

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

5.01.2025

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

The Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday	4 th	6.00 pm	Intention of Frances Boylan
Sunday	5 th	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Alistair Martin RIP
		3.00 pm	Holy Hour & Benediction
Monday	6 th	9.30 am	Intention of Jeslin
Tuesday	7 th	9.30 am	Chris Hatton RIP
Wednesday	8 th	9.30 am	Venustiano Viardo RIP
Thursday	9 th	9.30 am	Margaret & Edward Seary RIP
Friday	10 th	9.30 am	Lelia & Thomas Muray RIP
Saturday	11 th	5.15 pm	Rosary for Peace & Justice in the Holy Land
		6.00 pm	Jessica Forte RIP
Sunday	12 th	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Nicholas Murphy 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: Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11; Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Luke 3:15-6, 21-22

COLLECTIONS: Church: £429 Dona: £ Turning Tides: £425 Thank you for your generosity.

NEXT SUNDAY there will be a second collection for SPUC – Please see Note 3 below

CRIB DONATIONS: We will be sending crib donations to Friends of the Holy Land. Every penny will help the poorest Christian families, especially in and around Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza and Israel, with education, employment, health or housing costs and initiatives. FHL is non-political and ecumenical.

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, 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: Brenda McDonald, Donald Perriman, Peggy Smith, Fiona Hague, Kathleen McCarney, Mary Castanes, Anna De Vido, Catherine Bennett, Anna Rofe, Lilian Shaw, Adriana Gaboli, Elvira Kelly, Janine Leyder, Marianne Fisher, Jessie Patten, Kathleen Page, Sarah Finnegan, Ella Turnbull, Robert Barber. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory.*

3. THE WHITE FLOWER APPEAL is dedicated to protecting unborn children and promoting the right to life in society. Our appeals in Churches raise awareness of pro-life matters to parishioners and the donations we receive allows SPUC to continue our tireless work to build a culture of life. We work to educate youth, lobby politicians, mobilise pro-life activities in the community, provide support to students facing crisis pregnancies and much more.

4. THE 'CAFOD AUCTION' AND SUPPER EXTRAVAGANZA will be held in The Barn on Saturday 18th January 2025 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.

5. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2025: The first lesson for the children is this Tuesday 7th January from 4.30-5.30 pm in the church.

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

7. RCIA starts this Sunday following the 10.30 am Mass at 11.40 am in the Good Shepherd Chapel.

8. A MESSAGE FROM HOMESTART – ‘You have been supporting our work at Christmas for several years now, and I simply cannot express how grateful I am to receive such generous donations for our appeal. Please pass on my heartfelt thanks and best wishes to all the English Martyrs parishioners. Your kindness will ensure local families receive the support they need at this special time of year. Thank you. Signed Bridget Richardson Chief Executive

9. 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 The Little Angels Mother and Toddler Group and the Music Group. We open again to the public who wish to come and view the ceiling and our lovely stained glass windows from Monday 31st March. 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

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

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: Many thanks to those who are so generous in their donations throughout the year. It is much needed and appreciated

Father Liam says: The crib is still very much in place and has added characters on this Feast of the Epiphany. We have the Magi bringing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, symbolic gifts denoting who it is whom they have come to worship. They were led by a star in their search for him. Sometimes our Christmas carols speak of the shepherds looking up and seeing a star and being led by it to the manger. It is Luke who tells us of the shepherds and he says nothing about the star. We tend to get the accounts of Luke and Matthew mixed up in our minds. They wrote their distinctive narratives about the birth and infancy of Jesus and they deserve to be able to speak for themselves. In the same way our crib scene jumbles up the two accounts. We have the Magi entering the stable with their gifts whereas Matthew paints another picture. He says that 'seeing the star, they rejoiced with great joy and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother and falling down they worshipped him'. There is no mention in Matthew of a manger or swaddling clothes or shepherds. Matthew places the child and his mother in a more secure place!

In today's reading there is no mention of Joseph. But elsewhere Matthew is at great pains to emphasize Joseph's central part in God's scheme of things. Joseph was essential to how people were to recognize the identity of Jesus. The promised Messiah was to be the Son of David. Matthew emphasizes that Joseph was the son of David so Jesus must be the son of Joseph, the son of David. God had promised David: 'I will raise up your son after you...I will make his Royal throne firm forever'. (2 Sam 7:12) In his dream announcing that Mary would give birth to the Messiah, Joseph was addressed by the angel as 'Son of David'. But how could Jesus be Joseph's son if Joseph did not beget him? Matthew gives the answer. Joseph is told; 'She is to bear a son and you are to name him Jesus'. In Judaism, to establish paternity the husband must give testimony by naming the child and in this way, he became the legal father of the child. The identity of Jesus as Son of David is in God's plan and Joseph must give effect to that plan by claiming the child as his.

Matthew loves to show how the promises of the Jewish scriptures are fulfilled in Jesus. In proclaiming the redeemer for Jerusalem, Isaiah says:

'Rise up in splendour, your light has come,
The glory of the Lord shines upon you.
Nations shall walk by your light
And Kings by your shining radiance.
The wealth of nations shall be brought to you.
All from Sheba shall come
Bearing gold and frankincense
And proclaiming the praises of the Lord'. (Is 6:1-6)

The story of the Magi and the star is Matthew's way of telling us that Jesus is indeed the promised Redeemer who comes to draw all mankind to the Father.

The Book of Numbers tells of Moses leading Israel to the promised land and being met by a famous pagan seer who reveals his vision of the future: 'There shall come a man out of Israel's seed and he shall rule many nations. I see him, but not now, I behold him but not close. A star shall rise from Joab and a scepter shall come forth from Israel' (24:7,17) This refers to the emergence of the monarchy of David and was taken also as a reference to the Messiah, the anointed King of the line of David. The star that Matthew speaks of tells us that the Messiah has come and the nations bearing gold and frankincense acknowledge him as King of all the earth.

The Herod of Matthew's story is reminiscent of the pharaoh who tried to destroy the baby Moses by killing the male children of the Hebrews. Matthew is emphasizing that Jesus is the new Moses. The Magi tell us of the gentiles accepting the gospel and the story of Herod is telling us that this good news will be fiercely opposed. The Gentiles came to worship but they must learn from the Jewish scriptures, as the Magi did, where to find him.

The infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke were written not so much to tell us of the baby Jesus but to reveal that Jesus is the universal Saviour and promised Messiah.