

St Mary's Catholic Church

Surrenden Road, Preston Park, Brighton

Parish Priest: Fr Bruno Witchalls

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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 10 December, 2017

	<u>Mass proper</u>	<u>Intention</u>
Sat 0	Vigil Mass	7 p.m. <i>Holy Souls</i>
9		
Sun 1	2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT (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>
Mon 1	[Mass at St Mary's House]	8.15 a.m. -
1		
Tue 1	[Mass at St Mary's House]	8.15 a.m. -
2		
Wed 1	[Mass at St Mary's House]	8.15 a.m. -
3		
Thur 1	[Traditional Mass, 1962 Missal]	7 p.m. <i>Intention of Michael Burke</i>
4		
Fri 1	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	10 a.m. <i>Patrick McGlew, R.I.P.</i>
5		
Sat 1	<i>Advent Weekday.</i>	10 a.m. <i>John & Anne McEvoy, R.I.P.</i>
6	Vigil Mass	7 p.m. <i>Holy Souls</i>
Sun 1	3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE) (B)	10 a.m. <i>Pro Populo – for the people of the parish</i>
7	Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28 Parish Mass Book p.87	12 noon <i>Intentions of Maureen Heath</i>

Confessions every Saturday 10.30-11 a.m., 6.15-6.45 p.m. & after all weekday Masses until Christmas
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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A message full of hope resounds in the liturgies of Advent, inviting us to raise our gaze to the ultimate horizon and at the same time to recognise the signs of the God-with-us in the present. On this Second Sunday of Advent the Word of God gives us the moving tones of Isaiah announcing to the Israelites, tried by decades of bitter exile in Babylon, liberation at last: "Comfort, comfort my people". This is what the Lord wishes to do in Advent: to speak words of comfort to his people because he is near and his coming saves. Please pray for all people in these days of Advent that they may come to experience the comforting and trans-forming presence Jesus brings. God bless you, Fr Bruno

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Sat 23 December – 7 pm, 4th Sunday of Advent

Sun 24 December – 10 am & 12 noon, 4th Sunday of

The Sanctuary lamp this week is burning for the wellbeing of Betty Meehan; **Our Lady's Lamp** for all unborn children.

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE – Next Sunday

Parishioners from St Mary's and St Thomas More's will be hosting an Advent Carol Service next **Sunday, 17 Dec., at 6 pm here at St Mary's**. They have been practicing hard and this is always a worthwhile event to come to. Do invite friends and neighbours too. There will be mulled wine and mince pies in the hall after and a collection in aid of 'Mary's Meals' will be taken. All are welcome.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS - Advance notice

Next weeks 2nd collection will be for Church Flowers

SVP Christmas Hamper

Raffle tickets for a Christmas Hamper will be on sale

Advent

Sun 24 December – 6 pm, Vigil; 12 am, **Midnight Mass**

Mon 25 December – 10 am & 12 noon, Christmas Day

ADVENT CONFESSIONS

Confessions will be here at St Mary's after each weekday Mass until Christmas.

after Masses this Sunday. All proceeds to the parish SVP.

PARISH FIRST HOLY COMMUNION'S

Our first session for the children preparing to make their First Holy Communion (17 June, 2018) will be next Sunday, 17 December, 9.30 a.m. in the Cassidy Centre.

'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				
<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Contact</i>
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!	www.smyclub.co.uk
Fri 15 Dec	7-8.15 pm	Cassidy	Echoes (2) 'Why the Holy Spirit?'	Fr Bruno
		Centre		
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 Cumiskey, 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 formation in the Faith

After the first session, 'What is the Good News?', the next session, 'Why the Holy Spirit?' will be this Friday, 15 December, 7-8.15 pm in the Cassidy Centre. Parishioners welcome on a come and see basis. Materials will be provided. 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.

Video Message from BISHOP RICHARD

There is a 5½ minute video message from Bishop Richard at www.dabnet.org/news/view/33 (The Word who is Life). Recently he has been meeting in the deaneries calling us to mission. He is also asking for feedback (via Fr Bruno) on what kind of parish structure we can hope for when we have half the current number of priests, which is foreseen for 2030.

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

WORDS FROM OUR LADY to St Juan Diego

"Listen, put it into your heart, my youngest and dearest son, that the thing that disturbs you, the thing that afflicts you, is nothing. Do not let your countenance, your heart be disturbed. ... Am I not here, I, who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not the source of your joy? Are you not in the hollow of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms? Do you need anything more? Let nothing else worry you or disturb you."

FOODBANK – Many thanks to those of you who continue to drop items off into our foodbank box in the porch. This is an important work of charity that we do. As we come up to Christmas remember the needy as you shop. At this time of year I'm sure 'luxuries' like chocolates and Christmas Puddings would also be appreciated. Also with the cold weather and callers to the door we are short of porridge. If anyone can donate some 'porridge in a cup' that would be very helpful. Thank you.

CALLING ALL SINGERS – For Christmas Services

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:

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

Pilgrimage to Dublin, 22-26th August, 2018

Bishop Richard invites families to join him on a pilgrimage to Dublin for the World Meeting of Families. For further details contact wmof2018@dabnet.org

MARY'S MEALS - Please Remember - Between now and 31 December 2017, every gift to Mary's Meals will

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*].

be matched, penny for penny – up to a total of £1.9million.

You May Be Wondering.....

Question: This year the 4th Sunday of Advent, Dec. 23 / 24) comes right before Christmas. Do we have to come to Mass twice?

Answer: Yes. This is on Jesus’ gift list to us this year.

Question: How can we fulfil our Holy Day Obligations?

Answer: We have four options. Come to Mass:

- 1) Saturday PM & Sunday PM (Christmas Eve)
- 2) Saturday PM & Monday AM (Christmas Day)
- 3) Sunday AM & Sunday PM (Christmas Eve)
- 4) Sunday AM & Monday AM (Christmas Day)

‘Your arms, My Jesus, are the elevator which will take me up to Heaven’ - St Therese of Lisieux