

St Mary's Catholic Church

Surrenden Road, Preston Park, Brighton

Parish Priest: Fr Bruno Witchalls
 Priest's House, 5 Surrenden Road, Brighton, BN1 6PA
Telephone: (01273) 554509
Parish office e-mail: stmarysprestonpark@yahoo.co.uk
 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 11 December, 2016

<u>Mass proper</u>		<u>Intention</u>
Sat	10 Vigil Mass	7 p.m. Irene Hills, R.I.P.
Sun	3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE) (A) Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11 Parish Mass Book p.88	10 a.m. Mrs Daphne Moffat & Terry D'Silva, R.I.P. 12 noon Pro Populo – for the people of the parish
Mon	REQUIEM MASS	10 a.m. Mary Cosham, R.I.P.
Tues	Mass at St Mary's House	8.15 a.m. -
Wed	St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church	10 a.m. Patrick McGlew, R.I.P.
Thur	[Traditional Mass]	7 p.m. Tom McCarthy, R.I.P.
Fri	3 rd Week of Advent	10 a.m. Coral Olson (Baptism Anniv.)
	WEDDING	12 noon Holly Cahill & Martin Green
Sat	Mass for 17 December	10 a.m. Carmel Downs, R.I.P.
	Vigil Mass	7 p.m. Pro Populo – for the people of the parish
Sun	4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A) Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24 Parish Mass Book p.90	10 a.m. Marian Harding & Bill Martin, R.I.P. 12 noon Richard Lord, R.I.P.

Confessions every Saturday 10.30-11 a.m., 6.15-6.45 p.m. & after all Masses from 14 December
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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass today begins with the words of St Paul: 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice.' The reason to rejoice is not because of any contrived emotion but simply because 'the Lord is at hand.' The coming of the Lord brings joy. When Jesus rose from the dead and first appeared to his disciples it says 'they disbelieved for joy.' They could hardly believe it was him, that he was back. 'Rejoice' was also the first word of the angel Gabriel to Mary. The real presence of God with us is the most wonderful news the world has ever heard. To be near and reconciled to God brings a joy the world cannot give. As we prepare for the coming of the Lord may we all listen to John the Baptist's call to repentance and returning to the Lord. The best way to do this is to quietly and sincerely examine our consciences and then go to confession. The assurance of our sins being forgiven and being able to start again is a wonderful thing. In this way we will be able to experience first hand the joy and peace which Jesus came to bring to the world. God bless you this week, Fr Bruno.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Next week's second collection will be for flowers for the Church in readiness for the celebration of Christmas.

Last Sunday's Collection: £513.77, 2nd Coll.: £74.20
 Next weeks 2nd collection will be for Christmas Flowers.
The Sanctuary lamp this week is burning for the healing of Matthew Cotton.; Our Lady's Lamp for an intention of Thanksgiving.

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICES

St John the Baptist's, Kemp Town: Sun 18th Dec 3 pm
St George's, Hangleton: Mon 19th Dec 7.30 pm

There will be priests in the above parishes for confessions as we prepare for Christmas. Confessions at St Mary's after all Masses from Wed. 14 December until Christmas.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Here are the Mass times over the Christmas period. The one Mass that gets particularly crowded is the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at 6 p.m. Come early to get a seat or make the night extra special and come to Midnight Mass.

Saturday 24 th Vigil Mass **	6 p.m.
Midnight Mass – Carols from 11.30 pm	Midnight
Christmas day Mass	10 a.m.
Christmas day Mass	Noon
Boxing day Mass	10 a.m.

** Going to the Vigil Mass fulfils your Christmas day obligation to go to Mass.

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 14 Dec	7.30-9 pm	Church Hall	Yrs7-11 Youth Club - Last One This Year!	www.smyclub.co.uk
Fri 16 Dec	12 noon	Church	Wedding Holly Cahill & Martin Green	
Wed 21 Dec	1 pm	Cassidy Centre	SVP meeting	Luke Fernandes

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.

BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Joss Thomas Rogers, Sean and Tara's firstborn, who was born a child of God on Saturday.

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

PARISH TELEPHONE

Apparently the parish telephone has not been working this past week. We can call out from it but it has not been able to take incoming calls. This has made the presbytery lovely and quiet all week. Unfortunately this state of affairs cannot remain and an engineer will be in Tuesday to fix the line. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

CRIB OFFERINGS

This year Bishop Richard has asked us to collect and donate our crib offerings to "Friends of the Holy Land" (an apolitical and ecumenical charity). Every penny will help the poorest Christian families, especially in and around Bethlehem, with education, employment, health and housing initiatives. For more info. see poster in porch.

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.**

AN ACT OF CONTRITION FOR CONFESSION

'Forgive me my sins, O Lord, forgive me my sins; the sins of my youth, the sins of my age, the sins of my soul, the sins of my body, my idle sins, my serious voluntary sins, the sins I know, the sins I do not know; the sins I have concealed so long, and which are now hidden from my memory. I am truly sorry for every sin, mortal and venial, for all the sins of my childhood up to the present hour. I know my sins have wounded thy tender heart. O my Saviour, let me be freed from the bonds of evil through the most bitter passion of my Redeemer. Amen. O my Jesus, forget and forgive what I have been. Amen.'

Words of encouragement from a saint

'Do not look forward in fear to the changes in life; rather, look to them with full hope that as they arise, God, whose very own you are, will lead you safely through all things; and when you cannot stand it, God will carry you in his arms. Do not fear what may happen tomorrow; the same understanding Father who cares for you today will take care of you then and every day. He will either shield you from suffering or will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations' [St Francis de Sales].

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.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES, 2017

The new diocesan directories for 2017 arrived this week. There are some available in the porch for you (£5 each).

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 18th December: 1st prize: £35 Meal for 2 at Donatello's; 2nd prize: Frozen Turkey (5-6 people); 3rd 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 27th July to 4th August. See poster in porch.

And finally ... A preacher was completing a temperance sermon: with great expression he said, 'If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and throw it in the river.' With even greater emphasis he said, 'And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and throw it in the river.' And then finally, he said, 'And if I had all the whisky in the world, I'd take it and throw it in the river.' He sat down. There was silence. The song leader then stood up very cautiously and announced, 'For our closing song, let us sing Hymn 365: "Shall We Gather at the River?"'