

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

11.10.2026

Father Liam O'Connor, 37 Compton Avenue,

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

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	10 th	6.00 pm	Intention of Cecilia Suarez
Sunday	11 th	8.15 am	Clare Howse RIP
		10.30 am	The Parish
		12.00 noon	RCIA Course (Good Shepherd Chapel)
		3.00 pm	Harvest of Creation
Monday	12 th	9.30 am	Intention of Casper Irani
		12.00 noon	REQUIEM FOR TRANQUILLO FOSCHINI RIP
Tuesday	13 th	9.30 am	Pauline Adams RIP
		7.00 pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	14 th	9.30am	Roger Davis RIP
Thursday	15 th	9.30 am	Brian Byrne RIP
Friday	16 th	9.30 am	Ann & Bernard Bandy RIP
Saturday	17 th	6.00 pm	Intention of Sheeba Antemy
Sunday	18 th	8.15 am	John Peter Iago RIP
		10.30 am	The Parish



SATURDAY: Reconciliation: 10.15 – 10.45 am and 5.15 - 5:45 pm

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 25:6-10, St Paul to Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20, Matthew 22:1-14

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Wisdom 3:1-9; St Paul to Corinthians 4:7-15; Matthew 10:17-20

COLLECTIONS: Church: £575 Dona: £ 95 CAFOD Harvest Day £ 636 Thank you for your generosity

Next weekend there will be a Second Collection for World Mission Sunday (Missio)

PLEASE USE MISSIO GIFT AID ENVELOPES AVAILABLE IN BOTH PORCHES

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Friedel Herrmann, Sarah Johnstone, Angela Day, Derek LeMahieu, Ruth Waywell, John, 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 Diett, Harold Forrest, Maria Brooks, Kathleen Kearney, Lola Samengo-Meehan, Maureen House, Samuel Bezants, Glenn, Helena & Vittorio Villa, Lena, Sienna Coates, 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: Ray Cottam, Molly Bellenger, Alfie Miller, Phylis Davey, Johanna Hawkins, Maurice Chiverton, Kathy Bainbridge, Teresa Cody, Reg Marshall, Roger Davis, Violet Earl, Emily Hudson, Georgia Little, Ray Kelly, Mary Brogan, Pauline Moody.
May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

3. A MASS OF WELCOME AT WORTH ABBEY: Following his episcopal ordination, Bishop Stephen will celebrate a Mass of Welcome at Worth Abbey on Saturday 24 October at 11.00 am attended by representatives from the diocesan deaneries, parishes and schools. The Diocese is sending one coach to each deanery to enable people to travel easily to this event. The coach will have three pick-up points, St Catherine's Littlehampton, English Martyrs, Goring-by-Sea and Holy Family Lancing (all with car parks in which to leave your car). This is an invitation to you. If you are able to come please contact Anne Niven either with an email to emgoring@english-martyrs.co.uk or leave a message on the phone 01903 242624, with your name, telephone number & Pick-up Point. The first 52 replies will be those who go. A list will be kept of those who apply after this so that if anyone drops out the next person on the list will be invited to take a place.

4. ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT OUR CATHOLIC FAITH? If so "the Journey in Faith course" is for you. Starting this Sunday at 12.00 noon following the 10.30 Mass in the "Good Shepherd Chapel". Contact Dermot on 07999488326 for any further details

5. FATHER STEPHEN WONG will be ordained as our Bishop at Arundel Cathedral on Monday 19th October at 12.00 noon. The ceremony will be streamed – See Arundel Cathedral Website.

5. 'HARVEST OF CREATION': There will be a Harvest Festival service this Sunday 11th October at 3pm in the church, with hymns and readings followed by a voluntary collection in aid of charities for the homeless. All are most welcome to join us in taking part in this event and afterwards in The Barn, where refreshments will be served.

6. CONFIRMATION 2026/27 If you are in Year 9 or above and considering being Confirmed next year you are invited to join our preparation programme that will be starting on Thursday 12th November. Please collect application forms from the Sacristy and return to the Parish Office as soon as possible. (Closing Date for applications: Sunday 8th November)

7. WORLD MISSION SUNDAY (MISSIO) Next Sunday, the Holy Father invites all Catholics to support Missio – his charity for world mission – through a special collection. This day of prayer, solidarity and giving unites Catholics worldwide to share the Good News of God's love which has the power to transform lives and heal our world. To donate, use the Missio envelopes, call 02078 219755 or visit missio.org.uk to give a gift, set up a Direct Debit and Gift Aid your donation if possible.

8. THE PRIEST'S HOUSE: You may have noticed that the Presbytery has had scaffolding around it and wondered what work was underway. Well that work is now almost complete and fulfils essential work identified in the Quinquennial Survey Report, a mandatory requirement under the Charities Act accountancy regulations. The survey highlighted defective rendering to almost all elevations of the house, which had to be removed. The balcony on the front was leaking rainwater into the ground floor office and needed a new covering and leadwork, as did another flat roof over the north bathroom/wc. A troublesome damp chimney stack was demolished. Once rendering was removed, there was much making good to exposed brickwork and wall ties were replaced, following which re-plastering was undertaken, then redecoration of the entire exterior of the house. It has been an expensive few weeks but a successful project that will protect the property for years to come.

Father Liam says: In 1921 a team of archaeologists working on the banks of the River Euphrates in modern Syria discovered the remains of the earliest surviving Christian church. It was situated in what had been an ancient Roman garrison town, named Dura-Europos, on the eastern frontier of the Empire. Abandoned by the Romans in 257, the ruins had remained undisturbed until the twentieth century. Within the town itself were temples to Mithras, Adonis, Tyche, Artemis, Baal, several local deities, three temples to Zeus, the garrison's own temple next to the military headquarters, a Jewish synagogue and a Christian house church. The Christian building had begun life as a middle-class house with the rooms arranged around an internal courtyard, as was then customary. Christians were not allowed to build churches in the empire until 313 AD – the time of Constantine. They met in large houses. Within this domestic building, discovered just over 100 years ago, was a worship room with space for an altar and a chair and some sixty people. To one side was a smaller room decorated as a baptistry chapel, with simple scenes of the Resurrection. These are the oldest surviving depictions of the Risen Christ. There are also scenes of Jesus healing the paralysed man. It shows Jesus young and beardless. The town's synagogue had been rebuilt in 245 and was richly decorated with frescos depicting scenes from the Hebrew scriptures. Followers of many deities met within a few minutes walk of each other for their various ceremonies.

The house church is part of a tradition going back to New Testament times in which Christians met in the houses of the richer members of their community because their houses were bigger. For example, the house of Prisca and Aquila is mentioned in Romans 16:3-5. By the third century many of the houses in which the church community met had been converted in a similar way.

Until the end of the Middle Ages art was principally religious in its nature. The increase in church building from 213 AD was a great impetus for Christian art and music. Church art has served Christians in many ways, inspiring awe and wonder in the presence of God and helping Christians to learn about and meditate on God's work and message. In the catacombs – in the third century Christians decorated their places of worship, often with biblical themes. Once purpose-built churches began to be erected in the fourth century, the interiors were decorated with frescoes and mosaics techniques, adopted from the Greeks and Romans. Christian artists – especially craftsmen from the Byzantine east – raised their techniques to new heights. The glass used by these early church craftsmen often had gold leaf inlaid, which was often used to represent heaven. The earliest known Christian mosaic, found in the 1940's underneath St Peter's Basilica, uses gold mosaics in its representation of Christ.

Mosaics were not common because of the cost. Far more usual was the use of frescoes in church decoration. This entailed preparing a wall with several thin layers of plaster. While the final layer was still wet, a combination of egg yolk and powdered colours was laid over it. The artist had to work very quickly. As the plaster dried the powdered colours sank into the plaster and became permanent, making any corrections almost impossible. The earliest surviving frescoes date from the Roman catacombs in the third century.

The ornamentation of early churches was not restricted to decorations on the floors and walls. Church altars were often carved from marble and decorated with images of the Eucharist. Gold and silver vessels and dishes often inlaid with jewels were crafted – some inscribed with biblical verses. Carver ivory vessels and panels were also popular.

Constantine caused many impressive churches and basilicas to be built and these enabled the liturgy and church music to flourish. At the end of the fifth century Pope Gregory (590-604) encouraged a conformity in styles of worship across the empire. It is from the influence of this Pope that Gregorian Chant takes its name. Monasteries also became focal points of musical development.