

## PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

7.01.2024

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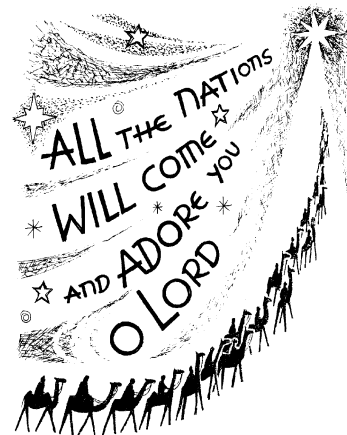
Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

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

### The Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday	6 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Deceased Relatives of Gina Marshall
Sunday	7 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Nicholas Murphy RIP
Monday	8 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Intention of Sophie Abbott
Tuesday	9 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Intention of Clive Robinson
Wednesday	10 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Mrs Macari RIP
Thursday	11 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Margaret & Edward Seary RIP
Friday	12 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Theresa McHaffie RIP
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



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

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

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

**COLLECTIONS:** Church: £418 Digital Collection: £70 Turning Tides: £603 Thank you for your generosity.

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

**NEXT SUNDAY there will be a second collection for SPUC – Please see Note 5 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: Catherine Bennett, Anna Rofo, Lilian Shaw, Adriana Gaboli, Elvira Kelly, Janine Leyder, Marianne Fisher, Jessie Patten, Kathleen Page, Sarah Finnegan, Ella Turnbull, Robert Barber, Ruby Bernardi, John O'Brian, Kathleen Bennett, John Evans, David Sheldon, Elizabeth Coleman, Johnny Johnson, Edith Murphy, Edward Hatton, Winifred Pearce, Bernard Hagel, John Flood, Philip Gilpin, Andrée Price. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory.*

**3. THE 'CAFOD AUCTION' AND SUPPER EXTRAVAGANZA** will be held in The Barn next Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

**4. WHITE FLOWER APPEAL 2024:** The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal next 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

**5. THE WORD WHO IS LIFE: The Call to Mission:** Bishop Richard's third 'The Word who is Life: The Call to Mission' has been released on the Diocesan website. If you would like to find out more about the Pastoral Plan please join Bishop Richard's Pastoral Plan webinar on 10<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30 pm, using the following link (There is no need to register): <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86457734895>

**6. ENGLISH MARTYRS 100 CLUB DRAW** will take place in the Barn after the 10.30 am Mass today.

**7. 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.

**8. 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>

**9. 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

**10. 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

**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:** Most people have now disposed of Christmas trees and lights and decorations. Christmas carols are no longer to be heard on the Radio. Even though this is the twelfth day of Christmas, for many Christmas is well and truly over. Shops and media have been bidding us to prepare for Christmas months before the event but then switch off from it within days once December 25<sup>th</sup> arrives. The Church, on the other hand, adopts a very different approach. In the weeks before Christmas, there are few, if any, flowers in our churches and we don't sing Christmas Carols or even the Gloria before Christmas Day. O Come, O Come Emmanuel is an Advent carol and together with the Advent wreath, serves to remind us to prepare for the great Feast of the Nativity. But with the Feast of the Epiphany we have one more staging of the Christmas Mystery.

Matthew is the only scriptural source for today's great feast. In the Church of the East, Epiphany is the Real Christmas. Epiphany is a Greek word meaning 'Manifestation' or 'Revelation' – the parting of the veil to show us who Christ is that has come for all people – for the whole world. In Luke's Gospel the first to come to worship the newborn Saviour were the Jewish shepherds. Matthew wanted to emphasise that the Messiah had come not to one people but to the whole world. So he brings before us these exotic Magi who were led by a star to worship the Saviour of the world. The star brought them into unknown territory and to an unknown King. The true significance of the King will only be fully revealed at his Resurrection. The Epiphany is not the fullest revelation of his glory. And his glory is only manifested after his suffering and death on the Cross.

Ancient as the feasts of Christmas and Epiphany are, they were not the first feasts that the early Christians observed. Easter was always seen as the supreme feast and every Sunday was observed as a reflection of Easter. In the early centuries and right up to the present, there has been no unanimity as to when precisely the date of Easter should be celebrated. The Church in the East uses a different system of determining it than we do in the West. The first Easter of course, coincided with the Jewish feast of the Passover and so the Christians are not in accord with one another nor with the Jewish world on when exactly that date should be.

Because of the importance of determining when Easter was to be celebrated each year, it was customary in the Western Church to solemnly announce in advance the date of the feast. This was done on the Feast of the Epiphany each year. It still may be proclaimed in some places, even by singing. Even though calendars give the date of Easter and the other Feasts in the liturgical year for many years in advance, this was not always the case. This is the text for 2024 of the proclamation of the Date of Easter on the Epiphany.

'Dear brothers and sisters, the glory of the Lord has shone upon us and shall ever be manifest among us until the day of his Return. Through the rhythms of times and seasons let us celebrate the mysteries of salvation. Let us recall the year's culmination, the Easter Triduum of the Lord: his Last Supper, his crucifixion, his burial and his Rising, celebrated between the evening of the twenty-fourth of March and the evening of the thirty-first of March. Each Easter as on each Sunday, the Holy Church makes present the great and saving deed by which Christ has forever conquered sin and death. From Easter are reckoned all the days we keep holy. Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, will occur on the fourteenth of February. The Ascension of the Lord will be commemorated on the ninth of May. Pentecost, the joyful conclusion of the Season of Easter will be celebrated on the nineteenth of May. And this year, the First Sunday of Advent will be on the first of December. Likewise, the pilgrim Church proclaims the Passover of Christ in the feasts of the Holy Mother of God, in the feasts of the Apostles and saints and in the commemoration of the faithful departed. To Jesus Christ who was, who is and who is to come, Lord of time and history, be endless praise for ever and ever Amen'.