

PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way

25.10.2026

Father Liam O'Connor, 37 Compton Avenue,

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

Presbytery 01903 242624 / Church repository 01903 506890

Email: emgoring@english-martyrs.co.uk Website: www.english-martyrs.co.uk

Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

Safeguarding Rep. Anne Niven 01903 242624

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

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	24 th	6.00 pm	Doris Gould RIP
Sunday	25 th	8.15 am	Pat Duggan RIP
		10.30 am	Liz Harvey RIP
		12.00 noon	RCIA Course (Good Shepherd Chapel)
Monday	26 th	9.30am	Frederick McGinn RIP
Tuesday	27 th	9.30 am	The Parish
		7.00 pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	28 th	9.30am	Intention of Casper Irani
Thursday	29 th	9.30 am	Intention of Kyric Aitken
		12.30 pm	REQUIEM FOR TONY KEARNEY RIP
Friday	30 th	9.30 am	Intentions of David Ash
Saturday	31 st	6.00 pm	The Parish
Sunday	1 st	8.15 am	Chris Hyttner RIP
All Saints		10.30 am	Caroline Casey RIP
Day		3.00 pm	Holy Hour & Benediction



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

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 22:20-26, St. Paul to the Thessalonians 1:5-10, Matthew 22:34-40

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

COLLECTIONS: Church: £521 Dona: £ 114 World Mission Sunday (Missio) £596
Thank you for your generosity

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, David Lancaster, Camilla Jane, Michelle Dielt, 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: Walter Leach, Zaza Field, Canon Bernard Thom, Patricia Hennessy, Patricia Ferin, Reginald Mosely, Constance Clark, Kathleen Hope, Patrick McGrath, Giuseppina Pryke, Jean Murphy, Tony Sassi, Roy Bellm, Brian Hayes, Donald Rodrigues, Josephine Hills, Father Robert Ellis, Patrick Heffernan, Doris Hayes. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory.*

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

4. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2027: Is your son or daughter in Year 3 this term? If so, they are at the age where they can start the preparation course for First Holy Communion. Please collect a letter and application forms from the Sacristy and return it to the Parish Office by 18th December at the latest. The first meeting for parents will be on Monday 4th January at 7.30pm in The Good Shepherd Chapel and the first lesson for the children will be on Tuesday 5th January from 4.30 – 5.30 pm.

5. 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 Friday 13th 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)

6. THE PARISH AGM: Tuesday 17th November at 7.00 pm, in the Barn. All welcome.

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

7. CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 100 CLUB WINNERS for October: £15 Anne Niven, £10 Sandra Puttick, £5 Clarke Family, Sandy Curd and Carol Butler. **Prizes still to collect from previous draws:** Peter Lucas (x2), Paul Payne, Antonio Loyola, Alberico Peci (x2), Ferdinand Lambert and Peter Bandy. **Please collect your prize from the envelope in the sacristy.**

8. NOVEMBER – IS THE MONTH FOR HOLY SOULS: The usual 'November envelopes' are available in both porches for those wishing to remember their loved ones at the Altar. Any donations will go towards offering Masses for the Holy Souls. Please fill in and hand in to the Sacristy as soon as possible

9. 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.

10. TURNING TIDES: The "Making a Meal for Harvest" appeal calls on schools, churches, businesses and residents to help us 'swell the shelves' at our Donations Hub. Our Harvest appeal aims to fill our shelves so we can feed hundreds of people throughout the year who haven't got a place to call home. Last year Turning Tides supported 978 people experiencing homelessness in West Sussex alone, many of whom face significant barriers to stay nourished and hydrated. Our community hubs and outreach teams provide food for people rough sleeping and our supported residential services house around 250 people each year, who are waiting to find permanent accommodation. Please take a leaflet, available in both porches, for items that are needed.

Father Liam says: There were no Catholic Diocesan bishops in England following the death of Queen Mary until 1850 – Catholic Dioceses were suppressed. In 1623 four areas were established by Rome, each with its own Vicar Apostolic, a bishop, whose task it was to oversee as best he could the futures of the Catholic communities in his area. The Vicar Apostolic of the London area lived in obscure London lodgings. His situation differed greatly from the three other Vicars Apostolic who like the vast majority of the clergy lived in the country houses of the Catholic nobility and gentry. There were no Catholic churches or chapels, so the Catholics tended to congregate in the neighbourhood of the large Catholic house where, with difficulty, they could practice their religion. These old Catholic families played a great part in keeping the faith alive in all parts of the country. Even though they were severely crushed by penal taxation for the crime of being Catholic they allowed bishops and priests to find shelter and sustenance there. These Catholic families were persistently fined large sums of money for refusing to attend Protestant churches and were ostracized by their Protestant neighbours. Yet, for the most part, they continued generation after generation to keep the faith alive. The bishop of the London District, whose area stretched as far west as Dorset, was exposed far more than the other bishops to the danger of arrest and imprisonment. Bishop Giffard wrote of his trials: 'I do all that I can and suffer a great deal, having no certain abode but forced sometimes to change lodgings four times in a week. I lay in Newgate almost two years, afterwards in Hertford jail and now daily expect a fourth prison to end my life in. I thank God. This is my glory and this is my joy. I would not change my condition for that of the greatest Cardinal'. Bishop Challoner used to celebrate Mass at an unsavoury inn in Holborn and the congregation sat around him at table, each member being supplied with a pipe and a mug of beer in order to disguise what was going on. Except in the chapels belonging to the foreign embassies, Mass was celebrated only with the greatest secrecy at dead of night and in an obscure attic where people could enter only after a secret password had been given. Priests had to conceal their real occupation and so they dressed as laymen. It was not until after the Restoration of the Catholic hierarchy in 1850 that the wearing of clerical dress became general.

One form that this caution took was the use of aliases by the clergy. Many of them were known by two or even three names. The Pope was often referred to as Mr Abraham or as the Old Gentleman. Catholics in general were mentioned in letters as Mrs Yaxley's family. Bishop Challoner signed himself as J. Fisher. Rome was given the name Hilton and a District and its clergy were called the wife and family of whatever name the bishop was known as. Bishops especially were guarded in their letters so that sometimes they are very difficult to understand even with a knowledge of the coded language.

The saying of Mass was a criminal offence, punishable by the severest penalties. It often could take place only in the utmost secrecy. Even the word Mass was rarely used in conversation. It was generally called 'prayers'. Catholic centres existed often only because of the location of Catholic gentry, so the faith often died out in the towns. If the landed Catholic families moved or changed religion, the effect would be disastrous. The faith was struggling to survive in those dreary times. Catholics were forced to live in this condition for three centuries. They became people of whom little was known and about whom the wildest and most absurd stories were believed. Each Catholic country house would have its own resident priest. The priest was chosen and appointed not by the bishop of the District but by the head of the family. Neither the bishop nor priest could afford to upset such a person. The bishop did not always know where a particular priest was.

Priests were often very poor. They had to keep a horse for they usually had to say two or three Masses at places far apart – and they had to fast from Midnight. But the Catholic Lords were themselves very hard hit by the penal taxation and fines. A feature of the lives of English Catholics through those difficult times was the strictness with which they kept the laws of fasting and abstinence. They were giants in those days.