PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way **29.11.2026**

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

First Sunday of Advent

Saturday	28th	6.00 pm	Catherine Bandy RIP
Sunday	29th	8.15 am	Ann & Eamon McCluskey RIP
		10.30 am	Roger Davis RIP
		12.00 noon	**RCIA Course (Good Shepherd Chapel)**
		3.00 pm	Holy Hour & Benediction
Monday	30th	9.30 am	Frank Burns RIP
Tuesday	1st	9.30 am	The Parish
		7.00 pm	**Choir Practice**
Wednesday	2nd	9.30 am	Intention of Caspar Irani
Thursday	3rd	9.30 am	Lubov RIP
Friday	4th	9.30 am	Deceased Members of the Burholt/Whibley Families
Saturday	5th	6.00 pm	Franc & Michele Villa RIP
Sunday	6th	8.15 am	Hudson/Iago Families RIP
		10.30 am	John Mayock RIP
		3.00 pm	Holy Hour & Benediction



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

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1,3-8, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:33-37
NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11, 2 Peter 3:8-14, Mark 1:1-8

COLLECTIONS: Church: £552 Dona: £ 50 Arundel Cathedral Maintenance Fund: £408
Thank you for your generosity
Next weekend there will be a Second Collection for the Homestart, Arun, Worthing & Adur.
Special Gift Aid envelopes available in both porches. Please see Note 4

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 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: JOSEPH and those whose anniversaries occur about now: William Fleming, Douglas Hastie, Francis Cooke, Maisie Maloney, Joe Gunstone, Nick Sherman, Catherine Bandy, Walter Jackson, Frank Burns, Theresa Rhodes, Margaret Newman, Bridget White, Winifred Rose, Elizabeth Burtwell, Rob Connor, Leslie Hines, John Mayock, Rosa Ransley, Roy Pritchard. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory.*

3. '**CURRY & CAROLS'** All tickets are now sold. Raffle prizes please!

4. MESSAGE FROM HOMESTART: Please give the Gift of Christmas to a Vulnerable Child in our Community. This should be a magical time for children, with presents, festive food, memories and good times all wrapped in love. But for thousands of children across our area, this festive period will be incredibly tough. 18,000 children across Arun, Worthing & Adur are living in relative poverty after housing costs - that is 27% of children living on our doorstep. Many of the children and families we support live in unsuitable housing, experience poor physical and mental health, financial hardship, struggle with grief and loneliness. For many - this time of year is a desperate challenge. Please help.

5. OUR PARISH CAROL SERVICE 'Follow the Star' will take place on Sunday 20th December at 3pm, with voluntary donations in aid of the homeless. Seasonal refreshments will be served afterwards in the Barn. All are invited and most welcome to join us in this happy event of the Festive Season.

6. DECEMBER ROTAS are now available in the Sacristy. More volunteers for the Christmas Masses needed, please.

7. CONGRATULATIONS to our 100 Club winners for November: £15 Michelle Warwick (89), £10 Charles Hutchin (25), £5 Elaine Ryan-Bassi (29), Rubia Family (97) and Guiseppe Regnante (71). Please collect your prize from the envelope in the sacristy. Thank you to everyone who supports the 100 Club and good luck in next month's draw!

8. 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 soon. Please collect application forms from the Sacristy and return to the Parish Office as soon as possible. (Closing Date for applications: Deadline extended to **THIS Sunday 29th November**)

9. 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.

10. MARY'S MEALS can make a lasting impact with your left-over holiday currency or even pre-decimal coins/notes. If you wish to donate any currency, please contact Anne in the Parish Office 01903 242624 or Charles 07943 561868.

11. 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**.**

12. TURNING TIDES: Items from the Winter Essentials List would be much appreciated: 2in1 shampoo & conditioner, Body wash, Body wipes, Deodorant, Toothbrushes & toothpaste, Razors & shaving gel. New gloves & winter hats, New women's pants S/M New men's boxers, S/M New socks - trainer, thick & thermal. Handwarmers, Head torches Rucksacks, Roll mats/camping mats. Large soft drinks, Hot chocolate, Cereal bars, Long-life milk, Sweet Treats, Selection boxes, Luxury biscuits, Chocolate spread, Savoury Bites, Juice cartons & cans of pop, Crisps - sharing bags, Nuts, Twiglets, Chocolate tubs, Pringles. Many thanks to all those who continue to contribute by putting goods under the bench in the West porch. It is much appreciated.

Father Liam says: Today we begin the liturgical season of Advent. It marks the beginning of the Church's year. One of the ways in which this is highlighted is in putting before us the Gospel of Mark for most of the Sundays of this Church year. There is a three-year cycle in our Scripture Readings in Sunday Mass. In Year A, which has just come to an end, we have had Matthew's Gospel week by week. We now begin the Year of Mark, also known as Year B. This will be followed by the Year of Luke (Year C). There is no Year of John but John's Gospel is read on several Sundays each year – especially during the Season of Easter, which is celebrated over a period of fifty days. Even though this is the year of Mark there will be many Sundays when the gospel does not come from him. In fact, after next Sunday, we will not return to Mark's Gospel until the end of the Christmas Season and for five Sundays in the Summer of Year B we have John's great exposition of Jesus' teaching on the Eucharist.

Mark was the first person to write a gospel. He was the pioneer evangelist. His is by far the shortest of the four gospels. He initiated a new form od sacred literature, which is called the Good News, or Gospel, of Jesus Christ. 'Gospel' is the old English form of 'Good News'. He begins his gospel with a glorious statement of his intention to tell 'The Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God' without any identification of himself. He begins his story of glad tidings by announcing his belief in the identity of Jesus. He calls him the Christ, the Messiah and he proclaims that Jesus is the Son of God'.

In the world in which Mark lived – a world in which there were no newspapers or mass media of any kind, the town-crier or herald of the King or emperor would proclaim the great events to the people. When the event to be announced was one for joy and celebration it was called evangelion – an item of good news. It might be news of victory in battle or perhaps a birth in the Royal Family. The early Christian writers, Paul and Mark especially, took over this word and invested it with a divine depth of meaning. As the herald of the great King, Mark begins his account of Jesus Christ with the proclamation that this was the evangelion, the Good News. His use of the word has remained until our own day to refer to the Good News of Jesus. Mark is telling us that Jesus himself is the Good news. He is to be proclaimed because he is the Messiah, the Lord, the Son of God. Unlike Luke and John, Mark does not tell us why he wrote his gospel. There is no statement of purpose but the identity and authority of Jesus was such that it had to be proclaimed. It was a powerful message and it was a subversive message. It was a message of far greater significance that anything relating to a mere Emperor.

We will not be hearing from Mark however, in the Sundays before and after Christmas. This is because there is no account in the gospel about the events leading up to or following on from the birth of Jesus. He begins his good news of Jesus at the stage where Jesus is about to begin his public ministry. Mark is not alone in this. The last of the gospels to be written – that of John – gives no account of the infancy of Jesus either.

The gospels do not set out to tell us the details of the life of Jesus. They ae not biographies. They are statements of belief in Jesus and in his saving work as the Son of God who became a human being like us, who by his life, death and resurrection show us the love of the Father and won for us eternal life. Mark seems to have written to respond to the needs of a Christian community – most likely at Rome around the year 70 – that was suffering persecution. There is a great sense of urgency in Mark's gospel. In speaking of Jesus, he often uses words like 'immediately' or 'straightaway'. If Jesus relaxes, one does not learn it from Mark. It has been read with great dramatic effect without any theatrical props at the West End and on television. It is more than a good read. It truly is Good News.