

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

15.12.2024

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

Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday	14 th	6.00 pm	George & Nita Roe RIP
Sunday	15 th	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Alistair Martin RIP
Monday	16 th	9.30 am	Intention of Jeslin
Tuesday	17 th	9.30 am	Nick Sherman & Family
		7.00 pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	18 th	9.30 am	Intention of Jeslin
Thursday	19 th	9.30 am	The Parish
Friday	20 th	9.30 am	Gillian Keevill RIP
		11.00 am	REQUIEM FOR LELIA MURRAY RIP
Saturday	21 st	6.00 pm	Wellbeing of Daniel McCluskey
Sunday	22 nd	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Humphrey Niven RIP



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

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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Micah 5:1-4; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-44

COLLECTIONS: Church: £349 Dona: £63 LEPR: £356 Thank you for your generosity.

This weekend there will be a Second Collection for Mary's Meals,
Special Gift Aid envelopes available in both porches. (See Note 4)

Next Sunday there will be a Second Collection for Church Christmas Flowers

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: Mary Mackay, Ethel Baker, Margaret Mattingley, Noel Melling, Nora Murphy, Margaret Wadsworth, Inge Carey, Edna Turberville, Cyril Marshall, Muriel Day, Hetty Smith, Kathleen McDonagh. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory.*

3. CURRY & CAROLS EVENING IN AID OF THE PARISH PROJECT. Many thanks to all those who prepared and cooked such a delicious meal and to those who supported the evening in any way. An amazing £971 was raised for Kalingalinga

4. 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."

5. THE BIG CHURCH CLEAN will take place on Wednesday 18th December at 10.00am and needs you to come and help! Tea/Coffee and Mince Pies for all when the church sparkles!

6. THE ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE will be held here **next** Thursday, 19th December at 7.00pm. There will be a choice of confessors as there will be at the other Services in the Deanery. These are listed in both porches

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. THE PARISH CAROL SERVICE is this Friday 20th December at 7pm followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies in the Barn – a lovely stat to the Christmas week. All are very welcome.

9. KEEPING CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS: Worthing Knights of St Columba have provided Christmas posters, available in both porches, and ask that they are displayed as an act of Christian witness.

10. 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

10. CHRISTMAS DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Thursday 19th December - 7.30 pm - Advent Reconciliation Service
Wednesday 18th 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

11. 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

12. 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: What was Jesus' homeland like? The Palestine of his time was divided up into three provinces – Judea, Galilee and Samaria – all of which were under Roman Rule. It had become part of the Roman Empire in 64 BC. The Herod family were chosen by Rome to rule Galilee and other parts of Palestine on their behalf because their understanding of Jewish customs and religion would be useful in keeping the peace. When Herod the Great died shortly before the birth of Jesus, he had decreed that his three sons would govern Palestine between them. Antipas rules over Galilee from 6 BC until his death in 37 AD and he appears in the Gospels. He is most noted for his confrontation with John the Baptist. John denounced Antipas for divorcing his wife and marrying her sister. John was arrested and beheaded. Jesus rebuked Antipas as 'that fox' (Luke 13:31) and appeared before him during his trial (Luke 23:6-16). He was responsible for the death of the Apostle James, the son of Zebedee and for the early persecution of the Church. Galilee was a green and fertile province, different from Samaria with its austere hills and from Judea with its harsh and rugged countryside. Nazareth was in the hills. Nearby was Sepphoris, the Capital of Galilee at that time. The Sea of Galilee was an immense lake with three important cities around it – Capernaum, Magdala and Tiberias. The lake region was a rich and relatively densely populated area, rich in fish. Galilee at the time of Antipas had no more than 150,000 inhabitants.

The Jewish historian Flavius Josephus has left us a glowing description of Galilee. He knew it well as he was the general in charge of defending the Galilean territory against the Roman invasion in 66 AD. This is what he said about the 'lake region' so often travelled by Jesus: 'Extended along the Lake of Gennesaret is a land of the same name, admirable for its natural beauty. The fertility of the terrain supports all kinds of vegetation. Its inhabitants cultivate the whole area. Moreover, its climate is good for all kinds of plants. Walnuts, which need a cooler climate than other trees, flower in abundance here. There are also palm trees, which need higher temperatures. Not far away we find figs and olives, which require a more moderate climate. One might say that nature has worked to bring the most incompatible species together here, in one place, or that the seasons of the year compete with each other in a noble struggle to claim the rights of each one to this land. Not only does the soil produce the most diverse fruits but it strives to keep them ripe as long as possible. The noblest of them, the grapes and figs, are gathered without interruption over a period of ten months. Because, along with the gentle climate, the fertility of this land is nourished by an artesian well, to which the people have given the name Capernaum'.

Even if Flavius Josephus was exaggerating somewhat, we can easily see how beautiful Jesus' homeland was. It produced excellent wheat and barley. Barley was bitter and hard to digest and so comprised the daily bread of the poorest people. In the lake region, where Jesus was much at home, fishing was important. The families of Capernaum, Magdala and Bethsaida made their living from the lake. People fished with different types of nets, traps and spears. Many used boats. The poorest of them fished from the lakeside. Their work was watched by the tax collectors of Antipas, who charged for fishing rights and access to the docks. It seems that neither foreign trade nor local commerce was important in the Galilee of Jesus time. Transport was difficult and costly. Land ownership was vitally important. The Romans demanded tribute from the people who worked the land. Antipas himself owned vast holdings of land. The large landowners usually lived in the cities and rented out the land at oppressive terms. There were many people who lived by looking for work from day to day and begging. Jesus knew this world well as we can see from so many of his parables.