

# St Mary's Catholic Church

## Surrenden Road, Preston Park, Brighton

**Parish Priest:** Fr Bruno Witchalls  
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 Parish Website (*being updated*): 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 04 December, 2016

<u>Mass proper</u>		<u>Intention</u>	
Sat	03	Vigil Mass	<b>7 p.m.</b> <i>Helen Maguire, R.I.P.</i>
Sun	04	<b><u>2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)</u></b>	<b>10 a.m.</b> <i>Myrtle &amp; William Chapman &amp; Jennifer Martin, RIP</i>
		Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12 Parish Mass Book p.85	<b>12 noon</b> <i>Pro Populo – for the people of the parish</i>
Mon	05	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent</i>	<b>10 a.m.</b> <i>Marie Booty, R.I.P.</i>
Tues	06	Mass at St Mary's House	<b>8.15 a.m.</b> -
Wed	07	<i>St Ambrose, Bishop</i>	<b>10 a.m.</b> <i>Robert Reid, R.I.P.</i>
Thur	08	<b>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b> [Traditional Mass]	<b>10 a.m.</b> <i>Pro Populo – for the people of the parish</i>
			<b>7 p.m.</b> <i>In Thanksgiving, Fr Bruno's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniv.</i>
Fri	09	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent</i>	<b>10 a.m.</b> <i>In Thanksgiving (MMS)</i>
Sat	10	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent</i>	<b>10 a.m.</b> <i>Odette Costa, R.I.P.</i>
		Vigil Mass	<b>7 p.m.</b> <i>Irene Hills, R.I.P.</i>
Sun	11	<b><u>3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE) (A)</u></b>	<b>10 a.m.</b> <i>Mrs Daphne Moffat &amp; Terry D'Silva, R.I.P.</i>
		Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11 Parish Mass Book p.88	<b>12 noon</b> <i>Pro Populo – for the people of the parish</i>

**Confessions every Saturday 10.30-11 a.m., 6.15-6.45 p.m. & at call**  
**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8.50 – 9.50 a.m. Friday**  
**Tea & Coffee after our Sunday 10 a.m. Mass - All are welcome to join us down in the hall for this**

#### **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

In the busyness of this time of year we all need to find time to schedule in quiet moments of prayer to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord at Christmas. His intention was not to come once only in a place far away but to enter into the life of each one of us, without exception. Here is what someone wrote: 'Advent is that sacred season of anticipation and expectation in which we come to terms with the 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 see the promise of our being loved, willed and necessary to God fulfilled. God bless you this Advent, Fr Bruno.

**CHILDREN AT MASS** are always welcome. If they need to bring toys with them could parents kindly ensure they are soft and quiet when played with. Thank you.

Last Sunday's Collection: £532.33, 2<sup>nd</sup> Coll.: £70.41

The Sanctuary lamp this week is burning for Marie-Jeanne Marganelli, R.I.P.; Our Lady's Lamp for the wellbeing of Callum Stone.

**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 Tess and Eve. After expenses we raised a grand total of £3942. A breakdown of what each stall raised is in the church porch. From what was raised we will also make a donation to two local charities.

**EXTRA MASS THURSDAY – Parish Feast Day**  
 This Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> December, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is our parish feast day and there will be an extra Mass at 10 a.m. on the day. It will also be a day of thanksgiving for Fr Bruno as it will be the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his ordination as a priest. Our Lady, pray for your parish of St Mary's.

## PARISH DIARY

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Contact</b>
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
Mon 05 Dec	8 pm	Cassidy Centre	Parents 1 <sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Meeting	Janet Silva
Sat 10 Dec	12.15 pm	Church	Baptism of Joss Thomas Rogers	
Sun 11 Dec	9.30 am	Cassidy Centre	Childrens 1 <sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Meeting	Janet Silva

### FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers those in our parish, or family members, who need them at this time: Lorna Briggs, Mary Connett, Paul Green, Dick Morris, Terry Rodrigues, Callum Stone, Tom Walsh & Tracey Weller.

### MARY COSHAM, R.I.P

The Requiem Mass for Mary will be here at St Mary's at 10 a.m. on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December. Her body will be received into the church at 1.30 pm on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>.

### CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE – Friday 23 Dec.

Parishioners from St Mary's and St Thomas More's will be coming together to put on a Christmas Carol Service. This will be on Friday 23 Dec. at 7.30pm here at St Mary's. There will be mulled wine and mince pies after. There will be a collection in aid of 'Mary's Meals'. All are welcome.

### 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: **Wed 14 Dec., 11am-12pm; Fri 16 Dec., 6-7pm; Sat 17 Dec., 11am-12pm.**

### LOGS FROM THE PARISH GARDEN

Some thinning and felling of trees needed to be done in the parish garden last week. Some of the wood was cut into log size. These logs would not be good to burn this winter, but next if stored in a dry place. If you have a log fire at home and would like some please make contact with Fr Bruno.

### THE TRADITION OF A CHRISTMAS CRIB

'Following a beautiful and firmly rooted tradition, many families set up their crib immediately after the feast of the Immaculate Conception, as if to relive with Mary those days full of trepidation that preceded the birth of Jesus. Putting up the crib at home can be a simple but effective way of presenting faith, to pass it on to one's children. The crib helps us contemplate the mystery of God's love that was revealed in the poverty and simplicity of the Bethlehem Stable. St Francis of Assisi was so taken by the mystery of the Incarnation that he wanted to present it anew at Greccio in the living nativity scene, thus beginning an old, popular tradition that still retains its value for evangelisation today. Indeed, the crib can help us understand the secret of the true Christmas because it speaks of the humility and merciful goodness of Christ, who "though he was rich he made himself poor" for us. His poverty enriches those who embrace it and Christmas brings joy and peace to those who, like the Shepherds in Bethlehem, accept the Angel's words: "Let this be a sign to you: in a manger you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes". This is still the sign for us too, men and women of the third millenium' [Pope Benedict XVI].

### Prayer to Our Lady

O Mary, conceived without sin,  
pray for us who have recourse to thee.

### A grace for before meals

O Lord, bless the food before us,  
the friends and family beside and absent from us. Amen

**PARISH 2017 DIARIES** are available for you in the porch. They are free. Please take what you need.

### A & B NEWS

Please pick up a free copy of the Advent, 2016, A & B News from the church porch.

### ANGELINA BRANNEGAN, R.I.P.

There will be a funeral service for Angelina this Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> December, at 3 pm in the church. May she rest in peace.

### SVP 'CRISIS APPEAL' CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Being homeless, especially at Christmas, can be a nightmare most of us cannot imagine. The parish SVP are arranging a raffle to help raise funds for the homeless. All money raised will go to two local Homeless Charities: St Anne's Day Centre and St Thomas Fund, a Residential Rehabilitation Service. So, please give generously to those in need this festive season. **Raffle tickets** are On sale after weekend Masses and the **prizes** will be drawn on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December: 1<sup>st</sup> prize: £35 Meal for 2 at Donatello's; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize: Frozen Turkey (5-6 people); 3<sup>rd</sup> prize: A Hamper.

### FOODBANK

Many thanks to those of you who drop items off into our foodbank box. I met the lady who runs our local foodbank who wanted to pass on her thanks to the parish. This is an important work of charity we do. As we come up to Christmas remember the needy as you shop. Our foodbank box is in the porch. Thank you.

### LOURDES PILGRIMAGE, 2017

For your diaries the 2017 Diocesan Lourdes pilgrimage will be from 27<sup>th</sup> July to 4<sup>th</sup> August. See poster in porch.

**QUOTE:** 'The world today is upside down because there is so very little love in the home, and in family life. We have no time for each other. Everybody is in such a terrible rush, and so anxious ... and in the home begins the disruption of the peace of the world' *St Teresa of Calcutta.*

**Paraprosookians ...** Some more examples of these figures of speech: 'Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad', 'Some cause happiness wherever they go. Others whenever they go' and finally 'To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target'.