

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

26.07.2026

Father Liam O'Connor, 37 Compton Avenue,

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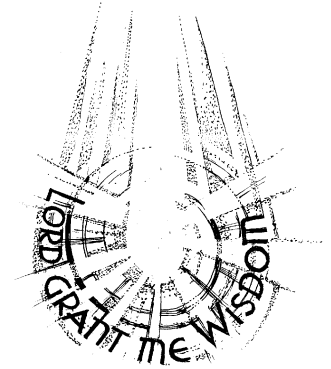
Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

Safeguarding Rep. Anne Niven 01903 242624

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

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	25 th	6.00 pm	The Parish
Sunday	26 th	8.15 am	Intention of Mike Kearney
		10.30 am	Intention of Sarah Johnstone
Monday	27 th	9.30 am	Jack Haugh RIP
Tuesday	28 th	9.30 am	No Mass
Wednesday	29 th	9.30am	Eucharistic Service
Thursday	30 th	9.30 am	No Mass
Friday	31 st	9.30 am	Eucharistic Service
Saturday	1 st	6.00 pm	Michael's Recovery
Sunday	2 nd	8.15 am	Clare Howse RIP
		10.30 am	The Parish



SATURDAY: Reconciliation: 5.15 - 5:45 pm

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12, St Paul to the Romans 8:28-30, Matthew 13: 44-52

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; 2 Peter 1:16-19; Matthew 17:1-9

COLLECTIONS: Church: £484 Dona: £52 CAFOD Venezuelan Earthquake Appeal: £728
Thank you for your generosity

Next weekend there will be a Second Collection for Peter's Pence

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Shirley Shiel, Angela Day, Derek LeMahieu, Ruth Waywell, John, Laura Pegg, Marie Davidson, Alice Headon, Shona, Jonathan Waywell, Richard Wells, Natasha, Henry Allen, 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, 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: Jim Corcoran, Doris Birch, Brendan McCann, Elsie Peeney, Timothy Payne, Patrick Harty, Joan Hawkins, Constance Lilleyman, Janet Flynn, Bernard Flynn, Sheila Mander, Deacon Pat Moloney, Brenda Allen. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory.*

3. WELCOME TO ANY VISITORS to our Parish this weekend. We do hope that you have enjoyed your stay

4. CONGRATULATION TO OUR 100 CLUB WINNERS for July: £15 Peter Stickley Jr (38), £10 Veerle Rabault (59), £5 Alberico Peci (88), Mary O'Grady (78) and Fr Liam (10). Please collect your prize from the sacristy. Thank you to everyone who supports the 100 Club and good luck in next month's draw!

5. BEAUTIFUL HANDMADE CARDS are now available in the shop. All proceeds will go to the Parish Mission in Kalingalinga, Lusaka

6. MINISTERS ROTAS FOR AUGUST are available in the Sacristy.

7. THE ANNUAL DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES will take place between 24th and 30th July. Please remember to keep all those on the Pilgrimage in your prayers as they will you

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. LET THE CHILDREN LIVE! We received a letter of thanks this week from 'Let The Children Live' for our donation of £1,330.68 (plus Gift Aid) which will help Father Peter in his work to protect and support the young children in and around Medellin, many as young as six, who are sent out to work but are in constant fear of the gangs. Life for them is a constant struggle.

10. Wednesday 4 August 7pm: Assisted Dying: Call to Action Now that the Bill will be voted on again on 11th September it is essential to contact your MP to urge that they vote against the Bill, even if you contacted them last year. Dr Dominic Whitehouse (consultant in End of Life Care) will explain what the current position is on 4th August from 7 to 8.45pm in the Hall at St Michael's Catholic Church, 19 Hayling Rise, Worthing, BN13 3AL. All welcome.

11. Sunday 26 July is the Catholic Church's sixth World Day for Grandparents and Elderly. So many of us remember with deep fondness our relationship with our grandparents as we grew up. The theme for the day is "I will never forget you (Is 49:15)," What a wonderful opportunity to encourage our youngsters to phone, visit or reach out to their grandparents, "parish" grandparents, or elderly relatives to show their love and affection. The link below takes you to the Popes full letter for this day of celebration of life, experience, and love.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2026-06/pope-leo-xiv-for-sixth-world-day-of-grandparents-and-elderly.html> Many parishes have a grandparent's group, but if this is something you would like to know more about or explore, please email Deacon Simon South, Marriage and Family Life Adviser E: simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk

12. TURNING TIDES: THE SUMMER WISH LIST: Tins - Fish, Ham, Meat and Vegetarian Ready Meals, Fruit. Quick Cook Meals - Pot Noodles, Instant Noodles, Cup a Soups, Microwave Rice. Drinks - Bottled Water, Juice Cartons, Milk & Alternative Milk, Squash, Instant Coffee. Easy Snacks - Crisps, Cereal & Snack Bars. Toiletries - Sun cream, UV Lip Balm, Body Wipes. Clothing - Sun Hats & Caps, Sun Glasses. Outdoor Essentials - 1-2 Person Tents, Sleeping Bags with cover, Reusable Bottles. Many thanks to those who are so generous in their donations. It is much appreciated.

Father Liam says: The United States of America has been recently celebrating the 250 Anniversary of its independence in 1776. At around that time, in 1750, the first day of each year in England was decreed to be the 1st day of January. The Calendar Act of 1750 changed how we computed the days of the year. Prior to that, New Year's Day was celebrated in England on 25th March each year – the Feast of the Annunciation. This was to honour the Incarnation – when the Son of God took flesh and lived among us. The Calendar that had been in use in the Western World dated back to the time of Julius Caesar and was known as the Julian Calendar. Over the centuries it had grown more and more out of step with reality and in 1584 Pope Gregory instituted a new Calendar which we still have today – the Gregorian Calendar. Catholic countries, seeing how beneficial it was adopted it immediately but non-Catholic countries only adopted it very gradually indeed. England eventually accepted it in 1750 without actually mentioning Pope Gregory who instituted it, 166 years earlier. September literally means the 7th month of the year and October, November and December are similarly named 8th, 9th and 10th month in reference to the New Year's Day in March. The Annunciation was celebrated as the beginning of the Christian era.

Apart from the persons of the Blessed Trinity only two people are named in the Apostles' Creed – the Virgin Mary and Pontius Pilate. These are the people who played pivotal roles in the two key events of the Redemption – the birth and death of Jesus. When God chose to become one of us by taking upon himself our human nature he used the gentlest means possible. When it comes to this most important moment since the Creation, the God of power and might commanded nothing. He puts it all into the hands of Mary. He simply asked her – 'Will you do it?' Mary was asked if she was willing to be the Mother of the Son of God. And she replied: 'Be it done to me according to your word'. She agreed!

Was it possible for Mary to say 'No' to God's invitation? Mary had a free choice between Yes and No. Compulsion is not God's way. If it was truly impossible for her say 'No' then her 'Yes' would have been meaningless. God has given us free will. We have the ability to choose. And Mary exercised a real choice. We do not know what would have happened if Mary had said 'No' but because she said 'Yes' we do not need to know. Mary had to be aware of the nature of the decision she was taking. The Virgin Mary alone was conceived without that original frailty that we are all subjected to. Perhaps it was because she needed clarity and strength that God preserved her in the Immaculate Conception from the consequences of original sin.

On Sundays and major feast days we stand up and proclaim our faith by reciting the Creed. Once during this recitation and only once we bow our heads out of respect for the greatness of the event we are remembering. When is it? Not the crucifixion or the Resurrection – but at the Incarnation. On the Feast of the Annunciation and the Nativity we not only bow our heads but we go down on one knee at the mention of 'Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary'.

Which is more important, Christmas or Easter? I would not want to answer this question. What is most important in our lives as Christmas is the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, who became one of the human family and pitched his tent among us. In the Nicene Creed we profess that 'for us and our salvation he came down from heaven and, by the Holy Spirit, was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became Man. For our sakes he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried and rose again on the third day'. The Creed is our hymn of praise to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And in God we celebrate his greatness in every aspect of his love for us – in the Incarnation, death and Resurrection of his Son.