

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

5.10.2025

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

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	4 th	6.00 pm	Tony Headon RIP
Sunday	5 th	8.15 am	Intention of Chris Hyttner
		10.30 am	Liz Nolan RIP
		3.00 pm	Holy Hour and Benediction
Monday	6 th	9.30 am	The Parish
Tuesday	7 th	9.30 am	Kevin Sheil RIP
		7.00 pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	8 th	9.30 am	Holy Souls
Thursday	9 th	9.30 am	Valentina RIP
Friday	10 th	9.30 am	Holy Souls
Saturday	11 th	5.15 pm	Rosary for Justice & Peace in the Holy Land
		6.00 pm	Mireille Byrne RIP
Sunday	12 th	8.15 am	John Iago RIP
		10.30 am	The Parish



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

TODAY'S READINGS: Habakkuk 1:2-3, 2:2-4; 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14; Luke 17:5-10

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: 2 Kings 5:14-17, 2 Timothy 2:8-13, Luke 17: 11-19

COLLECTIONS: Church: £437 DONA: £132 Thank you for your generosity

This weekend there will be a Second Collection for CAFOD Harvest Day. For Gift Aid please use

CAFOD Envelopes available in both porches. Please see Note 4

Next weekend there will be a Second Collection for Prisoners Sunday

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Laura Pegg, 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 : FATHER ALAN SHARPE and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Honora Acrell, Benjamin O'Gorman, Margaret McGuinness, Peggy Gallagher, Pauline Cave-Berry, Ray Cottam, Molly Bellenger, Alfie Miller. *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. CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY APPEAL: Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection to share God's abundant gifts with our global neighbours as they find lasting solutions to poverty and climate challenges. Your generosity offers 'signs of hope' in this Jubilee Year, helping build more water tanks in communities like Waré's in Ethiopia where women have to walk for hours to get water. Please use the Cafod envelope in church, donate on line at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030

5. CAFOD HARVEST SUPPER: Many thanks to all those who helped create and those who supported the Harvest Supper. It was delicious and £751.68 was raised for CAFOD.

6. 'JOURNEY OF FAITH' will be starting on Thursday 16th October exploring our Catholic Faith. The Course is aimed at those who are seeking to join the Catholic Church and any who are curious as to the why's and when of our faith. Contact Dermot on 07999 488326 or email dermot36@gmail.com

7. PARISH AGM will take place in the Barn on Sunday 19th October at 3.00 pm. All are welcome.

8. CONFIRMATION 2025/26: If you are in Year 9 or above and considering being Confirmed next year you are invited to join our preparation programme that will be starting soon. Please collect an application forms from the Sacristy and return to the Parish Office as soon as possible.

9. APF RED BOX HOLDERS please return your red boxes for counting. You can leave them in the Front Porch for Teresa to collect and count. If you have difficulty bringing the box to church please phone 243401 and we will arrange collection

10. THE PARISH CHOIR is currently seeking new members. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Margaret on 01903 504316 for more information.

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, 11th October.

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: URGENT! 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: Words can sometimes be understood in very different ways. Their meaning can change over time or can vary according to the context in which we use them. The word 'apology' for example, can mean an acknowledgement that we have made a mistake but on the other hand it can mean almost the exact opposite. It can mean that we wish to defend our position and justify it. We as Christians are meant to defend our faith when it is being unjustly attacked and misrepresented. We are meant to be apologists of our faith.

One of the great Christian apologists of the early Church was St. Justin, who died for the faith in the year 165. He wrote his First Apology around the year 155 and it is the earliest surviving example of Christian apologetic literature. He was born in Samaria and was converted to Christianity around the year 135. He came to Rome around 150 and wrote some of the greatest apologetic works of the early Christian faith, defending the claims of Christianity against its many hostile detractors. He tells us that his goal is 'to afford to all an opportunity of inspecting our life and teachings lest, on account of those who are ignorant of our affairs, we should incur the penalty due to them for mental blindness.' He addresses his First Apology specifically to the Roman Emperor, Antonius Pius and his son Verissimus and adopted son Lucius. Christianity was outlawed in the Roman Empire so Justin makes his case for Christianity before the most powerful people on earth – the rulers of the Roman Empire. He wanted to sway the emperor and his sons away from the false accusations made against Christians. 'We have come not to flatter you by this writing, nor to please you by our address but to beg that you pass judgement after an accurate and searching investigation'.

His presentation of the Eucharist is clear and succinct. One description comes in what he has to say of a post-Baptismal Eucharist. He speaks of how the entire Christian community fasts and prays with those preparing for Baptism. At an appropriate time, they are brought to a place where there is water so that they can be made anew. This regeneration he says, is necessary since as Christ himself asserts 'no one can see the reign of God unless he is begotten from above.' (John 3:3) He explains that we must be born a second time through the waters of baptism so that we may become 'children of choice and knowledge'. Baptism is the 'Sacrament of illumination and takes place in the name of God, the Father and Lord of the universe, and of our Saviour Jesus Christ and of the Holy Spirit.'

He says that Jesus Christ is the Light of the World and through baptism we share in that light as members of his body. The newly baptized Christians are then brought into the presence of the assembly of the brethren where heartfelt prayers are offered for the community, for those just baptized and for all others. This is done so that the faithful might put into practice what they have learned with the hope of receiving a share in the rewards of an everlasting life. When their prayers have come to an end the members of the community salute each other with a holy kiss. Some bread and a cup of wine mixed with water is then given to the presider of the assembly, who gives praise to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He then offers thanks at considerable length. At the conclusion of these prayers all those present express their consent by saying 'Amen'. At this point the deacons distribute the bread and wine mixed with water to all present. A portion is set aside and carried away to absent members of the assembly.

Later Justin offers a description of a typical Sunday liturgy. This is part of what he writes: 'On the day we call the day of the sun, all who dwell in the city or country gather in the same place. The memoirs of the apostles and the writings of the prophets are read, as much as time permits. When the reader has finished, he who presides over those gathered admonishes and challenges them to imitate those beautiful things. Then we all rise together and offer prayers for ourselves and for all others wherever they may be so that we may be found righteous in your life and actions and faithful to the commandments so as to obtain eternal salvation.

When the prayers are concluded we exchange the Kiss. Then someone brings bread and a cup of wine with water to the one who presides. He takes them and offers praise and glory to the Father of the Universe through the name of the Son and the Holy Spirit. For a considerable time he gives thanks (in Greek, Eucharistian) that we have been judged worthy of these gifts'.

Next week we will continue to look at Justin's description of Sunday Mass -1,900 years ago!