

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

16.03.2025

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

The Second Sunday of Lent

Saturday	15 th	6.00 pm	Intention of Misha Smith
Sunday	16 th	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Roger Davis RIP
Monday	17 th	9.30 am	Janice O'Brien RIP
Tuesday	18 th	9.30 am	Holy Souls
		2.00 pm	REQUIEM MASS FOR ROLLY OBENZA RIP
		7.00 pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	19 th	9.30 am	Frances Boylan
Thursday	20 th	9.30 am	Holy Souls
Friday	21 st	9.30 am	Veronica Collins RIP
		10.00 am	Stations of the Cross
Saturday	22 nd	6.00 pm	The Parish
Sunday	23 rd	8.15 am	Jo Murphy RIP
		10.30 am	Darryl Cox RIP

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



TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18, Philippians 3:17-4:1, Luke 9:28-36

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15, 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12, Luke 13: 1-9

COLLECTIONS: Church: £406 Dona: February Total: £257 Thank you for your generosity

There will be a Second Collection this weekend for CAFOD Lenten Fast Day.

(Special Gift Aid Envelopes available in both porches)

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Elaine C, Pope Francis, Richard Wells, Natasha, Henry Allen, David Hall, Baby Ava Lily Jaswal, David Steadman, Paul & Veronica Williams, Shirley Bradbury, Brian Johnstone, Terence Wheeler, Mirille Byrne, Peter Honiball, David Lancaster, Jim Simpson, Camilla Jane, 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: **JAMES SEBASTIAN FULLER, CANON OLIVER HEANEY** and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Fred Melling, Peggy Dale, Maria Jones, Kate Rowe, Michael Conway, Joyce Whaling, Marjorie Leach, Stanley Hanson, Jenny Begley, Michael Hancox, Breda Gibson, Anna Kelledy, Mary Wilds, Darryl Cox, Gerry Potter, Anthony Hoppe, Michael McCarthy. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory.*

3. CAFOD LENT APPEAL - FAMILY FAST DAY. Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection to be a pilgrim of hope with CAFOD this Jubilee Year. You will be supporting communities suffering the impacts of war, poverty and climate change to find solutions and hope. Please use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate on line at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 03033 033030

4. THE LENTEN ALMS BOX is in the front porch next to the main door. The proceeds are sent to the Contemplative Orders of women in the Diocese

5. THE BIG LENT WALK to raise money for CAFOD. The idea is to walk 200 km during Lent – not necessarily all at the same time! You can do this by yourself or join with others but note how far you walk each day and you might be very surprised at just how far that is. Make sure you arrange to be sponsored before you start. For further information contact <https://cafod.org.uk/news/uk-news/dermot-o-leary-supports-cafod-s-big-lent-walk>

6. WHEN DID YOU LAST VISIT THE REPOSITORY? We now have a selection of Mother's Day, St Patrick and Easter cards in the shop together with the beautiful handmaid cards, the money from which, goes to the Parish Project in Kalingalinga.

7. PRAYER PARTNERS are sought for our First Holy Communion children. Please sign against the symbol for the child of your choice on the poster on the wall at the side of the Church. We pray for these children who are preparing to receive their First Holy Communion on Sunday 8th June.

8. EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION, [often known as Eucharistic Ministers]. New ministers are required within the parish for this very important ministry, and you are invited to speak to Father Liam about taking on this role. No previous experience is necessary as all training will be given

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

Father Liam says: A look at how the Catholic Church fared in West Sussex in the past. The first Catholic church built in Sussex since the Reformation was in the village of Easebourne in 1767. There were a number of other Catholic chapels in the county – at Arundel, West Grinstead, Slindon and Burton Park, near Petworth, but they were parts of private mansions owned by Catholic gentry who kept the Catholic faith alive – in spite of it being outlawed.

Easebourne is about a mile north of Midhurst and three quarters of a mile from Cowdray. The church was built there following the defection of the seventh Viscount, Lord Montague, from the Catholic faith. He closed the Catholic chapel on his estate which had been used by the Catholics of the area for generations.

The reign of Queen Mary was short-lived and her sister Queen Elizabeth wasted no time in passing the Act of Supremacy and the Act of Uniformity.. The Act of Supremacy declared the Queen was the only supreme governor of the realm in all spiritual and ecclesiastical matters. By the Act of Supremacy all Catholic worship was prohibited and the Anglican Liturgy and the Book of Common Prayer was made compulsory in all the churches and public chapels of the Kingdom.

The First Lord Montague, together with the bishops and some other noblemen opposed these bills in the House of Lords. When the Acts came into force all the bishops refused to take the oath except one, so they were deprived of their office. Some clergy took the oath and outwardly conformed hoping that there would be a change in policy. Those who refused to conform were called 'Recusants' – the refusers.

When Catholic worship was banished from the church at Midhurst, Lord Montague ensured that it was carried on whenever possible at the Cowdray chapel. To recruit Catholic clergy a college was founded at Douay in France and the Montague family were among its financial supporters. Other colleges were later established for English students for the priesthood at Rome, Lisbon and Valladolid. This resulted in more stringent legislation against Catholics at home. Those priests trained in the colleges were known as seminary priests and they were more exposed to the severities of the law than the priests dating from the reign of Mary. Many of the 'hiding holes', cleverly designed to hide priests still survive. Two are still to be seen in the presbytery at West Grinstead. There was one in Cowdray Park but that has long been destroyed. Subsequent Viscounts at Cowdray Park continued to be champions of the Catholic cause and suffered financially and in other ways. But priests suffered much more, enduring torture, imprisonment and martyrdom. Many of these priests were members of the Society of Jesus – Jesuits.

The Montague family lost much property in these troubled times and were frequently fined for not attending Anglican services and for sheltering priests. The usual fine for not attending the Parish church was £20.00. A Recusant Roll for the year 1669 gives a list of 40 Recusants for Midhurst. The religious census of Sussex taken in 1676 gives the following number of 'Papists': Midhurst 56, West Firls 43, Easebourne 40. Midhurst comes out top in the Diocese of Chichester, and Easebourne third.

The Seventh Viscount, who outwardly renounced the Catholic faith when a bill was passed imposing a double land-tax on Catholics, did not turn his back on the Catholics in his area. Though the Catholic chapel at Cowdray was dismantled and the Catholics dismissed, he established and partly endowed a mission-house in the neighbouring village of Easebourne to replace and serve the needs of the Catholic congregation. The Viscount was reconciled to the Catholic Church before his death, which took place in Brussels in 1787. Presumably the priest who was at Cowdray at the time of his expulsion served the chapel at Easebourne. The registers do not give much information and don't give the priest's signature. There was a very notable informer at the time, named Payne, who tried to earn the reward of £100 given to anyone who would convict a priest of exercising his ministry. As a result of Payne several Catholic priests were brought to trial and many others had to flee. Some of the chapels were closed and the celebration of Mass was severely affected. In 1778 – the reign of William III, an Act was passed putting an end to the activities of people like Payne.

There were still a fair number of the faithful who attended the little church at Easebourne, many of whom from a long distance. People used to say that the street looked like a fair on a Sunday morning, with vehicles of all sizes and shapes and their horses waiting while their owners were at Mass. Eventually the numbers had grown so small that in 1856 the bishop of Southwark could not send them a priest. But the survivors of the sinking mission did not give up. They went every Sunday in a wagonette to Mass in Burton Park, as this conveyance was hung round with curtains they jokingly called it 'The Flying Bedstead'. It was commonly known by the name of 'The Tally-Ho'. It was drawn by two donkeys or two mules.

In 1867 a new Catholic Church was built in Midhurst dedicated to St Francis of Assisi. After 60 years it was far too small for the numbers and a new church – which is now almost 100 years old – serves the Catholic community. To help finance the building of the church the Parish Priest wrote a book 'History of an Old Catholic Mission', which is the source of this article.