

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

8.12.2024

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

Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday	7 th	6.00 pm	Deceased Relatives of Gina Marshall
Sunday	8 th	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Valentina Jukuma RIP
Monday	9 th	9.30 am	Bernard Bandy RIP
Tuesday	10 th	9.30 am	Intention of Sue Withnell
		7.00 pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	11 th	9.30 am	Jacqueline Davidson RIP & Family
Thursday	12 th	9.30 am	Intention of Jesvin
Friday	13 th	9.30 am	Wellbeing of Sharon McClusky
Saturday	14 th	5.15 pm	Rosary for Peace and Justice
		6.00 pm	George & Nita Roe RIP
Sunday	15 th	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Alistair Martin RIP



SATURDAY: Reconciliation: 10.15 – 10.45 am and 5.15 – 5.45 pm

TODAY'S READINGS: Baruch 5:1-9, Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11, Luke 3:1-6

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Zephaniah 3:14-18, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:10-18

COLLECTIONS: Church: £459 Dona: £154 Homestart: £726 Thank you for your generosity.

This weekend there will be a Second Collection for LEPRO (See Note 3),

Next Sunday there will be a Second Collection for Mary's Meals

Special Gift Aid envelopes available in both porches. (See Note 8)

Monday is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Frances Boylan, Natasha, Laura Allen, David Hall, Baby Ava Lily Jaswal, Andy Curd, David Steadman, Paul & Veronica Williams, Shirley Bradbury, Brian 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 & Kathleen Kearney, Lola Samengo-Meehan, Maureen House, Joan Wand, Samuel Bezants, Glenn, Helena & Vittorio Villa, Lena, Sienna Coates, Brian Caplin, Valerie Halley, Pat Duggan, John Smith, Ian Threlfall, 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: Amelia MacDonald, Nancy Leonard, Harry King, Cesare de Nero, Ida Crowley, Evelyn Foster, Ester Park, Daphne Day, Desmond Monaghan, Mary Doran, Louis Hofmann, Raymond Dew, Frederick Franklin, Doris Dowling, Lilian Mutton.
May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

3. LEPROSY is a disease that affects the nerve endings in the hands and feet and can affect the blink reflex of the eyelids. If not treated early enough it can cause life-changing disabilities and even blindness. One-in-two people diagnosed with leprosy suffer moderate to severe depression and anxiety due to the prejudice and discrimination associated with the disease. Evidence shows over 3 million people are living with undiagnosed leprosy. Over 4 million people are living with a life-changing disability caused by leprosy and today 500 people will be diagnosed with Leprosy and 28 of those will be children. *But it is curable!*

4. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024: Please collect a letter and application form from the Sacristy and return it to the Parish Office as soon as possible. The first meeting for parents will be on Thursday 2nd January at 7.30 pm in the church and the first lesson for the children will be Tuesday 7th January from 4.30-5.30 pm

5. THE BIG CHURCH CLEAN will take place on Friday 20th December at 10.00am and needs you to come and help! Tea/Coffee and Mince Pies for all when the church sparkles!

6. ADVENT COURSE: "Journeying with the holy family through Advent" started last Tuesday, at 10:10 immediately after Mass. Please contact Dermot and Jane Anne or Dermot 36@gmail.com or (07999) 48832 for further information.

7. ADVENT MASS AT ENGLISH MARTYRS PRIMARY SCHOOL: Parishioners are warmly invited to attend an Advent Mass at English Martyrs Primary School on Thursday 19th December at 2pm.

8. MARY'S MEALS literally changes the lives of hungry people, like Chimba Daniel, from Zambia. The former Taonga Primary School pupil embodies the true and lasting impact of our nutritious school meals. He says: "The most important part of my time at school was the introduction of Mary's Meals' porridge. The introduction of the porridge changed my life from nobody to somebody." Chimba Daniel now teaches as a volunteer at Taonga Primary School, and he has applied to university to study medicine. He wants to be a surgeon. He continues: "I used to forget a pen ... but never a cup! The porridge made me the person who loved being in school the most. All donations made this month will be doubled, so please be as generous as you are able."

9. CHRISTMAS DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Thursday 19th December - 7.30 pm - Advent Reconciliation Service
Friday 20th December - 10.00 am - The Big Church Clean
Friday 20th December - 7.00 pm - Christmas Carols and Mulled Wine
Tuesday 24th December - 6.00 pm - First Mass of Christmas especially for children
- 9.00 pm - Mass preceded by Carols from 8.30 pm
Wednesday 25th December - 8.15 am and 10.30 am Mass

10. USED POSTAGE STAMPS FOR THE MISSIONS: As the Christmas Cards start arriving please remember to rescue all those beautiful stamps, leaving about half an inch of envelope around the edges, and put them in the box in the Porch so that they can be used to raise money for the Missions

11. TURNING TIDES 'HELP US TO WRAP UP WINTER WARMER WISHLIST 2024': Warm/Compact Sleeping Bags, Pop Up Tents, Waterproof & Rain Resistant Jackets, Thermals Flasks/Insulated Mugs, Joggers/Hoodies & T-Shirts, Gloves, Socks, Boxers (NEW), Head Torches, Shampoo, Body Wash, Body Wipes, Deodorant. If you are able to help, please leave the items in the box in the West Porch. They will be gratefully received by all those who need them. Many thanks for your help

Father Liam says: 'Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, Bless the bed that I lie on'. This little rhyme refers to probably the most famous group of four people in all of history. For almost two thousand years they have been revered by all followers of Christ for having given us the Gospels - these uniquely precious accounts of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Other accounts were written also by various people in the early Church but these accounts were never recognized as having anything like the same authority as those of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. From the early centuries they were declared by the Church to be inspired by God and they hold pride of place in the Sacred Scriptures – the Bible. The accounts they have written have always been given the name 'Gospel' in English, which literally means 'Good News'.

We show special respect for the reading of the Gospel at every Mass by standing while it is proclaimed. On Sundays the Book of the Gospels is usually carried into the church at the beginning of Mass with lighted candles. The Book of the Gospels contain the selections that are read at Mass on Sundays and major Feast days. This year the Sunday Gospels will usually be from the Gospel according to Luke. The liturgy does not use the words 'Luke's Gospel' or 'the Gospel of Luke'. The implications are clear: these are not different Gospels. We have the same Good News communicated to us by these four divinely inspired writers.

Very often the reading proclaimed before the Gospel on Sundays comes from one of the Letters of St Paul. Paul's letters were all written before the first of the Gospels – that of Mark – was written. In his letters he often speaks of the gospel or good news. It had, even then, become a recognized way of referring to the message which he and the other earliest missionaries preached. This was the usage that Mark picked up at the very beginning of his gospel: 'The beginning of the gospel about Jesus the Messiah, Son of God' (1:1) It was probably from this usage that the name Gospel was transferred to the actual writing itself.

The four gospels make no attempt to tell us the details of Jesus life. Mark and John begin their accounts when Jesus is already thirty years old – at the start of his public ministry. The concern of all four gospel writers – the evangelists – is to impress upon us, who Jesus really is and how he accomplished his mission by his message and ministry and by his suffering, death and resurrection. Only Matthew and Luke contain narratives of Jesus' infancy and these were included to throw light on who Jesus was and how he is the fulfillment of the Jewish prophecies of the Messias and Saviour. They are not biographies. They were written in the light of the Resurrection to help people to recognize Jesus as the Messiah and as truly the Son of God. John concludes his gospel by telling us that 'these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messias, the Son of God and that through believing you may have life in his name. (20:35)

Luke, whose Gospel we will hear proclaimed on most Sundays this year, wrote a sequel to his Gospel. It is frequently called 'The Acts of the Apostles'. The proper name is 'Acts of Apostles'. Like all the books of the New Testament it was written in Greek. To give it its proper name is important, because it sets out to tell us about the acts of some of the Apostles. Luke accompanied Paul on some of his missionary journeys so he mainly tells us about Paul's ministry but he also – before that – has much to tell us about Peter and his ministry in the infant Church.

Luke, it is thought, wrote his gospel around 85AD. He was a physician and was a gentile – the only non-Jewish writer in the Scriptures. He sets out his purpose in writing at the beginning of his work: 'Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the Word, I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account'. (1:1-4)