

## PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

22.12.2024

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

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday	21 <sup>st</sup>	6.00 pm	Wellbeing of Daniel McCluskey
Sunday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Humphrey Niven RIP
Monday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30 am	Kevin Lydon RIP
Christmas	24 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Intention of Samuel Bezants & Family
Eve		9.00 pm	The Parish
Christmas	25 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 am	Roger Davis RIP
Day		10.30 am	Wellbeing of Sharon McCluskey
Thursday	26 <sup>th</sup>		No Mass
Friday	27 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Nora O'Toole & Family RIP
Saturday	28 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	The Parish
Sunday	29 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 am	Intention of Frances Boylan
		10.30 am	Ken Ellis RIP



**SATURDAY:** Reconciliation: 5.15 – 5.45 pm

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Micah 5:1-4; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-44

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2: 41-52

**COLLECTIONS:** Church: £453 Dona: £158 Mary's Meals: £1,156 Thank you for your generosity.

This weekend there will be a Second Collection for Church Christmas Flowers

Next Sunday there will be a Second Collection for Turning Tides

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**Contributions to the Christmas Crib will be sent to the Friends of the Holy Land**  
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**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: Margaret Turner, Mamie Devine, Lionel Foster, Eileen Oxendale, Peggy Moutrie, Antonio Maccarrone, Patrick Taylor, Helena Sparrow, Margaret Goldsworthy, Jim Flynn, Joan Foley, Doris Cronan, Mary Walton, Patsy Mannion, Michael Jarvis, Ernest Hare, Cyril Woodgar, George Welch, Mark Zenkteler. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory.*

**3. 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

**4. YOUR OFFERINGS AT THE CHRISTMAS MASSES** are your personal gift to Father Liam (Gift Aid applies). If you are not Gift Aiding, special envelopes are available in the Porch. If you will be away for Christmas you might like to use these envelopes to make your gift either beforehand or afterwards.

**5. THE CAFOD AUCTION** will take place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January. Please keep those gifts or unused/good condition items that could be auctioned to raise funds for the work of CAFOD.

**6. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> January at 7.30 pm in the church and the first lesson for the children will be Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January from 4.30-5.30 pm

## **7. CHRISTMAS DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES**

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December - 6.00 pm - First Mass of Christmas especially for children  
- 9.00 pm - Mass preceded by Carols from 8.30 pm

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December - 8.15 am and 10.30 am Mass

**8. 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

**9. ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT SCAMS?** PCSO's from the local neighbourhood policing team will be at The Barn on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 3pm to advise and talk about Scams. All are welcome.

**10. 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.

**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 Torch, 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: just over five years ago Cardinal John Henry Newman** was canonized in Rome. He is regarded by many as the greatest of all English theologians. We may not be familiar with much of his writings but we often sing his hymn, 'Praise to the Holiest in the Height'. They refer to the coming of the Saviour:

O loving wisdom of our God,  
When all was sin and shame.  
A second Adam to the fight  
And to the rescue came'.

Into a world scarred by sin and shame, wars and violence, hunger and injustice, a second Adam had to come to rescue and restore us. In the first Adam flesh and blood had failed and led us astray. The Second Adam came 'to strive afresh against the foe, should strive and should prevail.'

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of this second Adam. 'To you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour who is the messiah, the Lord'. (Luke 2:11) We believe that the person whose birth we commemorate at Christmas is truly and fully human and truly and fully divine. He is true God and true man. In the coming of Christ to us we are given:

'God's presence and His very self  
And Essence all-divine'.

Before any of the gospels were written the early followers of Christ were emphasizing in their teaching and preaching that Jesus was the unique Son of God, who had become one of us and by his death and resurrection he had won salvation for us.

In the early centuries of the Church there were many controversies about who exactly Jesus was. Jesus could not be our Saviour if he was not the Son of God. But the central truth of the Christian faith was strongly challenged by the followers of Arius. What became known as the Arian heresy was strongly contested and condemned at the First Council of the Church which was held at a place called Nicaea in 325. Next year marks 1,700 years since that historic event. Nicaea is in northwest Turkey and is known as Iznik today. Pope Francis intends to be at the special celebrations. All the General Councils of the Church in the early centuries took place in Eastern Europe and are recognized by the Orthodox Churches, which did not break from Rome until the 11<sup>th</sup> century.

The deliberations of the Council of Nicaea led to the promulgation of the Nicene Creed. Back then there was a debate about the possibility of a joint date for all churches to celebrate Easter. The Nicaea Council celebrations next year, the Pope says, 'would strengthen existing bonds and encourage all Christians to offer renewed testimony in today's world'.

As it happens both the Eastern and the Roman calendar mark Easter on the same day – 20<sup>th</sup> April – in 2025. The coming celebrations will surely encourage new efforts to be made to agree on a common date for Easter every year! Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople said last May: 'It is a scandal to celebrate separately the unique event of the one Resurrection of the One Lord'. This visit would be the second visit of Pope Francis to Turkey.

A considerable portion of all four gospels are devoted to the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. In fact, scholars nowadays would say that the earliest continuous section of the gospels to be written were the accounts of the Lord's passion and Resurrection. Surprisingly in the whole New Testament only two authors pay attention to the birth and childhood of Jesus – only Matthew and Luke give us 'Infancy Narratives'. Neither of these was composing simply a life of Jesus. In order that what they wrote to be part of the Good News, it had to have religious value. This is the key to understanding the infancy accounts. Despite the fact that Luke and Matthew fashioned very different birth stories they agreed remarkably in a common religious message about the conception of Jesus and his significance for the world.