 'DOUBLE THE LOVE APPEAL':** Mary's Meals gives hope for the next generation because many illiterate families, frequently subsistence farmers, are unable to provide food for their children and they are keen that their children should learn and be enabled to become a nurse or a teacher. Mary's Meals provides porridge for school children, enabling them to grow well and make the most of their education. Donations made up to £1.1 million can now be matched until the end of January so you have time to make an even bigger difference. We will hold a Second Collection next weekend for Mary's Meals and Gift Aid forms and envelopes are available in both porches.

**5. WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY:** We have been invited by St Richard's Maybridge to join them on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 6.15 pm for Evening prayer with Songs from Taizé. Please see notice in each porch.

**6. ANNUAL DIOCESAN JUSTICE & PEACE ASSEMBLY** will take place on 27<sup>th</sup> January from 10.00 am – 1.30 pm at St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley, RH10 6RP. This year's assembly will address violence and abuse in our homes, families and wider community, with speakers from Restored, Lifecentre and Pax Christi.

**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>

**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. 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

**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:** 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 annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has been celebrated for over 100 years. It takes place from 18<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> January, concluding on the feast of the Conversion of St Paul. The suggested biblical texts for each year are decided by the World Council of Churches on the recommendation of a local Christian community. This year it was the turn of the Christians in Burkina Faso in West Africa and they have chosen the parable of the Good Samaritan, found in Luke's Gospel (10:25-37).

The key text from the Gospels is the prayer of Jesus at the Last Supper when he prays: 'I ask not only on behalf of these (at table with me) but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.' (John 17:20-21)

Sixty years ago the Second Vatican Council gave strong encouragement to work towards unity when it said that 'divisions among Christian communities openly contradict the will of Christ, scandalises the world and damages the holy cause of preaching the gospel to every creature.' Pope Francis, in 2016, had this to say: 'there cannot be an authentic search for Christian unity without trusting fully in the Father's mercy. We ask first if all for forgiveness for the behaviour of Catholics towards Christians of other churches, which has not reflected the Gospel values. At the same time I invite all Catholic brothers and sisters to forgive, if they today or in the past, have been offended by other Christians. We cannot cancel out what has happened but we do not want the weight of past faults to continue to contaminate our relationships. God's mercy will renew our relationships.'

In recent years ordinary people in Burkina Faso have suffered greatly from insecurity and terrorist attacks. However, rather than remain separated by traditional divisions 'a degree of solidarity is emerging between the Christian, Muslim and traditional religions. Their leaders are working to find lasting solutions for peace, social cohesion and reconciliation.'

It is good to read the whole parable – perhaps each day during the Octave of Unity – and pay attention to how it challenges us. The lawyer in Chapter 10 of Luke's gospel asked Jesus: 'who is my neighbour?' He would have been very surprised at Jesus answer. In the parable Jesus pointed out the person who proved to be a neighbour was not the priest, nor the Levite but a Samaritan. The Samaritan people and the Jews detested each other. In John's gospel (4:9) we are told that Jews do not associate with Samaritans. The lawyer, the priest and the Levite knew all the right words, but the Samaritan showed the right actions.

We are called to move beyond our prejudices, our insecurities, our fears. We are called to show the love of God to all people as he loves all people equally. In this way we can build peace and harmony and bear witness to Christ. Our neighbours are not just our close friends and family. They are also those 'not like us' who may be in need. We know how big the problem is for refugees and asylum seekers who are suffering like the man who fell among robbers. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity calls us to reflect on the words of Our Lord: 'You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.' The ones who might have been expected to know what God would want decided not to become involved. They wanted to keep this messy situation at a distance. They didn't want it to impinge on them.

As followers of Christ we are called to have the attitude of heart we see in the Samaritan. To see in a person in difficulty a sister or a brother needing compassion should move us to do for them what we would want others to do for us.

For information, resources and prayers visit [www.olkoumene.org/resources](http://www.olkoumene.org/resources)