

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

25.01.2026

Father Liam O'Connor, 37 Compton Avenue,

Goring-by-Sea, West Sussex. BN12 4UE

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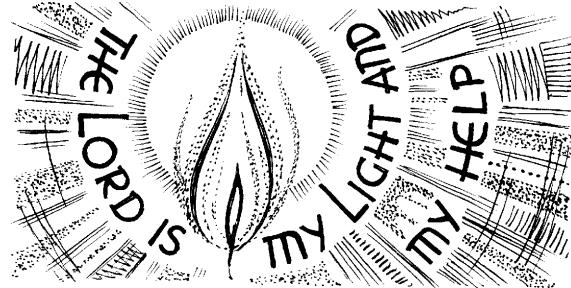
Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

Safeguarding Rep. Anne Niven 01903 242624

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

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	24 th	6.00 pm	Catherine Bandy RIP
Sunday	25 th	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Peter Honiball RIP
Monday	26 th	9.30 am	Kyric Aitken (Birthday)
Tuesday	27 th	9.30 am	Intention of Sharon McCluskey
		7.00 pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	28 th	9.30 am	Tony Headon RIP
Thursday	29 th	9.30 am	Holy Souls
Friday	30 th	9.30 am	Helen Gillespie RIP
		11.30 am	REQUIEM FOR THOMAS PHELAN RIP
Saturday	31 st	11.00am	REQUIEM FOR RICHARD ARMITAGE RIP
		6.00 pm	Helen Gillespie RIP
Sunday	1 st	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Darryl Cox RIP
		3.00 pm	Holy Hour & Benediction



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

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 8:23-9:3; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17; Matthew 4:12-23

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Malachi 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40

COLLECTIONS: Church: £556 **DONA:** £ **CAFOD AUCTION:** £1280 **Thank you for your generosity**

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 Diett, 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: John Hargadon, Rosemary Dovell, John Murray, Patrick Jackson-Burrows, Barbara King, Jan Gejda, Eileen Beech, Josephine Shore, Maureen Barnes, Veronica Harwood, Freddie Griffin, Mary Corcoran, Donal O'Connor, Henry Major, Richard Chesterton-Samuels, Gladys Murphy, John McLening, John Crowley, Lawrence Connolly, Dirk Van Melsen.
May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

3. THE CAFOD AUCTION EXTRAVAGANZA raised £1,280. Many thanks to all those who helped in any way to create such a delicious meal and enjoyable evening. Thanks also to those who gave so generously.

4. ST. VALENTINE'S EVENING CANDLELIT DINNER will take place on Saturday 14th February to raise funds for the Parish Project, the hospice in Kalingalinga. This very popular event will include a three-course meal, Bar, music and raffle. Tickets are £10.00 each and will be on sale after all Masses next weekend.

5. OUR PARISH 100 CLUB DRAW: Congratulations to our January winners: £15 Susan Brown (63), £10 Anne Niven (76), £5 Sandra Putt Hick (46) Elaine Ryan-Bassi (29) and Peter Lucas (16). Thank you to everyone who supports the 100 Club and good luck in next month's draw!

6. MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR BISHOP RICHARD'S MINISTRY in Arundel & Brighton, will take place on Friday 30th January, at 6.30pm, at Arundel Cathedral. Archbishop-Elect Richard will celebrate this Mass, which will be followed by a reception in the Baron's Hall, Arundel Castle, by kind permission of His Grace, the Duke of Norfolk.

7. A MESSAGE FROM HOMESTART – Thank you so much for your generous donation of £630.60 to our ‘Be a Santa’ appeal. This year marks 25 years of Home-Start Arun, Worthing & Adur supporting local families – and your kindness helps to ensure that no child in our community misses out on the magic of Christmas. The donation doesn’t just bring festive magic; it means our incredible volunteers can be there for parents who are struggling – offering a listening ear, practical help and emotional support when it’s needed most. At a time when loneliness and stress can hit hardest, your gift helps keep families connected, cared for and never alone. Signed Bridget Richardson CEO

8. WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2026: ‘Praying together in Worthing’. On the second Sunday of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity believers from this part of Sussex are invited to gather, meet and pray together using songs and prayers from the Taizé community. This will take place at St Richard’s, Maybridge this Sunday 25th January from 5.00 – 7.00 pm. There will be a chance to meet each other, a short exploration of a piece of scripture with songs from Taizé. At the end of the evening there will be refreshments and some soup! Everyone is invited.

9. 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

10. TURNING TIDES: URGENT! THE WINTER WISHLIST: Waterproof & Water Repellent Jackets, Thermals T-shirts M/L Hoodies, Fleeces, 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: The ‘Our Father’ is the greatest of our prayers because it is the prayer that Jesus himself taught us. The Apostles asked Jesus to teach them to pray. They saw how prayerful he was. He often went apart from them to spend time with the Father. He sometimes spent the whole night in prayer. Because he taught his followers to pray in this way we call it the Lord’s Prayer. He would not have used this precise form of words himself. He was the unique Son of God. He never addressed the Father as ‘Our Father’. God is Our Father but not in the same way as he is the Father of Jesus. He spoke of ‘My Father and your Father.’ This prayer has been dear to the hearts of Christians since the day Jesus taught his disciples.

Prayer beads began to be used by Christians as early as the third century. The use of beads, or even small pebbles, was a practical method of keeping track of how many prayers they had said. Prior to the thirteenth century, the prayer that was most commonly said on prayer beads was the Our Father. The name given to these beads was Paternoster beads as Latin was the language most people used.

From ancient times the liturgical prayer, known as the Divine Office or the Liturgy of the Hours, was prayed in Latin. But as many people could not read – and the Liturgy of the Hours entailed the reading or singing of the Psalms – they substituted the reciting of the Our Father for the readings of the Office. Instead of chanting the 150 Psalms the practice spread to repeating the Paternoster 150 times. So, the use of paternoster beads really began to flourish after the 11th Century. It was easier to wear and carry a set of 50 beads rather than 150 so the 50 beaded cord was prayed three times. Paternoster beads became so popular in the 12 Century that there was a street named Paternoster Row in London, where skilled craftsmen worked as professional bead makers. In the year 1268 there were four guilds in Paris that specialized in the making of Paternoster beads. It was something that spread through the Christian world

In the 12th Century the Hail Mary prayer became more widely used in devotions. The Hail Mary, unlike the Paternoster, took centuries to compose. The first word ‘Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you’ were uttered by the Angel Gabriel to Mary. It is followed by Elizabeth’s greeting to Mary also given in Chapter 1 of Luke’s Gospel: ‘Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb.’ Taken directly from the Gospel, these salutations to Mary formed the first half of what would become known as the Ave Maria, or Hail Mary. They were forged together in the 6th Century in a Prayer of the Mass at Christmas time. For centuries the first part of the Hail Mary was the way in which Christians honoured Mary – and they honoured her in the very words in which she is honoured in the Gospel.

The 13th Century marked a high point in the fortunes of Christianity. The 14th turned out to be one of the most difficult, plagued by disease and controversy. France suffered years of famine and starvation and this was followed from 1347 1351 by the Black Death, which swept through all of Europe. In these four years one third of the population of Europe had contracted the plague and died. Millions also died in Asia and elsewhere – in parts unknown at the time. Many who survived lost hope and lost confidence in their spiritual leaders. A bizarre sect emerged known as the Flagellants. They paraded around the streets flagellating (flogging) themselves. Vast amounts of historical documents were lost since many buildings were burnt to prevent further spread of the plague.

Out of this chaos and tragedy an urgent prayer of petition was added to the existing Hail Mary. It gave expression to the plight and anguish of people in a great calamity. It prompted the people to cry out to Mary, the Mother of Our Lord to protect them at a time when the present moment and the hour of their death were almost one for so many people. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us now and at the hour of our death.