

## PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

8.02.2026

Father Liam O'Connor, 37 Compton Avenue,

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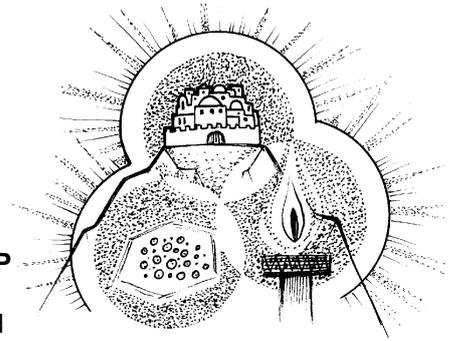
Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

Safeguarding Rep. Anne Niven 01903 242624

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

### Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	7 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Sister Elizabeth Campbell RIP
Sunday	8 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 am	Helen Gillespie RIP
		10.30 am	The Parish
Monday	9 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Mike Chatfield RIP
Tuesday	10 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Intention of Liam Griffin
		<b>7.00 pm</b>	<b>Choir Practice</b>
Wednesday	11 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Mireille Byrne RIP
Thursday	12 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Anne, Mike & Stephen Steere RIP
		<b>11.00 am</b>	<b>FUNERAL SERVICE FOR JIM MARTIN RIP</b>
Friday	13 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Peter Honiball RIP
Saturday	14 <sup>th</sup>	5.15. pm	Rosary for Justice & Peace in the Holy Land
		6.00 pm	Peter Boyle RIP
Sunday	15 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 am	Franco Siriano RIP
		10.30 am	The Parish



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

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

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20; 1 Corinthians 2:6-10; Matthew 5:17-37

**COLLECTIONS: Church: £550 DONA: £121 Thank you for your generosity**  
**Second Collection this weekend for the Arundel & Brighton Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund**  
**(Gift Aid using special Envelopes available in both porches)**

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** John, 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: Brenda McMahon, Walter Thompson, Alice Thomas, Antony Iago, Kathleen Taylor, Robert Thompson, Antonia Kozubowska-Alexandre, Mike Steere, Sally Austin. *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. Raffle Prizes will be much appreciated.

**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 to 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. OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM TUESDAY 19th - THURSDAY 21st MAY:** Full cost including meals and transport by coach will be £300. 25 rooms have been booked with a few spare ones to go. Friends from local parishes will be most welcome to join us. However, we must have definite names by Thursday 19th February at the latest. Please contact parish office for more information. 01903 785901.

## **6. DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February – St Valentine's Evening Candlelit Supper  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February - Ash Wednesday  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March - St Patrick's Night Hooley  
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Sunday  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April – Church opens to visitors to the ceiling  
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April – St George's Night 'Do'  
Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – James Winton Concert – following 10.30 am Mass  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June – Parish Celebration of Father Liam's Diamond Jubilee



**7. LOURDES PILGRIMAGE: 24<sup>th</sup>–30<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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. 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

**9. 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: On the 11th February every year we commemorate** St Bernadette because it was the date, in 1858 that Bernadette Soubirous first saw a vision of Our Lady at Lourdes, in the foothills of the French Pyrenees. On most days from 11<sup>th</sup> February to 4<sup>th</sup> March the vision appeared to Bernadette. At the time of her vision Bernadette was fourteen years old. She was barely literate. The country was then in the grip of the French Revolution, which caused widespread hardship and confusion as well as bitter anti-Catholic persecution. At that time children received their First Holy Communion much later than they do now. Bernadette did not make her First Holy Communion until 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1858 – the Feast of Corpus Christi – when she was 14.

Lourdes today is justly regarded as the most important place of Catholic pilgrimage in the world, after the Holy Land and Rome. It comprises four magnificent basilicas and the grotto marking the exact spot where Our Lady appeared to Bernadette. Four years before these events, Pope Pius IX had proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. For centuries the doctrine had been believed, but the proclamation in 1854 made it part of the Church's official teaching – that the Virgin Mary had been conceived and born without the taint of Original Sin. Out of respect for the dignity of her Son, Mary was preserved from the first moment of her existence from any taint of sin.

On 25<sup>th</sup> March, the Feast of the Annunciation, Bernadette felt compelled to go again to the grotto. Our Lady was already there. 'With two arms hanging down, she raised her eyes and looked up at the sky and it was then that she told me, joining her hands together now at the height of her breast, that she was the Immaculate Conception. Those were the last words she ever said to me'. This was the last appearance.

The first appearance – on 11<sup>th</sup> February – took place while Bernadette was out collecting wood. She had to look after her younger brothers while her mother went out cleaning. Bernadette, with her sister Toinette and her friend Jeanne were at a stream which joined the shallow river by a grotto at Massabielle. Later she reported 'I raised my head and looked towards the grotto. I saw a lady dressed in a white dress, with a blue girdle and a yellow rose on each foot; the same colour as the chain of her rosary. The beads of her rosary were white'. The lady beckoned her but the girl dared not approach and the lady disappeared. Toinette and Jeanne saw nothing and Bernadette at first did not tell them what she had seen. They, however, got the story out of her and told her parents. The Soubirous family would not allow her to visit the grotto again but she told her priest who discussed it with the parish priest of Lourdes, Father Peyramale on 14<sup>th</sup> February – a Sunday – Madame Soubirous relented and Bernadette took a bottle of holy water with her and went to the grotto and knelt down to say her rosary. The Lady appeared again 'I started sprinkling holy water at her and told her if she came from God to stay, and if not, to go'. The vision smiled and bowed her head. Frightened, Bernadette threw the rest of the holy water at her and the vision disappeared.

On 18<sup>th</sup> February Bernadette went again, this time with two adults. The Lady asked Bernadette to come each day for a fortnight. The Lady spoke to her in the Lourdes dialect, not in French. Bernadette was asked to pray for the conversion of sinners and gave her three secrets 'which she forbade me to tell anyone'. The local police inspector interrogated her and tried to muddle her testimony – but in vain. The notes of the interview have been preserved. 'There was something in me that enabled me to rise above everything. I was tackled from all sides but nothing mattered and I was not afraid'. In 1862 a series of interrogations by bishops began. They were impressed by 'her simplicity, candour and modesty, the wisdom of her answers, her calm imagination and commonsense beyond her age'. To sceptics she replied: 'I have been told to tell you about it. I have not been told to make you believe it'.

Bernadette's health was poor but in April 1866 she succeeded in entering a convent as a postulant in Nevers. On her first day she was told to recount her visions to the whole community and then never speak of them again. She died on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1879, after much suffering. She spoke of suffering as 'her job'. She was beatified in 1925 and canonised in 1933. Helping people in their suffering continues to be 'her job'.