

## PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

31.08.2025

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](mailto:emgoring@english-martyrs.co.uk) Website: [www.english-martyrs.co.uk](http://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

### Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	30 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	William F Evans RIP
Sunday	31 <sup>st</sup>	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Yvonne Carter RIP
Monday	1 <sup>st</sup>	9.30 am	Humphrey Niven RIP
Tuesday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30 am	Valerie Halley RIP
		7.00 pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30 am	Holy Souls
Thursday	4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Anne & Mike Steere RIP
Friday	5 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Bessy Shaji RIP
Saturday	6 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Louis Evans RIP
Sunday	7 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Tony Headon RIP
		3.00 pm	Holy Hour with Benediction



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

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Ecclesiasticus 3:17-20, 28-29; Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24; Luke 14:1, 7-14

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Wisdom 9:13-18; Philemon 9-10.12-17; Luke 14:25-33

**COLLECTIONS:** Church: £522 DONA: £105 Thank you for your generosity

Next weekend there will be a Second Collection for Mary's Meals.

Special Gift Aid Forms and Envelopes are available in both porches.

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Olivia (was Bengston-Gear) & family, Marie Davidson Patrick McGrath, Alice Headon, Shona, Jonathan Waywell, Elaine C, Richard Wells, Natasha, Henry Allen, David Hall, Baby Ava Lily Jaswal, David Steadman, Paul & Veronica Williams, Shirley Bradbury, Brian Johnstone, Terence Wheeler, Peter Honiball, David Lancaster, 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, 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: Isobel Shepherd, Helen Gates, Veronica Wood, Francis Vooght, Kathleen Leech, William Turner, Cassia Denne, Peter Edwards, Irene Stephens, Michael Butler, Frank Foy, Veronica Brown, Anne Steere, Kate Harvey. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory.*

**3. WELCOME TO ANY VISITORS** to our Parish this weekend. We do hope that you have enjoyed your stay.

**4. CHILDREN'S LITURGY** will return next weekend

**5. CAFOD HARVEST SUPPER** will take place on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September following the 6.00 pm Mass. The food will be delicious and there will be a raffle. Prizes would be welcome. Tickets will be on sale after all Masses **next** weekend Adults £10.00, Children £5.00. For further information please contact Teresa 01903 529260.

**6. BEAUTIFUL HANDMADE CARDS** are now available in the shop. All proceeds will go to the Parish Mission in Kalingalinga, Lusaka

**7. CATHEDRAL MASS FOR ALTAR SERVERS** will take place on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September at 12 noon at Arundel Cathedral. Fr Aaron Spinelli, the Diocesan Director for the Guild of St Stephen, invites diocesan altar servers to a special Mass at Arundel Cathedral led by Bishop Richard. The Mass will offer an opportunity to celebrate and thank servers for their service to our parish communities and is for those who have served, those who are serving, and anybody who would like to serve – everyone is very welcome to attend. Please contact Fr Aaron to confirm attendance and numbers; E: [aaron.spinelli@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:aaron.spinelli@abdiocese.org.uk) - and bring a cassock, cotta or an alb, if possible. Holy Mass will be followed by light refreshments (please bring a packed lunch).

**8 MINISTERS ROTAS FOR SEPTEMBER** are available in the Sacristy

**9. YOU ARE INVITED TO THE FESTIVAL OF HOPE** on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September in The Jubilee Hall at the South of England Showground from 10.00 am until 4.40 pm. You can travel by coach with other people from the Deanery or travel by car. In either case, please contact Anne in the Parish Office – 01903 242624 or [emgoring@english-martyrs.co.uk](mailto:emgoring@english-martyrs.co.uk) – with details of your name, contact phone number, and if travelling by car, Car Registration Number so that your details can be sent to the Diocese so that you are welcomed on the day. Tea and coffee vans will be available on site to have with your packed lunch from home. There are plenty of picnic sites to enjoy. Please see poster available in both porches.

**10. USED STAMPS FOR THE MISSIONS:** Many thanks to those collecting used stamps for St Patrick's Missionary Society, who collect them to raise money for their important work. Please remember a maximum of half an inch (1.4 cms) around the edge of the stamp.

**11. ROSARY FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND** will be prayed on the second Saturday of every month at 5.15pm. The next one is Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> September.

**12. MARY'S MEALS COLLECTION POINT** is one of the small boxes under the noticeboard 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

**13. TURNING TIDES: – TIME FOR THE HARVEST WISHLIST**, which helps fill the cupboards ready for the months ahead. Please see notices and leaflets in both porches. Many thanks to those who are so generous in their donations throughout the year. It is much needed and appreciated.

**Father Liam says:** About two months after I arrived in this Diocese the horrific disaster in the Welsh coalmining community of Aberfan took place. It was on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1966. I was visiting parishioners in Molesey that afternoon when the news broke. The television was on in a house I entered and the grim details were emerging. I remember getting back to the presbytery as soon as I could as continuing my visit was out of the question. The death toll of 144 people, including 116 children at the local Junior School resulted from the irresponsible procedures operated by the National Coal Board who ran the Merthyr Vale Colliery. I can't remember where I was when President Kennedy was assassinated but I certainly can remember Aberfan.

I was also visiting in the same parish on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1968 when the television was on in the house I entered. It was carrying the news of Pope Paul VI's encyclical letter 'Humanae Vitae', condemning the use of artificial contraception. The mother of the house had three young children and she was anguished by the encyclical. Again, I beat a hasty retreat. I asked my Parish Priest what we should say to the people about it. He advised that we should say nothing because if the people would pay no heed to the Pope, they certainly wouldn't pay any heed to us.

To say that the encyclical disappointed a lot of people would be a major understatement. It certainly caused a great deal of consternation. The expectation was that the encyclical would convey a different message. The whole question of artificial birth control was raised at the Second Vatican Council a few years before but Pope Paul VI decided that it would cause such dissension that it might derail the Council. He reserved the question for himself and after the Council he set up a Commission to examine the question. It was no secret that the majority of the members of the Commission favoured a relaxation of the Church's prohibition of 'the Pill'. So the message of Humanae Vitae was unexpected and sent shock waves around much of the Church. There was quite a noticeable drop in Mass attendance and much spirited debate. More than 1,000 people crowded into the Methodist Central Hall in Westminster in mid-September for a four-hour discussion and debate. The speakers on both sides of the debate were all male!

Public dissent reached a crescendo in October when The Times published a joint letter from 55 priests saying that they could not give loyal obedience to the view that all artificial means of contraception were wrong in all circumstances. Five days later a joint letter from 76 Lay Catholics followed stating that the distinction made in the Encyclical between the Rhythm Method and the Pill was 'untenable and the arguments made to support it was unconvincing'. A large number of priests left the active ministry because of the issue.

The bishops of England and Wales attempted to dampen the flames with a joint pastoral statement in September, which was carefully worded. Cardinal Heenan spoke on behalf of the bishops in late October saying there should be no more 'scandal' in the Church and henceforth priests were to refrain from criticism of Humanae Vitae in public or in the confessional. Many clergy were censured or suspended for their assertion of conscience. Archbishop Cowderoy of Southwark in a pastoral letter of 16<sup>th</sup> August 1968, castigated the actions of such 'disobedient priests' who 'in a spirit of bitterness and want of reverence and in some cases with a lack of maturity' are 'false and devious advisors misleading some of our poor simple people with unfounded hope'.

A planned 24-hour occupation of Southwark Cathedral followed but after a few hours the police forcibly ejected those gathered, for trespassing. The participants issued a statement to the press that 'everyone in the church should have a right of free speech'. At the close of the year Cardinal Heenan gave a television interview to David Frost. He was closely questioned about what the confessor should do where someone used contraception in good conscience. His response was that they should say 'God bless you' and allow them the sacraments. In the words of bishop Christopher Butler 'we are groping about in a situation which is unparalleled in our Catholic experience'. Archbishop Derek Warlock, while accepting the teaching of Humanae Vitae, said that contraception 'was not the acid test of Christianity'. Perhaps the advice of my Parish Priest in Molesey was not far off the mark!