PARISH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Goring Way **15.11.2026**

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

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	14th	6.00 pm	Thanksgiving for Prayers Answered
Sunday	15th	8.15 am	Joan Wand RIP
		10.30 am	The Parish
		12.00 noon	**RCIA Course (Good Shepherd Chapel)**
Monday	16th	9.30 am	Intention of Kyrie Aitken
Tuesday	17th	9.30 am	Holy Souls
		7.00 pm	**Choir Practice**
Wednesday	18th	9.30 am	Peter Honiball RIP
Thursday	19th	9.30 am	Peter Boyle RIP
Friday	20th	9.30 am	Humphrey Niven RIP
Saturday	21st	6.00 pm	The Parish
Sunday	22nd	8.15 am	Tony Kearney RIP
		10.30 am	Patrick, Jack & Mary Haugh RIP



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

TODAY'S READINGS: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6; Matthew 25:14-30
NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17, Corinthians 15:20-26, 28, Matthew 25:31-46

COLLECTIONS: Church: £462 Dona: £ Thank you for your generosity
Next weekend there will be a Second Collection for the Arundel Cathedral Maintenance Fund (Gift Aid)

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 and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Elfriede Sinden, Jean Billing, Edith Pearce, Ruth Winter, Edith Carrod, Frances Fraser, Florence Peters, Stanislaw Carlton, Henry Ivison, Valencia Bowes, Maureen Pitt, Peter Boyle, Angela Outridge, Kathleen Sidwell, Mary Musto.
May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

3. 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 **Sunday 29th November**)

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. THE CHURCH IS NOW CLOSED to visitors to the ceiling until Easter next March. Many thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who have so diligently greeted visitors and run the Repository – it is very much appreciated. The Repository will be open after each of the weekend Masses. A good place for Christmas cards etc

6. THE PARISH AGM is this Tuesday 17th November at 7.30 pm, in the Barn. All welcome.

7. 'CURRY & CAROLS' full of Christmas festivities and a sing-along, will take place in the Barn on Saturday 5th December at 7.00 pm (following the 6.00 pm Mass). The proceeds will go to the Parish project in Kalingalinga. Tickets will be on sale after all Masses **next** weekend - Adults £10.00 Children £5.00 Raffle prizes please!

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

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 5691868.

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: Sleeping rough exposes people to constant risk including the heat, cold and malnutrition. With your gifts of clothing, blankets, protective gear and hot meals, we can meet these urgent needs and give people the comfort and care they deserve. Last year we supported 978 people across West Sussex, and unfortunately, we're seeing this number go up. In addition, tins of food of any description are always very welcome. 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: One hundred years ago, on 15th November 1926, six Missionary Sisters of St Columban arrived in China, bringing with them the message of the Gospel. The Columban missionaries were established in 1918 and these were the first of their order to come to China. Since their foundation they have served the poor and the marginalized in China, the Philippines, Korea, Pakistan and Myanmar, formerly Burma. The mission to China was a particularly audacious undertaking.

In 1926 China was an ancient civilization of nearly half a billion people. Ireland was a nation of fewer than three million, barely four years independent. The Congregation itself was younger still. The sisters were only recently professed and trained at their mother house in Cabiracon in County Clare. They sailed from Cobb, near Cork, in September for the vast and imposing land of China, which was convulsed in civil strife that dwarfed Ireland's recent Civil War.

It was understood that to go on such a mission was to go for good. When they were professed the Bishop said to the sisters; 'May the strength of Christ adorn your lives till he calls you home to receive the crown of the Virgin or of the Martyrs.' The six sisters differed greatly in age, origin and life experience but they were united in purpose – to bring Christ to others, whatever the personal cost. Their Superior General, Finbarr Collins, a Cork nurse, then 40, was the glue that bound the group together. She was charged with seeing her sisters safely established in China before returning home to shepherd the Congregation's growing ranks. Theophane Fortune, 27, a graduate of University College, Dublin and a teacher from Wexford, was entrusted with leading those remaining in China. The youngest of the group was 26 from Kerry Agnes Griffin, 27 was from Australia and was now dispatched halfway round the world again – this time on a considerably more hazardous voyage. Philomena Woods, 29, came from Sligo. She had been a Legal Secretary and a political activist. The oldest of the group was Mary Moloney, 53, and Anglo-Irish aristocrat, daughter of an Home Rule MP and widow of a Colonial Governor. During the Great War she had worked among Belgium refugees in Dublin. She had played a formative role in bringing the young Congregation into existence and prepared herself through studies in tropical nursing. She was the best travelled and most accustomed to life overseas. But nothing could prepare her, or the others of that first pioneering group, for what China had in store.

The journey to Hanyang, now a district of Wuhan meant, 100 years ago, a voyage of nearly 13,000 miles and two months at sea by way of Germany and Holland to Genoa, then through the Suez Canal and onwards past Colombo, Sumatra, Hong Cong and Shanghai before making final passage up the Yangtze towards the city christened 'the Chicago of China'. They finally stepped ashore at Hankow, across the river from the final destination.

Waiting to meet them was a welcoming party who had put down roots there three years earlier and who eagerly awaited reinforcements – seven Columban Fathers and the Sisters of Loretto, an American Congregation who arrived in 1923. Escorted to their Hanyang convent home, they began a missionary presence that would last a quarter of a century. Their numbers were bolstered as time went by a steady stream of sisters who followed in their footsteps.

From Hanyang the mission took root and spread as hospitals and clinics, schools, catechism classes, vocational training, were established there and further afield in Shenzen, Nanchang and Shanghai. They laboured through Civil War, through the Yangtze floods, through the Japanese invasion and its aftermath until the last missionaries were driven out of the mainland 25 years later.

By then the Columban congregations' mission had spread far beyond China. Then a generation later the way opened at last for their return. Today we honour the missionary work of the past hundred years of the Columban Sisters and Fathers and we pray that the Good News will find ever more messengers and heralds.

(I am indebted to an article in this month's Far East – the magazine of the Columban Missionaries.)