

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

4.01.2026

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

Second Sunday of Christmas

Saturday	3 rd	6.00 pm	Intentions of the Madden & McIntyre Families
Sunday	4 th	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Intention of Mary Murphy
		3.00 pm	Holy Hour & Benediction
Monday	5 th	9.30 am	Ken Elis & the Ellis family RIP
Feast of the Epiphany	6th	9.30 am	Intentions of Don, Bridie & O'Brien Family
		7.30 pm	The Parish
Wednesday	7 th	9.30 am	Holy Souls
Thursday	8 th	9.30 am	Intentions of Tom Phelan & Family
Friday	9 th	9.30 am	Helen Gillespie RIP
Saturday	10 th	5.15pm	Rosary for Justice & Peace
		6.00 pm	Jessica Forte RIP
Sunday	11 th	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Mireille Byrne RIP



SATURDAY: Reconciliation: 10.15 -10.45 am and 5.15 – 5.45 pm
Tuesday is The Feast of the Epiphany, a Holy Day of Obligation

TODAY'S READINGS: Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2,8-12; Ephesians 1:3-6,15-18; John 1:1-18

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7; Acts 10:34-38, Matthew 3:13-17

COLLECTIONS: Church: £389 DONA: £100 Turning Tides: £529 Thank you for your generosity
Next weekend there will be a Second Collection for SPUC

Contributions to the Christmas Crib will be sent to Friends of the Holy Land

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Christopher Williams, 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, 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, Ernest Hare, Cyril Woodgar, George Welch, Mark Zenkteler.

2. THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Maureen Barrass, Patricia Wyant, Charles Simpson, Herbert Foreman, Beryl Snadden, Brenda McDonald, Donald Perriman, Peggy Smith, Frances Boylan, Fiona Hague, Kathleen McCarney, Mary Castanes, Anna De Vido, Catherine Bennett, Anna Rofe, Lilian Shaw, Sophie Abbot, Adriana Gaboli, Elvira Kelly, Janine Leyder, Marianne Fisher, Jessie Patten, Kathleen Page, Sarah Finnegan. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory.*

3. THE 100 CLUB: We're pleased to announce the relaunch of the Church 100 Club. Members are allocated a number between 1 and 100. Each month 5 numbers are drawn. If your number is drawn, you win £5! The draw will take place on the 3rd Sunday of each month. The annual subscription will be £15 per year, helping to raise additional income to support the work of the church. We'd love as many people as possible to take part & support this valuable fundraiser. Full details from Maria Clarke.

4. THE 'CAFOD AUCTION' AND SUPPER EXTRAVAGANZA will be held in The Barn on Saturday 17th January 2026 at 7.00 pm following the 6.00 pm Mass. Please remember to save any 'surplus' gifts or unused items for the Auction. If you would like them to be collected, please contact Charles 01903 505546. Tickets will be on sale after all Masses **this weekend price £10.00.** Raffle prizes will also be gratefully received

5. THE REQUIEM FOR PATRICIA STEADMAN RIP will take place next Tuesday 6th January 2026 at St Catherines, Littlehampton at 12.00 noon. All are welcome..

6. THE WHITE FLOWER APPEAL is dedicated to protecting unborn children and promoting the right to life in society. Our appeals in Churches raise awareness of pro-life matters to parishioners and the donations we receive allows SPUC to continue our tireless work to build a culture of life. We work to educate youth, lobby politicians, mobilise pro-life activities in the community, provide support to students facing crisis pregnancies and much more.

7. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2026: The first lesson for the children will be next Tuesday 6th January from 4.30 – 5.30 pm. First Holy Communion will be on Sunday 7th June (Corpus Christi).

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

9. WHAT IS YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION? Or should it be '**YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU!**' We are a busy parish with many good things happening in it but these only can happen if you are prepared to join in. At the moment help is needed with Flower arranging, the Choir and Friendship in the Barn on Friday afternoons. At the beginning of April we open again to the public who wish to come and view the ceiling and our lovely stained-glass windows. There is much to do but we really do need you to come and help where you can. Please contact Anne in the Parish Office for further information and with your offers of assistance

10. 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

11. TURNING TIDES: URGENT! THE WINTER WISHLIST: Waterproof & Water Repellent Jackets, Thermals T-shirts M/L Hoodies, Fleece, Sweatshirts, M/L Tracksuit Bottoms, M/L NEW Gloves, Socks, Winter Hats, NEW Women's Pants S/M, NEW Men's Boxers S/M. 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: As you know, we will be following the gospel according to Matthew on most of the Sundays of this year. He begins 'The story of the origin of Jesus Christ' in a way where few Christians of today would commence if they were asked to undertake this task. He begins the narrative with Abraham begetting Isaac! Matthew's record of ancestral names comes in three sections. It is quite a list, beginning with the patriarchs from Abraham to David. Then there are the Kings from David to the exile to Babylonia. Finally, there are largely unknown people from the exile to Joseph.

Matthew is placed first in all the copies of the New Testament, even though all the epistles of St Paul were written before any of the gospels and most people believe that Mark was the first of the gospel writers. The Gospels are placed first to denote the special place of honour in which they were always held. If we were asked at the beginning of the year to take up the New Testament and read a little of it every day, we might find ourselves rather put off by this long list of names – including some cheats and liars among the ancestors of the Messiah. This will be echoed in strange choices Jesus sometimes made in calling sinners to follow him and make him known. The list of unknown people Matthew sets before us mirrors the very ordinary fishermen and tax-collectors that Jesus gathered around him.

Matthew also takes the unusual step of including women in the genealogy of Jesus. These women are not obvious saints like Sarah and Rebekah or Rachel but women like Tamar and Rahab and Uriah's wife Bathsheba – women of questionable repute. Yet they were true instruments of God's spirit in preserving the lineage of the Messiah. By assembling such a complex list of predecessors for Jesus, Matthew is preparing us for a similarly complex cast of those who will follow Jesus.

The rest of Matthew's infancy narrative shows the child Jesus reliving more of Israel's story. When Matthew's readers heard the name Joseph they would have thought of the great Joseph the Patriarch who was the Bible's most famous interpreter of revelation in dreams. He is called the master of dreams. He went down to Egypt where he was able to save his people from famine. It is no accident that Matthew's Joseph is the principal New Testament figure to receive revelation in a series of dreams and the only one to go down to Egypt.

In the Old Testament, after the Patriarch Joseph brought Israel to Egypt, a wicked pharaoh killed all the Hebrew male children. The infant Moses escaped ultimately to save his people by leading them out of Egypt. Similarly, in Matthew's Gospel, the wicked King Herod kills all the male children of Bethlehem.

Matthew in his gospel is portraying Jesus as the new Moses. He too escapes the designs of those who wish to kill him and survives to carry out his saving work through his ministry, death and resurrection. On Moses' way to the promised land, there was a famous magus from the East, Balaam, a figure similar to Matthew's magi. But Balaam sees the star of the future King David rising from Israel. Balaam declares 'a star shall come forth from Jacob and a scepter shall arise from Israel'. Similarly, the Magi in Matthew's story obey God rather than the wicked King Herod because they have seen the rising star of the true King of the Jews.

If we see remarkable similarities between the scheming of Pharaoh in the Old Testament and the schemes of King Herod in the new that is no accident. Matthew is guiding his readers to recognise that the events of the Old Testament truly point to the coming Messiah. People were then able to detect meanings that we find difficult to identify and so we tend to get bogged down in trying to understand everything literally. Matthew is telling us about the adult Jesus, the New Moses and the people of Matthew's time knew how to interpret the language he used.