

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

1.02.2026

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 Website: 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

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	31 st	6.00 pm	Helen Gillespie RIP
Sunday	1 st	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Josephine Shore RIP
		3.00 pm	Holy Hour & Benediction
Monday	2 nd	9.30 am	Peter Honiball RIP
Tuesday	3 rd	9.30 am	Holy Souls
		7.00 pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	4 th	9.30 am	Lizzie Flynn RIP
Thursday	5 th	9.30 am	Tom Phelan RIP & Family
Friday	6 th	9.30 am	Intentions of Thomas O'Toole & Family
Saturday	7 th	5.15. pm	Rosary for Justice & Peace in the Holy Land
		6.00 pm	Sister Elizabeth Campbell RIP
Sunday	8 th	8.15 am	Helen Gillespie RIP
		10.30 am	The Parish



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

TODAY'S READINGS: Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 5:1-12

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 58: 7-10; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Matthew 5:13-16

COLLECTIONS: Church: £488 **DONA:** £172 **Thank you for your generosity**
Second Collection next weekend for the Arundel & Brighton Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund
(Gift Aid using special Envelopes available in both porches)

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: Edith Baker, Sheila Curties, Eileen Baynton, Lisa Parkes, Finlay Finlayson, Irene Miles, Catherine Fuller, Pauline Leyder, Edith Forrester, Colette Coombes, Hilda Holcroft, John Smith, Mercedes Fulgoney, Anastasia Langan, Ursula Trüpe.
May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

3. 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 this weekend.

4. COLLECTION FOR THE LOURDES FUND: The Diocesan Pilgrimage takes around 700 people each year to Lourdes, of whom around 130 are Assisted Pilgrims who are frail, elderly, disabled or sick and last year 150 young people between 15 and 29 years of age. The Pilgrimage relies on the efforts of volunteers and generous donors to enable it to offer financial support to many Assisted Pilgrims who join us and to those who care for them whilst we are in Lourdes. Each year we use some funds to subsidise the price for young people to answer the Annunciation invitation 'to welcome, to listen and of the 'yes' that changed everything,' which we hope will deepen their relationship with God and encourage them to share their experience back home with their parish communities.

5. MINISTERS ROTAS for February are available in the Sacristy.

6. DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Saturday 14th February – St Valentine's Evening Candlelit Supper

Wednesday 18th February - Ash Wednesday

Saturday 21st March - St Patrick's Night Hooley

Sunday 5th April – Easter Sunday

Monday 6th April – Church opens to visitors to the ceiling

Saturday 18th April – St George's Night 'Do'

Sunday 3rd May – James Winton Concert – following 10.30 am Mass

Saturday 13th June – Parish Celebration of Father Liam's Diamond Jubilee



7. LOURDES PILGRIMAGE: 24th–30th July 2025. Online applications for the 2026 Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage for all those who do not require any assistance in Lourdes or on the journey can now be found on our website lourdes@abdiocese.org.uk Paper applications for those who require assistance will be posted out soon. If you or someone you know would like to receive an Assisted Pilgrim Application Form, please email us with the name and postal address. For those who wish to donate on-line to the A&B Lourdes Pilgrimage Appeal Collection, this can be done using the A&B Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage website. Go to the website address <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/lourdes/home>

8. THIS WEEKEND WE CELEBRATE RACIAL JUSTICE IN OUR PARISHES. We live in an increasingly polarised society and it is imperative that we listen to and learn from the experiences, challenges, and opportunities encountered by those promoting racial justice in Catholic parishes today. We need to reflect on the words of St John, who said: "We cannot love God who we cannot see, if we do not love our brother and sister who we can see."

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: How surprised would you be if you came to church today and found that the Christmas Crib was still up? But, in fact, it has not yet been taken down in a number of churches. It can remain in place until after tomorrow – the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple. In St Luke's Gospel we are told when Jesus was an infant his parents 'took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, observing what is written in the Law of the Lord: 'every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord.' The parents were also to offer 'in accordance with what is prescribed in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtle doves or two young pigeons.'

We keep the Feast of the Presentation on 2nd February, 40 days after his birth. Luke does not specifically mention 40 days. He says 'when the day came in keeping with the Law of Moses' his parents took his to Jerusalem where they are met by Simeon and Anna – two characters who could have stepped out of the pages of the Old Testament. Luke identifies Anna as a prophetess and says that Simeon was moved by the Holy Spirit to utter a prophecy about the future of Jesus. Luke mentions five times that the parents acted in accordance with the law. So added to the Law is the element of prophecy, emphasizing that the coming of Jesus was in accord with the Law and the prophets. Anna and Simeon reveal Jesus to be the fulfilment of God's promises, which God's people had long anticipated. Central to the Feast of the Presentation is the meeting of the child Jesus and his parents with Simeon and Anna. In the East the feast is known as 'The Meeting'. Simeon had been told by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he had set his eyes on the Christ of the Lord. He now tells the Lord; 'Now you can let your servant depart in peace'. (The Nunc Dimittis). Simeon calls Jesus 'The light to enlighten the nations'. This is why this feast is also called Candlemas. It has long been associated with the tradition of blessing the candles to be used in the church throughout the coming year. The feast used to be celebrated as the end of the Christmas-Epiphany season.

Luke had begun his gospel by describing the pious man and woman, Zachariah and Elizabeth with the proclamation in the temple of the good news about the coming of John the Baptist. Elizabeth reacted to the good news about the Baptist by thanking God that he had dealt with her as he had. Similarly, the woman Anna 'gave thanks to God and spoke about the child (Jesus) to all those waiting for the Redemption of Jerusalem'.

The Nunc Dimittis is Simeon's thanksgiving to God: 'Mighty Master, now you may let your servant depart in peace since you kept your Word. For my eyes have seen this salvation that you made ready in the sight of all peoples – a light to be a revelation to the Gentiles and to be a glory for your people Israel'. Simeon is proclaiming Christ Saviour of all mankind – a light to be a revelation to the Gentiles and to the glory for your people Israel. Simeon then goes on to pronounce a blessing upon the parents of Jesus, especially upon Mary, when he speaks of the child whose work had not yet begun: 'Behold, he is set for the fall and rise of many in Israel and for the sign to be contradicted – indeed a sword will pass through your own soul – so that the inmost thoughts of many may be revealed.'

Mary is the only adult in the infancy of Jesus who would last into his public ministry and into the life of the infant Church. After the Resurrection she and the other disciples prayed together for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. She grew in her understanding of all the marvelous happenings that she was such a part of through listening to God's word and doing it.