

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

11.08.2024

Father Liam O'Connor, 37 Compton Avenue,

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

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	10 th	6.00 pm	Intention of Jacintha Evans
Sunday	11 th	8.15 am	Ella Doll RIP
		10.30 am	The Parish
Monday	12 th	9.30 am	No Mass
Tuesday	13 th	9.30 am	No Mass
		7.00 pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	14 th	9.30 am	No Mass
Thursday	15 th	9.30 am	Ann Bandy RIP
		7.30 pm	Maria Petter RIP
Friday	16 th	9.30 am	No Mass
Saturday	17 th	6.00 pm	Intention of Maureen & Lynch
Sunday	18 th	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Intention of T Moloney



SATURDAY: Reconciliation: 5.15 - 5:45 pm

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Kings 19:4-8, Ephesians 4:30-5:2, John 6:41-51

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Apocalypse 11:19, 12:1-6.10; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26; Luke 1:39-56

COLLECTIONS: Church: £472 Dona: £ CAFOD: £722 Thank you for your generosity.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Shirley Bradbury, Bryan Johnstone, Terence Wheeler, Sue Withnell, Mirille Byrne, Peter Honiball, David Lancaster, Jim Simpson, Camilla Jane, Sophie Abbott, Michelle Dielt, Helen Gillespie, Harold Forrest, Maria Brooks, Tony Kearney, Paul Curd, Lola Samengo-Meehan, Maureen House, Joan Wand, Samuel Bezants, Terry Stanley, Glenn, Helena & Vittorio Villa, Lena, Ken Harvey, Sienna Coates, Brian Caplin, Valerie Halley, Pat Duggan, John Smith, Ian Threlfall, Lelia Murray, Mary Murphy, Noel & 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: John Dunn, William McKenna, Bridget Brennan, Betty Woolford, Adrian Thatcher, Derek Green, Christine Nolan. Max Bullock, Renee Russell, Lottie-Mae, Ann Bandy, Toal Gallagher, . *May they rest in peace and rise in glory.*

3. WELCOME TO ANY VISITORS to our Parish this weekend. We do hope that you have enjoyed your stay.

4. THIS WEEKEND we welcome Father Chris Benyon who will be saying the weekend Masses for us.

5. CATECHISTS DAY is for all catechists and those involved in adult formation across our parishes: a day of formation, reflection and networking will take place on Saturday 21st September at Worth School and Abbey from 11.00 am until 4.00 pm. Refreshments available from 10.30am. During the day, we will be spending time reflecting on our personal faith and our role in passing on that faith to others. We will hear inspirational talks and have time to reflect and share with others in the beautiful setting of Worth. More information to follow and will be emailed to sign-ups. Any queries please email E: jon.harman@abdiocese.org.uk

6. MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES MASS will take place on Saturday 12th October at the Cathedral of Our Lady and St Philip Howard at 11.30 until 2.00 pm. Are you celebrating an anniversary with a particular significance for you this year? Bishop Richard will celebrate Mass at 11.30am followed by a small drinks reception. Please join us for a wonderful opportunity to renew your wedding vows. Family and friends are very welcome. The venue is wheelchair friendly with a number of disabled parking spaces. Please note that photographs will be taken at this event. Pictures may feature in the weekly E-Bulletin, the diocesan Flickr feed or as a part of a news story on our website. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Head of Communications at E: communications@abdiocese.org.uk

7. BEAUTIFUL HANDMADE CARDS are now available in the shop. All proceeds will go to the Parish Mission in Kalingalinga, Lusaka

8. HAVE YOUR PRAYERS BEEN ANSWERED? If so and your loved one has recovered but is on the list in Item 1 please let Anne in the Office know so that the name can be removed – 01903 242624

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 HARVEST FOOD APPEAL has been split in three: 'A Breakfast Boost'; a Lunchtime Bite and a Super Supper. Copies of each are available in both porches. Please take one if you are able to help. Your help is always appreciated, especially at this time of the year when they are trying to fill the store cupboards.

Father Liam says: What is the Nursery Rhyme 'Baa, Baa, Black Sheep' all about? In case you may need reminding, this is how it goes:

'Baa, baa, black sheep have you any wool?
Yes, sir, yes sir, three bags full;
One for my master and one for the dame
And one for the little boy who lives down the lane.'

This poem had a different last line until at least 1765. It seems that it was altered to make it more pleasant for young ears. The last line originally was 'And none for the little boy who cries in the lane.' Sheep have been extremely valuable to the English economy for well over a thousand years. The wool trade in England was already thriving by 1086 when the Domesday Book recorded that many flocks across the country numbered more than two thousand sheep. By the late twelfth century, sheep farming was big business and many towns had become thriving centres of production. Many splendid churches give evidence of the prosperity that the sheep industry brought to their area. Flocks as many as seven or eight thousand sheep were to be found, each tended by a dozen full-time shepherds. English wool was regarded as the best in the world. Much of the wool produced was exported to Europe where it was dyed and woven into high quality cloth. England had a growing number of wealthy wool merchants. Monasteries often had large flocks of sheep which meant that they too grew very wealthy.

King Edward I imposed new taxes on the exports of wool to fund his military campaigns and keep the royal coffers in a healthy state. In 1275 the Great Custom was introduced. This was a Royal tax of six shillings and eight pence (1/3 of a pound) per wool sack. It was this wool sack that is thought to be the basis of Baa, Baa, Black Sheep. One third of the price of each sack went to the King, (the Master) and two thirds to the landowner – often the church or the monasteries (the Dame) and none to the actual shepherd (the little boy who cries down the lane. Rather than being a gentle song about sharing things out fairly, it is a bitter reflection on how unfairly things were being managed.

A black lamb in a flock was not looked upon favourably as its fleece could not be dyed and was therefore less valuable than those of white lambs. This had given rise to disruptive children being sometimes being called 'the black sheep' of the family.

What are we to make of Hey Diddle Diddle? Like so many other 'nonsense poems', it has been understood in different ways – or simply not understood at all. Here it is:

'Hey diddle diddle, the cat and the fiddle,
The cow jumped over the moon.
The little dog laughed to see such fun
And the dish ran away with the spoon.'

One theory says that it refers to Queen Elizabeth I (1533-1603). Apparently, she was well known for giving members of the Court nicknames. She herself is the cat in the rhyme and other characters in her entourage were known as the moon, the cow and the lap dog.' The spoon was thought to be the Royal food taster and the dish was the Queen's serving girl. Members of the Court were obliged to marry only someone of whom the monarch approved. When the food taster and the serving girl eloped (the dish ran away with the spoon) the furious Queen had them hunted down and they were thrown into the Tower of London.

Another interpretation is the idea that the entire 'Riddle' is in fact a lesson in stargazing. There are, it seems, certain nights of the year, usually in April, when particular constellations all appear close to the moon at the same time. The line-up is the Cat (Leo), the Cow (Taurus), the Little Dog (Canis Minor), the Dish (Crater – a dish-shaped constellation) the Spoon (Ursa Major, on the plough) the Fiddle (Lyra) and the Moon. Some think the rhyme was developed to remind children of the planting season in early Spring. When all the constellations line up close to the Moon in the night sky, then it is time for farmers to sow their seeds.

We can fit a ladybird in!

Ladybird, ladybird, fly away home.
Yours house is on fire and your children are gone.
All except one, who is called little Ann,
For she has crept under the frying pan.

This black and red spotted beetle is a great favourite of children. It is considered lucky if one happens to land upon your hand. But why would anyone want to tell a ladybird that her family is being destroyed by fire, especially when it is most likely untrue. For centuries, farmers and gardeners have welcomed the appearance of ladybirds as they eat aphids that might otherwise damage plants and crops. Maybe the rhyme is meant to encourage ladybirds to leave their land at the end of the harvest before the stubble was set on fire. But there may be more to it! The word ladybird in facts derives from a Catholic name for the Virgin Mary – Our Lady. The rhyme may have been a warning to Catholics who refused to conform to the Acts of Uniformity (1549-59). Many would attend Mass secretly, often outdoors or in barns. This defiance could lead to all kinds of persecution and many were put to death.

*May God Bless you,
Fr. Liam.*