

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

11.01.2026

Father Liam O'Connor, 37 Compton Avenue,

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

The Baptism of the Lord

Saturday	10 th	5.15pm	Rosary for Justice & Peace in the Holy Land
		6.00 pm	Jessica Forte RIP
Sunday	11 th	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Mireille Byrne RIP
Monday	12 th	9.30 am	Intention of Sharon McCluskey
Tuesday	13 th	9.30 am	Holy Souls
Wednesday	14 th	9.30 am	Trish Steadman RIP
Thursday	15 th	9.30 am	Alfred & Stephen Puttick RIP
Friday	16 th	9.30 am	Special Intention
Saturday	17 th	6.00 pm	The Parish
Sunday	18 th	8.15 am	Peter Honiball RIP
		10.30 am	Nicholas Murphy RIP



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

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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6; Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:29-34

COLLECTIONS: Church: £510 DONA: £ Thank you for your generosity

This weekend there will be a Second Collection for the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child (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 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: RICHARD ARMITAGE, THOMAS PHELAN, MARIE KEEGAN and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Marianne Fisher, Jessie Patten, Kathleen Page, Sarah Finnegan, Ella Turnbull, Robert Barber, Janine van Melson, Ruby Bernardi, John O'Brian, Kathleen Bennett, John Evans, David Sheldon, Elizabeth Coleman, Johnny Johnson, Edith Murphy, Edward Hatton, Winifred Pearce, Bernard Hagel, John Flood, Philip Gilpin, Andrée Price, Sheila Bishop, Kathleen Bull, Anne Wapshott, Mary Bertolini, Michael Lambert, Michael Mills, Kathleen Smyth, Beatrice Wilson, Marie Terry. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory.*

3. I THANK YOU for all your kindnesses to me during the past year and for your best wishes and Christmas gifts and offerings.

4. THE 100 CLUB: Thank you to everyone who signed up last weekend. We've had a great response, but there are still a few numbers remaining. It costs just £15 for the year. On the 3rd Sunday of every month there will be five winners: 1 x £15, 1 x £10, 3x £5. If you would like to take part, please place your £15 in an envelope clearly marked with your name & phone number, and give it to Maria Clarke or Fr Liam. Please can any outstanding payments be made as soon as possible. Good luck!

5. THE 'CAFOD AUCTION' AND SUPPER EXTRAVAGANZA will be held in The Barn next 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.

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

7. 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.

8. A DAY OF REFLECTION FOR MINISTERS OF THE WORD will take place on Saturday 24 January 2026 from 11am until 4pm at St Michael's church, High Salvington, Worthing BN13 3AL led by Bishop Richard and Catherine Christmas, Liturgy and Music Adviser. On the weekend of the Sunday of the Word of God, this day will include talks on the Scriptures, the Lectionary and its use in the Liturgy, the Liturgy of the Word, and preparing to minister as a reader. There will be a time of Lectio Divina, and the day will conclude with the celebration of Mass. To book a place go to the Events page of the Diocesan website or use this link [Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Word \(24-Jan-2026\) · ChurchSuite Events](#). If you have any questions about this day, do not hesitate to contact Catherine Christmas at E: catherine.christmas@abdiocese.org.uk

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: The only Carthusian monastery in England is in our diocese – near Henfield. They are a particularly austere community and at the time of the Reformation there were a number of Carthusian houses in this country. The first martyrs of the Tudor persecution were Carthusians. King Henry VIII declared it to be high treason to deny that the Monarch was the supreme head of the church in England. The Act of Supremacy came into force on 1st February 1535 and the King knew that the Carthusians would refuse to take the oath so he intended to make an example of them to the rest of the nation.

John Houghton was the Prior of the London Charterhouse of the community and he warned them that they would be faced with the alternative between apostasy and martyrdom. In February 1535 the Priors of two of the houses visited the London Charterhouse to consult with Prior Houghton about the impending situation. The house at Sheen had been founded in 1414 and had become the largest of the nine Charterhouses in England. These three priors decided to meet Thomas Cromwell, the King's chief secretary but he committed all three to the Tower.

Royal Commissioners interrogated them about the Oath and took down their answers, which are still preserved in the Public Records Office. Robert Lawrence, who was Prior of the house in Nottinghamshire, 'says that there is one Catholic Church of which the Bishop of Rome is the head. Therefore, he cannot believe that the King is the Supreme head of the Church'. Augustine Webster, Prior of the house in Lincolnshire, 'says that he cannot take the King to be Supreme head of the Church, but him that is by the Doctors of the Church taken as head of the Church, that is the Bishop of Rome, as Ambrose, Jerome, Augustine affirm'. A few days later they were arraigned in Westminster Hall on a charge of treason for saying that 'The King is not Supreme head on earth of the church in England'. At first the jury refused to bring in the required verdict but on the following day Cromwell terrorized them into submission and sentence of death was passed.

On 4th May, as they were tied to the hurdles, St Thomas More, also a prisoner in the Tower, saw them from his window. He turned to his daughter Margaret who was visiting him and said: 'Lo, dost thou not see, Meg, that these blessed Fathers be going to their deaths as cheerfully as a bridegrooms to their marriage'. Wearing their habits (a thing, hitherto, unheard of in a Christian country) they were drawn through the mud and dirt of Newgate Street and Holborn. At Tyburn the other two had to look on at the butchery of John Houghton, who embraced his executioner and freely forgave him for what he was about to do. As he stood in the cart with a rope around his neck he spoke to the crowd: 'I call almighty God to witness and I beseech all here present to attest for me on the dreadful day of judgement, that being about to die in public I declare that I have refused to comply with the will of His Majesty, the King, not from obstinacy, malice or a rebellious spirit, but solely for fear of offending the Supreme Majesty of God. Pray for me and have pity on my brethren of whom I have been an unworthy Prior.' They used a specially thick rope for fear he might die before the butchery began. When the rope was cut, they tore off his habit and the ghastly dismemberment began.

Each of the other Priors, as they entered the cart were offered a free pardon if they would renounce the authority of the Pope. They too preferred death to apostasy, so their bodies also were beheaded and divided into four parts.