

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

16.02.2025

Father Liam O'Connor, 37 Compton Avenue,

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Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

Safeguarding Rep. Anne Niven 01903 242624

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

The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	15 th	5.15 pm	Rosary for Peace & Justice in the Holy Land
		6.00 pm	Francesco Siriano RIP
Sunday	16 th	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Anne & Mike Steere RIP
Monday	17 th	9.30 am	Frances Boylan RIP & Thomas
Tuesday	18 th	9.30 am	In Thanksgiving
		1.30 pm	REQUIEM FOR JEANNINE VAN MELSON RIP
		7.00 pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	19 th	9.30 am	Katherine Drohan RIP
Thursday	20 th	9.30 am	Lelia Murray RIP
Friday	21 st	9.30 am	Intention of Anne Niven
Saturday	22 nd	6.00 pm	Tom Emery RIP
Sunday	23 rd	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Frances Boylan RIP



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

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 17:5-8; 1Corinthians 12,16-20; Luke 6:17,20-26

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; 1Corinthians 15:45-49; Luke 6:27-38

COLLECTIONS: Church: £399 Dona: £ A & B Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund: £406

Thank you for your generosity

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Natasha, Henry 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, 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: Peggy St John Farnon, Jack Wood, Sandra Forsyth, Maria Jackson, Severina Middleton, Jack Colclough, Reg Lehane, Joao Martinho, Laurence Sullivan, Winifred Jones, Royston Payne, Jerry Fortis, Albert Stone, Rosemary Hart, Frank Wilcockson, Ann Morris, Marie Angel, Timothy Babington, Francis McHugh. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory.*

3. WORLD DAY OF PRAYER will take place on Friday 7th March at 10.30am - St Richard's Church, Collingwood Road, BN12 6HZ and 2.30pm - All Saints Church, Cissbury Drive, Findon Valley, BN14 0DT. The theme this year is 'I made you Wonderful' and the service was prepared by the Christian Women of the Cook Islands. For more information – www.wwdp.org.uk

4. YOUNG ADULT JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE TO ROME: Join our pilgrimage for young adults aged 18-30 to celebrate the special Jubilee year. Celebrate with other like-minded people, as we travel to the beautiful city of Rome for opportunities to hear from, and pray with, Pope Francis on the theme of Hope. E: lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk for information. **CLOSING DATE 31 MARCH**

5. PARISH 100 CLUB DRAW will take place after the 10.30 Mass on Sunday 2nd March

6. ON SUNDAY 2nd MARCH, after the 10.30 Mass. there will be a cake sale in the Barn to raise money for Gabriel Hunnisett to go as a purple shirt to Lourdes A and B pilgrimage. Please do come along and enjoy the home baked goods. Thank you in advance

7. 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

8. A LENT DAY OF RECOLLECTION will be held on Saturday 15th March at Our Lady Star of the Sea, East Preston from 10.00 am until 3.00 pm. Please bring your own lunch, tea and coffee will be provided. The Speaker is Fr Ian Graffy whose talks will be based on the Readings at the Easter Vigil. This is an excellent opportunity for our Ministers of Holy Communion as well as anyone who would like to attend. Please see posters in both porches for further information.

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: The words used when we are anointed with the oil of Chrism at our Confirmation are: 'Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit'. A seal signifies authenticity. We celebrate in Confirmation that we are truly temples of the Holy Spirit. We are given the seal of God's approval. Our ancestors used wax seals to prove their identity and to authenticate official documents. We still speak of sealing the deal and we seal things with a kiss. Much like the Pin Numbers and Signatures we use now, our medieval forebears used seals. Many people used signet rings for this purpose. 'Signet' is from the old French, meaning 'small seal'. But such rings were also worn as personal jewelry.

Seals are still used today. The Great Seal of the Realm, King Charles' seal, is put on official documents and is considered to be more official than his personal signature.

Seals came into common use in Britain under the Normans in the early 1100's. A blob of beeswax would be melted and a personal identifying imprint would be made into it. The seal would then be fixed to the document to prove it was not a forgery. The item used to make the imprint in the wax is known as a 'seal matrix'. Wealthy families and institutions would commission unique engraver seal matrices which they would protect carefully. Just like now, identity theft was a worry and if you lost your seal, it could be misused by others.

Twelve years or so ago, Tony Burke discovered a large lump of metal in a field in Cobham, when using a metal detector. It weighed 84 grams. He recognized it as a seal matrix of some kind and reported it to the local Finds Liaison Officer. On one side of the copper alloy matrix is an impressively detailed depiction of the Virgin Mary with the child Jesus on her knee. The child holds a book in his left hand and points upwards with his other hand. Mary is holding a flower in her hand. Around the image is an inscription in Latin. In English it reads 'The Seal of the Church of St Mary and Saint Wulfad the Martyr of Stone'. At first it was thought that the Seal might have been something to do with Staines – a place name meaning 'Stone' that was relatively close by. But St Wulfad was not a local saint so a connection to an Augustinian Priory in Stone, Staffordshire, was established.



The Priory was founded in the mid-twelfth century but in the 1530's it was one of the first victims of Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries. Henry wanted to acquire the lands and properties of the religious houses in his realm of England and Ireland. He ordered that monasteries, priories and abbeys be disbanded, their property to be reallocated and all the proceeds to be paid to the Crown.

The King's agents first targeted small religious houses with an income less than £200 per year, so it is thought that it was at this point in 1536 that the Stone Matrix was moved. It is possible that a monk from Stone moved to the Newark Augustine Priory in Surrey, which survived until 1540. He would have taken with him the most portable and important possessions he could. At this point the Seal Matrix would already have been more than 200 years old. As an emblem of the doomed priory of Stone, it would have been an important item to try and save.

The Stone priory buildings were quickly dismantled and destroyed, but the main church building was saved by local parishioners. They continued to use it as the Anglican Parish Church until 1758 when it was eventually demolished and replaced by the current church of St Michael and St Wulfad.

A legend of Stone and St Wulfad tells that when the Anglo-Saxon King of Mercia, Wulfhere, heard that his sons Wulfad and Rufin had converted to Christianity he had them put to death. Their mother ordered that her murdered sons be buried and the grave marked by a stone cairn and so the town that grew up around the

spot took on the name Stone. When King Wulfhere eventually converted to Christianity around 670 AD, he had a church built on the site of the martyred sons' graves in their honour and in penitence for his crime. Certainly there was a pagan King Wulfhere who became a Christian and founded a number of religious sites in Mercia. But there is no further evidence of his sons Wulfad and Rufin, despite their being local churches dedicated to both names. The Seal Matrix is now on display at Stone Parish Church.