

# St Mary's Catholic Church

## Surrenden Road, Preston Park, Brighton

**Parish Priest:** Fr Bruno Witchalls

Priest's House, 5 Surrenden Road, Brighton, BN1 6PA

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**Parish office e-mail:** stmarysprestonpark@yahoo.co.uk

Parish Website (*needs updating*): www.stmarysbrighton.com

**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 03 December, 2017

	<u>Mass proper</u>	<u>Intention</u>
Sat 0	Vigil Mass	7 p.m. <i>Deceased Parents of Mary Marlow</i>
2		
Sun 0	<b>1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)</b>	10 a.m. <i>Walter Rodrigues &amp; Jenny Martin, R.I.P.</i>
3	Gospel: Mark 13:33-37 Parish Mass Book p.82	12 noon <i>Pro Populo – for the people of the parish</i>
Mon 0	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	10 a.m. <i>Marie Jeanne Marganelli, R.I.P.</i>
4		
Tue 0	[Mass at St Mary's House]	8.15 a.m. -
5		
Wed 0	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	10 a.m. <i>Marie Booty, R.I.P.</i>
6		
Thur 0	[Traditional Mass, 1962 Missal]	7 p.m. <i>Holy Souls</i>
7		
Fri 0	<b>Immaculate Conception – Solemnity</b>	10 a.m. <i>Robert Reid, R.I.P.</i>
8		
Sat 0	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	10 a.m. <i>Oscar &amp; Davida Bullock, R.I.P.</i>
9	Vigil Mass	7 p.m. <i>Holy Souls</i>
Sun 1	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)</b>	10 a.m. <i>Pro Populo – for the people of the parish</i>
0	Gospel: Mark 1:1-8 Parish Mass Book p.85	12 noon <i>Maura Fiorakis, R.I.P.</i>

**Confessions every Saturday 10.30-11 a.m., 6.15-6.45 p.m. & at call**

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for 1 hour before Friday morning Mass**

**Tea & Coffee after our Sunday 10 a.m. Mass. All are welcome to join us down in the hall for this**

### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

'In Advent, Christians relive a dual impulse of the Spirit: on the one hand, they raise their eyes towards the final destination of their pilgrimage through history, which is the glorious return of the Lord Jesus; on the other, remembering with emotion his birth in Bethlehem, they kneel before the Crib. The hope of Christians is turned to the future but remains firmly rooted in an event of the past. In the fullness of time, the Son of God was born of the Virgin Mary: "Born of a woman, born under the law", as the Apostle Paul writes (Gal 4:4). We might say that Advent is the season in which Christians must rekindle in their hearts the hope that they will be able with God's help to renew the world (*Pope Benedict XVI*). God bless you and your loved ones this Advent, Fr Bruno.

### PARISH FIRST HOLY COMMUNION'S

Our first session for the children preparing to make their

**The Sanctuary lamp** this week is burning for Bishop Richard; **Our Lady's Lamp** for a private intention.

Last week's 2<sup>nd</sup> collection for the Nigh Shelter: £450

**CHRISTMAS FAIR – A big thank you** to all those who helped with this year's fair; the stall holders and their helpers, those who set up and cleared away, the caterers who kept us all going and to you the parishioners for your presence and support. It was a joyous celebration in our parish, and many visitors gave kind compliments. Much of the praise goes especially to Liz Woodhead & her team. After expenses we raised a grand total of £3,507.86. From this £500 donations have been made to Mary's Meals and to the parish SVP. A breakdown of what each stall raised is in the church porch.

**ADVENT CAROL SERVICE – Sunday 17 Dec.**

First Holy Communion (17 June, 2018) will be on Sunday 17 December, 9.30 a.m. in the Cassidy Centre.

**BISHOP'S PASTORAL LETTER THIS SUNDAY**  
Paper copies of the Bishop's letter are in the church porch.

Parishioners from St Mary's and St Thomas More's will be coming together to put on an Advent Carol Service on Sunday 17 Dec. at 6 p.m. here at St Mary's. There will be mulled wine and mince pies after. A collection will be taken in aid of 'Mary's Meals'. All are welcome.

**'Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word'**  
Mary, at the Annunciation, Luke 1:38

PARISH DIARY				
Date	Time	Place	Event	Contact
Mondays	6.55-8 pm	Cassidy	WCCM Christian Meditation Group	Celia 01273 555967
Thursdays	2-4 pm	Centre	Seniors Club	David Alfred, 01273 540038
		Cassidy Centre		
Wed 13 Dec	7.30-9 pm	Church Hall	Yrs 7-11 Youth Club Last one this year!	<a href="http://www.smyclub.co.uk">www.smyclub.co.uk</a>
Fri 15 Dec	7-8.15 pm	Cassidy Centre	Echoes (2) 'Why the Holy Spirit?'	Fr Bruno
Sun 17 Dec	6 pm	Church	Advent Carol Service	

**FOR YOUR PRAYERS**

Please keep in your prayers those in our parish and families who need them at this time: Jerry Alfred, Ann Chandler, Mary Connett, Paddy Cummiskey, Amy Grimes, John & Judy Harrison, Dick & Betty Morris, Liz Regan, Glenn Rodrigues, Terry Rodrigues, Callum Stone, Diana Taylor, Tom Walsh, Tracey Weller & Michael Ward.

**ECHOES – Parish based training for handing on Faith**

The first session of this course, 'What is the Good News', was last Friday. The next session, 'Why the Holy Spirit?' will be on Friday 15 December, 7-8.15 pm in the Cassidy Centre. Parishioners still welcome on a come and see basis. The course aims at equipping us to know our faith better, as a good in itself, and also so as to be able to live it in a more effective way. A copy of the course book is in the porch.

**ST BERNADETTE'S SCHOOL FORMS**

For parents wanting to apply to send their children to St Bernadette's Primary School (or Cottesmore) next September Fr Bruno will be in the presbytery to sign forms on the following dates: **Fri 15 Dec., 6-6.30pm; Sat 16 Dec., 11am-12pm; Wed 20 Dec., 11am-12pm.** There will be another date in the new year before the deadline for handing in applications.

**From Bishop Richard: Catholic Schools**

'Do you support Catholic Schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> (online form) or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.'

**Advent** is that sacred season of anticipation and expectation in which we come to terms with the

**Prayer to the Immaculate Conception**

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, did prepare a worthy dwelling place for Your Son, we beseech You that, as by the foreseen death of this, Your Son, You did preserve Her from all stain, so too You would permit us, purified through Her intercession, to come unto You.

Through the same Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, world without end. Amen.

**St Vincent's Tower House Update**

This Community Centre in Preston Park is now offering activities to older, isolated people in the mornings before lunch: every Wednesday Arts & Crafts and Just for Fun Quiz on Thursday. Also, a Men's Support Group meets on Tuesday mornings and a Counsellor will host a Wellbeing Support Group on Thursday mornings. Our new Café is open during these times and we welcome any enquiries. Minibus transport is available, if necessary. Volunteers are needed to help around Christmas. You owe it to your Friends and neighbours in need! Contact Jason at Tower House for further information on 01273 549604.

**Catholic Women's Group at St Mary Magdalene's**

Some women of the parish would like to start a Catholic women's group to discuss faith, the teaching of the Church, Saints, devotions, life of prayer, fasting and penance, retreats, vocations, sanctification through work and much more. The idea is to meet once a month, the first Sunday of the month from 7 pm to 8 pm at St Mary Magdalene's Presbytery (55 Upper North St). The first meeting will be **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**. All Catholic women are welcome.

**CALLING ALL SINGERS – For Christmas Masses**

Message from Charles Wookey: We are hoping that as many people as possible will join our choirs for the Christmas Masses. Even if you haven't yet sung with the choir, or can only sing for these services, we would be so pleased if you would join us. There will be two practices at 17 Edburton Avenue on Saturday December 23rd:

deepest yearning of our soul – a yearning fulfilled only in Jesus Christ, as we wait in longing for the coming of the Christ Child at Christmas, we turn over to him all the false satisfactions – the compromises – of our life. To live Advent is to live in the awareness of a Presence that changes us. Our Advent preparation is marked by vigilance – custody of the heart, in which we keep our soul fixed on the Lord. For what we see incarnate in the infant Jesus we desire for ourselves: purity, innocence, childlikeness restored. In the birth of this Child we know the promise of our own spiritual rebirth. (Excerpt from the *Magnificat Advent Companion*)

- 11 a.m. for adults, who are happy to sing at Midnight Mass on Sunday 24th (carols from 11.30 p.m.)
- 12 a.m. for children who would like to sing at either the early Mass on Christmas Eve or the 10 am Mass on Christmas Day

**Uganda Hands For Hope** -The Social Concerns Group has raised a total of £469.15 for Uganda Hands For Hope from our Catholaiity Stall and raffle ticket sales plus a donation and the recent quiz. Many thanks to all who've supported us and sold tickets. Claire Shelton-Jones.

**God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**