

St Mary's Catholic Church

Surrenden Road, Preston Park, Brighton

Parish Priest: Fr Bruno Witchalls
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 Hall and Cassidy Centre - Enquiries and Bookings -
 Call John Morrison on 07511 799526.



All visitors to St Mary's are most welcome to the church and to our parish
 (The Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Trust is a Registered Charity No. 252878)

Parish Newsletter for w/c Sunday 02 April, 2017

<u>Mass proper</u>		<u>Intention</u>	
Sat	01	Vigil Mass	7 p.m. <i>Holy Souls</i>
Sun	02	5th SUNDAY OF LENT (A) Gospel: John 11:1-45 Parish Mass Book p. 170	10 a.m. <i>Nikki Braterman, R.I.P.</i> 12 noon <i>Pro Populo – for the people of the parish</i>
Mon	03	<i>5th Week of Lent</i>	10 a.m. <i>Anne McEvoy, R.I.P.</i>
Tue	04	<i>5th Week of Lent</i> [Mass at St Mary's House]	8.15 a.m. -
Wed	05	<i>5th Week of Lent</i>	10 a.m. <i>Mary Lock, R.I.P.</i>
Thur	06	<i>5th Week of Lent</i> [Traditional Mass, 1962 Missal]	7 p.m. <i>In Thanksgiving for Work</i>
Fri	07	<i>5th Week of Lent</i>	10 a.m. <i>William & Alma Aston, R.I.P.</i>
Sat	08	<i>5th Week of Lent</i> Vigil Mass	10 a.m. <i>For Vocations to the Priesthood</i> 7 p.m. <i>Private Intention</i>
Sun	09	PALM SUNDAY (A) Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11 Parish Mass Book p177	10 a.m. <i>Pro Populo – for the people of the parish</i> 12 noon <i>Gordon & Walter Rodrigues, R.I.P.</i>

Confessions every Saturday 10.30-11 a.m., 6.15-6.45 p.m. & at call
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for 1 hour before Friday 10 a.m. Mass
Tea & Coffee after our Sunday 10 a.m. Mass. All are welcome to join us down in the hall for this

THE GOSPEL THIS WEEK

In these middle three Sundays of Lent we have heard long accounts from John's gospel of encounters and miracles worked by Jesus. We had the Samaritan woman at the well, the man born blind and today the account of the raising back to life of Lazarus. More than John telling us what happened once to these three people the gospel is telling us what Jesus has come to bring to all of fallen humanity, that includes me and you. To the woman at the well who had not found the love she so dearly yearned for and lived a difficult and dry life Jesus revealed himself as the Lord and the quencher of her (and our) thirst for love and life. In giving sight to the man born blind Jesus reveals himself as the light of the world, the light of life and truth shining in the blindness of this world. Through Jesus we are at last able to see. Then today in raising Lazarus back to life Jesus shows himself as the Lord of life itself, able to bring back to life that which is dead. This is as much to do with the forgiveness of sins, which is a bringing back to life from spiritual death, as the promise of being able to raise us up to eternal life with the Father. These priceless gifts Jesus won for us through the Cross which we will celebrate next week, Holy Week. God bless you, Fr Bruno.

This week's 2nd collection will be for the relief effort for the famine in South Sudan, Ethiopia & Somalia.

EASTER FLOWERS - Next Sunday's second collection will be for flowers for St Mary's this Easter.

LENT

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be for 1 hour (8.50-9.50 a.m.) before **Friday** morning Mass.
 # **Stations of the Cross** are at 7 p.m. on Friday evenings.
 # **Confessions** after all Masses this Weekend and after all weekday Masses leading up to the *Triduum*.

HOLY WEEK (TRIDUUM) SERVICES

Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7.30 p.m.
 # **Good Friday (14th April)**, Stations of the Cross, 12noon
 # **Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion**, 3 p.m.
 # **Holy Saturday (15th April)**, Easter Vigil Mass, 8 p.m.
 # **Easter Sunday (16th April)**, Masses 10 a.m. & 12 noon

Church Open

The Church is kept open during the week (approx. 8 am - dusk) for prayer, lighting a candle and visits to our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

"There is no virtue an example of which we do not find on the Cross" [St Thomas Aquinas]

PARISH DIARY

Date	Time	Place	Event	Contact
Tuesdays	3-4 pm	Cassidy Centre	Bible study & prayer group	Luke Fernandes, 01273 556927
Thursdays	2-4 pm	Cassidy Centre	Seniors Club	David Alfred, 01273 540038
Wed 05 April	7.30-9 pm	Church Hall	Yrs 7-11 Youth Club	www.smyclub.co.uk
Fri 07 April	7-7.45 pm	Cassidy Centre	Baptism Preparation Class	Fr Bruno
Sat 08 April	9.30 am	Church	Group 3 FHC Children Reconciliation	Mrs Janet Silva
Sat 08 April	5.30 pm	Cassidy Centre	Confirmation Meeting (4)	Fr Bruno/John Stone

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers those in our parish and families who need them at this time: Sister Anne, Lorna Briggs, Mary Connett, Paddy Cummiskey, Jose Luis Garcia, Paul Green, Judy Harrison, Dick & Betty Morris, Terry Rodrigues, Claire Shelton-Jones, Callum Stone, Diana Taylor, Tom Walsh & Tracey Weller.

HOLY WEEK AT ST MARY'S LEAFLETS

These are in the Church Porch with information and times of services and Masses during Holy Week.

BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Marlee Frances Wanda Eileen Bacharew who became a Christian this Saturday.

EASTER BAPTISMS

Please keep in your prayers Jalil Neghza and his son Theo who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil.

CHRISTMAS FAIR 2017

Eve and Tes are stepping down from organising this year's Christmas fair and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them so very much for all their hard work & enthusiasm over the last few years. Eve has left us with this last message & plug for this year's Christmas Fair: "It's time for new energy and ideas! This is a traditional and hugely enjoyable parish event. We are happy to pass on our advice and experience to the new organisers. If you are interested in taking over please make yourself known to Father Bruno (or email parish office). It would be such a shame if there was no fair this year. Thank you to all those who have helped us over the last three years."

A & B NEWS

The April edition of the diocesan newspaper, the A & B News, has arrived. Free copies available in the porch.

The Veiling of Images in Passiontide

In these last two weeks of Lent there is an ancient custom of veiling crucifixes, statues and images in our churches (except for the Stations of the Cross). Among other things this comes from the gospel of John where we are told that as Jesus went up to Jerusalem towards his Passion 'he no longer walked about openly' (Jn 11.54). He 'veils' his divinity as he allows himself to be taken for an ordinary sinner and die for us. Another reason is the curbing of our senses during Lent, going back to what is essential, from the outer to the inner. Another reason is that during these days we not only recall an event that happened once in the distant past but that in the liturgy the Cross is again made present. With the veiling our attention is drawn to the Word and the altar before us.

A Prayer for Strength – Rachel Wojo

Our Father, Sometimes the cares of the day seem to multiply, while the blessings fade so quickly.

Our bodies grow tired and our minds even more tired.

Jesus, help us.

Give us the strength You've promised in Your Word.

Give us the power to take the next step.

Give us your grace, for we know that in our weaknesses your strength is revealed. May we receive it today. Amen.

GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS

Churches Together in Preston are organising a Good Friday Walk of Witness. It will start at 9 a.m. at St Matthias Church (Ditchling Road) and will make its way down to Preston Park via St Mary's. The walk will end by 10 a.m. with a short service in Preston Park. All ages are invited.

Street Pastors Needed: The church in action on the streets - volunteers from the churches of Brighton & Hove caring, listening and helping. Along with other agencies, we help to ensure the streets are safe for those who get into difficulties at night. After receiving training, volunteers do a once-a-month patrol, usually between 10.30pm and 3/4am on a Friday or Saturday. For information contact Alistair Crow on brighton@streetpastors.org.uk or 07817 604232.

To All Gift Aiders Who Pay by Envelope

The new sets of envelopes for 2017-2018 are available in the Church porch. Did you know if you are a tax payer & make a regular donation to the Parish by standing order you can also make use of numbered, undated envelopes for occasional additional donations for the offertory & eligible 2nd collections? These envelopes allow the Parish to reclaim tax on these donations. If you would like a supply of envelopes, please contact the Parish Office.

The Social Concerns Group invites you to ANOTHER: Smile Quiz Night!

Friday 5th May 7.30 pm Cassidy Centre
 £5 ticket includes glass of wine or juice + light refreshments.
 Bring your own bottle if you wish. Proceeds to Christian Aid. Tickets on sale after 10am Sunday Masses from 16th April or contact Claire Shelton-Jones (01273 505642) claire.shelton-jones@virgin.net or Liz Woodhead (01273 556899).

ST FRANCIS DE SALES ON PRAYER

Someone once told St Francis that he couldn't pray. Francis said to him: "Look at a crucifix for three minutes. Then say, 'Lord, thank you and have mercy on me,' that is a prayer."

And finally ... A woman came out of a pub and was approached by a police officer. He said, "You're staggering." She said "You're not too bad yourself."

“And in that little host is the solution to all the problems in the world” [St John-Paul II]