

## PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

14.12.2025

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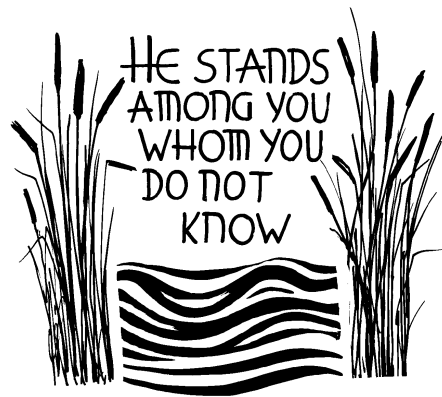
Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

Safeguarding Rep. Anne Niven 01903 242624

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

### Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday	13 <sup>th</sup>	5.15 pm	Rosary for Justice & Peace
		6.00 pm	Michael Shiel RIP
Sunday	14 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Peter Thomas Dilloway RIP
Monday	15 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	McCluskey & Cleere Families RIP
		3.00 pm	<b>REQUIEM FOR PETER HONIBALL RIP</b>
Tuesday	16 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Holy Souls
		7.00 pm	<b>Choir Practice</b>
Wednesday	17 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Intention of Sister Anne SM
Thursday	18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Ellen (Eileen) Gribben RIP
Friday	19 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Intention of Sister Sylvette SM
		12.00 noon	<b>REQUIEM FOR HELEN GILLESPIE RIP</b>
Saturday	20 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	The Parish
Sunday	21 <sup>st</sup>	8.15 am	Peter Honiball RIP
		10.30 am	Humphrey Niven RIP



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

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10; James 5: 7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

**COLLECTIONS:** Church: £460    DONA: £ 18    Thank you for your generosity  
This weekend there will be a Second Collection for Flowers for our church

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Laura Pegg, Olivia (was Bengston-Gear) & family, Marie Davidson, 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, Harold Forrest, Maria Brooks, Tony & Kathleen Kearney, Lola Samengo-Meehan, Maureen House, Joan Wand, Samuel Bezants, Glenn, Helena & Vittorio Villa, Lena, Sienna Coates, 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.

**2. THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY:** HELEN GILLESPIE and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Raymond Dew, Frederick Franklin, Doris Dowling, Lilian Mutton, Mary Mackay, Ethel Baker, Margaret Mattingley, Noel Melling, Nora Murphy, Margaret Wadsworth, Inge Carey, Edna Turberville, Cyril Marshall, Muriel Day, Hetty Smith. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

**3. THE ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE** will be held here this Thursday, 18th December at 7.00pm. There will be a choice of confessors as there will be at the other Reconciliation Services in the Deanery. These are listed in both porches

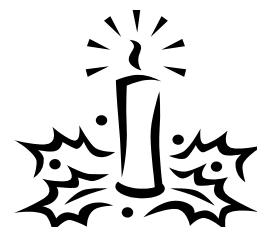
**4. ENGLISH MARTYRS' PARISH CAROL SERVICE** will be held on Sunday 21st December at 3pm, followed by seasonal refreshments in the Barn. All are most welcome to attend so please come and join us!

**5. THE BIG CHURCH CLEAN** will take place on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 10.00am and needs you to come and help! Tea/Coffee and Mince Pies for all when the church sparkles!

**6. CURRY & CAROLS:** A huge thank you to all who prepared the food, worked so hard, donated desserts and raffle prizes and attended the evening. We raised £1,000 for our Parish Project in Kalingalinga.

#### **7. CHRISTMAS DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December - 7.30 pm - Advent Reconciliation Service  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December - 3.00 pm - Christmas Carols and Mulled Wine  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December - 10.00 am – The Big Church Clean – Volunteers needed  
Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December - 6.00 pm - First Mass of Christmas especially for children  
- 9.00 pm - Mass preceded by Carols from 8.30 pm  
Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December - 8.15 am and 10.30 am Mass



**8. USED POSTAGE STAMPS FOR THE MISSIONS:** As the Christmas Cards start arriving please remember to rescue all those beautiful stamps, leaving about half an inch of envelope around the edges, (no more than this please as it makes them expensive to forward to the Missionary Society) and put them in the box in the Porch

**9. THE NEW 100 CLUB** will start in January with 'Sign-up Sunday' on 3rd and 4th January. Watch this space for further details.

**10. KEEPING CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS:** Many thanks to Worthing Knights of St Columba who have provided Christmas posters, available in both porches, and ask that they are displayed as an act of Christian witness.

**11. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2026:** Please collect an application pack from the Sacristy **and return it to the Parish Office by 19<sup>th</sup> December.**

**12. CONFIRMATION 2025/26:** Classes will start on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 12 noon in the Barn

**13. CAFOD AUCTION AND SUPPER** will take place on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2026. Please save this date and consider any preloved gifts or good auction-able items which can be donated. The need is great. Contact Teresa or Charles on 07943561868

**14. 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

**15. TURNING TIDES: URGENT! THE WINTER WISHLIST:** Waterproof & Water Repellent Jackets, Thermals T-shirts M/L Hoodies, Fleecees, Sweatshirts, M/L Tracksuit Bottoms, M/L NEW Gloves, Socks, Winter Hats, NEW Women's Pants S/M, NEW Men's Boxers S/M **ST**. Also Shampoo, Body Wash, Body Wipes, Deodorant, Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Razors & Shaving gel. Many thanks to those who are so generous in their donations throughout the year. It is much appreciated.

**Father Liam says: We are in mid-December – a mere ten day from Christmas.** It is a day when the Church encourages us to rejoice. The candle newly lit on our Advent wreath is Rose-coloured – as are the vestments – yet the gospel today, like that of last Sunday, focuses on John the Baptist. His ministry is now at an end and he is in prison and martyrdom awaits him and he seems to have doubts about Jesus being the Messiah. Our gospel comes from Matthew as it continues to do at practically every Sunday Mass for the next twelve months. Matthew and Luke are the only gospel writers who tell us anything about the conception, birth and infancy of Jesus. Mark and John begin their gospels when Jesus is about to start his public ministry. There are, in all, twenty-seven books in the New Testament and without Matthew and Luke there would be no reference at all to the manner of Christ's birth. To our way of thinking this is extraordinary. We are accustomed to reading in books all the details of the lives they describe. But the writers of the New Testament do not set out to satisfy our curiosity, much as we would like to know about the details of Jesus' childhood and private life. For instance, in John's gospel we are not told that the name of the mother of Jesus is Mary. There is no mention in Mark's gospel of Joseph.

It is clear that the gospels do not attempt to give us a biography of Jesus. They certainly want to make clear to us that Jesus is the Son of God, the long-awaited Messiah. As John says at the end of his gospel: 'There are many other signs that Jesus worked in the sight of the disciples but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name. (20:30,31)

The New Testament is a collection of twenty-seven separate compositions. Traditionally these compositions are called 'books' but by modern standards some are hardly longer than articles. They range in length from 18,000 words in Matthew's Gospel to the 220 words in the Third Letter of St John. All of these were composed within less than a century of the crucifixion. The language in which they are written is called Koine Greek. This was the standard vernacular of the Eastern half of the Roman Empire in the first century AD. It was the Greek spoken by people in everyday life, as distinct from classical Greek.

But the collection is far more than just special writings. They have always been regarded by Christians as the Word of God. They are the foundation of our faith, giving us the rule of Christian life. St Gregory refers to them as 'letters from our heavenly fatherland'. They are not just human productions. 'God himself is in a true sense their Author. They are the Word of God communicated to mankind for our salvation. God has used human authors as his instruments so that the books they produced are his work. But their human writers were not mere machines. They wrote them under special divine influence. They are inspired by God, but this did not change their normal methods and style of writing. They were written for their fellow Christians, to build up the Church of their day. They may have vaguely foreseen that their work would be treasured for future generations but they were primarily concerned with their contemporary situation. Just as they wrote in the language that was familiar to themselves and their readers so they took for granted the ideas and customs and way of life on their time and place. Despite all the variety of temperament and situation and background among the various authors, they show extraordinary unity of outlook and belief. They are members of the same community. The books were produced in the Church, for the Church and the Church determined, later on, which books were to be considered as having divine authority. The New Testament itself does not tell us what books should be venerated as the Word of God and inspired by God'.

The Second Vatican Council in its Document of Divine Revelation has this very important teaching. 'The books of Scripture must be acknowledged as teaching firmly, faithfully and without error, that truth which God wanted put into the sacred writings for the sake of our salvation' It is plainly telling us that not every biblical statement has to be understood literally.