

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

15.02.2026

Father Liam O'Connor, 37 Compton Avenue,

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

Presbytery 01903 242624 / Church repository 01903 506890

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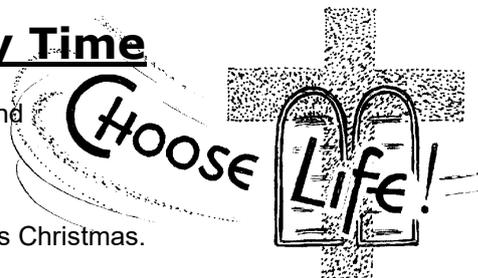
Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

Safeguarding Rep. Anne Niven 01903 242624

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

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	14 th	5.15. pm	Rosary for Justice & Peace in the Holy Land
		6.00 pm	Peter Boyle RIP
Sunday	15 th	8.15 am	Franco Siriano RIP
		10.30 am	The Parish
Monday	16 th	9.30 am	The intention of Eric Gallagher and James Christmas.
Tuesday	17 th	9.30 am	Sarah Doherty RIP
		7.00 pm	Choir Practice
Ash	18 th	9.30 am	Nathaniel Adams RIP
Wednesday		7.30 pm	Jerry & Pam Mahony RIP
Thursday	19 th	9.30 am	Mark Grace RIP
Friday	20 th	9.30 am	Intention of Kitty Woodger
Saturday	21 st	6.00 pm	Helen Gillespie RIP
Sunday	22 nd	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Richard Armitage RIP



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

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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

COLLECTIONS: Church: £461 Arundel & Brighton Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund: £507
Thank you for your generosity

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting and abstinence

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Bernard Markham, Ruth Waywell, 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: Violet Way, James Melhuish, Peggy St John Farnon, Jack Wood, Sandra Forsyth, Maria Jackson, Severina Middleton, Jack Colclough, Reg Lehane, Joao Martinho, Laurence Sullivan, Winifred Jones, Royston Payne, Jerry Fortis, Albert Stone, Rosemary Hart, Frank Wilcockson, Ann Morris, Marie Angel. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory.*

3. 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

4. DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

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

Sunday 14th June – Parish Celebration of Father Liam's Diamond Jubilee. **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE**



5. THE LENTEN ALMS BOX is in the front porch next to the main door. The proceeds are sent to the Contemplative Orders of Women in the Diocese.

6. 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>

7. HOSPICE IN KALINGALINGA: A few weeks ago we sent the money raised last year for Kalingalinga, £2771.49 and have received the following letter of thanks: 'We are grateful for the many years of support we have received from the English Martyrs parish. Many times, the donations have saved many lives at the hospice. It will take several years to recover from the sudden withdrawal of the USAID. We continue to trust in God's goodness along the way so that we continue to serve His people. We will pray for a successful upcoming fundraising event on St. Valentine. Please extend our gratitude to all the parishioners and well wishers who make this donation possible. With Gratitude, Sr. Immaculata.'

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, Fleecees, 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: This coming Wednesday – Ash Wednesday – marks the beginning of Lent. Lent begins very early this year – because Easter occurs early - 5th April. Next year it will be even earlier – 28th March. Sometimes Easter Sunday is towards the end of April. There is a connection between the date of Easter and the Jewish Feast of Passover. The death and Resurrection of Christ took place at Passover and because Passover is dated from the movements of the sun, it is very much a moveable feast. And, of course, Ash Wednesday always comes forty days before Easter. This year the Sunday Readings of the Sermon on the Mount come to an end today. In some years this central teaching of Christ would be continued for a further three Sundays until Ash Wednesday is in sight. Unfortunately, Easter does not always coincide with the Jewish Feast of Passover – for reasons I do not know. Nor does the celebration of Easter in the Western Church always occur at the time when it is celebrated in the Eastern Orthodox Churches. What a demonstration of unity it would be if these discrepancies could be ironed out. I expect they never will be.

Ash Wednesday goes back 900 years. If you count the number of days from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday, you get more than 40 days – 46 days in fact. The reason is that every Sunday was always regarded as a little Easter. That meant that Sunday Mass was always meant to be celebrated joyfully and ceremoniously. It also meant that Sundays were not fast days. People were exempt from fasting on Sundays because it was the day of the Resurrection. But Lent was a season when people were meant to fast for forty days – in imitation of Christ fasting for forty days. So, if you exclude Sundays from the forty days of fasting, Lent begins on a Wednesday.

The Season of Lent comes to an end on Maundy Thursday – before the celebration of the Last Supper. The Special Three Days of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil are the shortest and most solemn of all the Seasons of the Church. They are the Sacred Triduum – the Sacred Three Days.

It is amazing to see how many people come to Mass on Ash Wednesday. It is not a day when we are obliged to come. There never was a Church Law telling us we had to come. Ashes are put on our foreheads as a sign of penance. We are proclaiming that we are sinners. A public admission of personal failure isn't exactly a common occurrence in our culture. We are not that keen on advertising the fact that we are sinners, yet year by year we gather with our brothers and sisters and publicly acknowledge that we have faltered, that we have fallen short of what we are called to be. By wearing a mark on our foreheads, we alert others to our failings.

We openly profess also our belief in God's mercy and readiness to forgive. If ashes is a sign of brokenness, then the cross – the shape the ashes take as they are applied – proclaims even louder our belief in God's eagerness to make us whole. Ash Wednesday – like Good Friday – is a day of fasting and abstinence.

On the day before, people ensured that any milk or meat or luxurious food would be disposed of before Lent began. So Tuesday was called Pancake Tuesday. It was a time to say farewell to meat. 'Carnival' literally means saying farewell to meat and the farewell was often an occasion for over-indulgence. But some people decided to prepare for Lent in a rather different way. They would go to Confession. That is why it is still called 'Shrove' Tuesday. To shrive is Old English for Confession.

The ashes used on Wednesday come from burning the palms used on Palm Sunday. Palms are associated with glory

And worldly glory comes to ashes.