

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 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 13 December, 2015

<u>Mass proper</u>		<u>Intention</u>
Sat	12 Vigil Mass	7.00 p.m. <i>For vocations to the Priesthood</i>
Sun	13 <u>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)</u> Gospel: Luke 3: 10 -18 Mass Book p.87	10.00 a.m. <i>Harvey Pereira, R.I.P</i> 12 noon <i>Pro Populo - for the people of the parish</i>
Mon	14 <i>St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor</i>	10.00 a.m. <i>Sean Murray, R.I.P</i>
Tue	15 [Mass at St Mary's House]	8.15 a.m. -
Wed	16 <i>3rd Week of Advent</i>	10.00 a.m. <i>Wellbeing of Frederick McKay</i>
Thurs	17 <i>Mass for 17 December 'O Sapientia'</i> Mass in the Extraordinary form	10.00 a.m. <i>Dermot O'Halloran, R.I.P</i> 7.00 p.m. <i>Holy Souls</i>
Fri	18 <i>Mass for 18 December 'O Adonai'</i>	10.00 a.m. <i>Richard Lord, R.I.P</i>
Sat	19 <i>Mass for 19 December 'O Radix Jesse'</i> Vigil Mass	10.00 a.m. <i>John & Anne McEvoy, R.I.P</i> 7.00 p.m. <i>Private Intention (L. Davies)</i>
Sun	20 <u>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)</u> Gospel: Luke 3: 39 - 45 Mass Book p.90	10.00 a.m. <i>Pro Populo - for the people of the parish</i> 12 noon <i>Wellbeing of Stanley Harries</i>

Confessions Saturday 10.30 - 11 a.m., 6.15 - 6.45 p.m. & at call
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on hold while work going on in the church
Tea & Coffee after our Sunday 10 a.m. Mass-All are welcome to join us down in the hall for this

THE READINGS THIS WEEK

During Advent the Liturgy of the Word reacquaints us with John the Baptist. His task was, and is, to prepare the people for the coming of the Lord and his message was a call to personal repentance and conversion. This reveals to us a fundamental truth about who we are and who God is. We are sinners (the bad news) in need of repentance and God's mercy which he came to give (the good news). Repentance, contrition and conversion are the gateway into receiving God's mercy and love. This Advent take heart, do not be afraid to seek out his mercy in confession, the sacrament of mercy. God bless you this week, Fr Bruno.

SANCTUARY WORK

The top part of the scaffolding came down this last week and the finished painting is clearer to see. We discovered the horizontal girder across the arch is structural (maybe with the intention when the church was first built over 100 years ago that a Calvary crucifix would have gone there). This has been kept in place and painted. The plumbing is done and the lighting almost ready. The scaffolding will all be down early this week and the Crucifix put back in its place ready for our carol services & Christmas. The Stone support for the Tabernacle will be put in place after Christmas.

Last Sundays Collection: £562.41. 2nd Coll: £91.05

B & H DEANERY HOMELESS FUND

Some of the Catholic parishes in the city belong to a rota providing a meal and a bed for the night during the winter for the homeless. This Sunday our 2nd collection will be for this work of mercy which we do locally. Thank you.

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Our Advent Penance Service will be **this Sunday (13th) at 3pm here in the church**. Priests will be available for individual confession. This is an important part of our preparation for Christmas: 'We beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God' [2 Cor. 5:20].

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Next week's second collection will be for flowers to honour our Lord and his mother and to beautify our Church in readiness for the celebration of our Saviours birth.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Thursday 24 th Vigil Mass **	6 pm
Midnight Mass - <i>Carols from 11.30 pm</i>	Midnight
Christmas day (25 th) 'Dawn Mass'	8 am
Christmas day Mass	10 am
Christmas day Mass	Noon

**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, 556927
Thursdays	2-4 pm	Cassidy Centre	Seniors Club	David Alfred, 01273 540038
Wed 16 Dec	1pm	Cassidy Centre	SVP meeting – Christmas Lunch	
Wed 16 Dec	7.30-9pm	Church Hall	Yrs 7-11 Youth Club	

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers those in our parish, or family members, who need them at this time: Lorna Briggs, Anne Chandler, Mary Connett, Mary Cosham, Harry Cross, Paul Green, Claire Hill, Tracy Larratt, Daphne Moffatt, Resi Michel, Dick Morris & Terry Rodrigues.

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE – Sun 20 Dec. 6pm

Parishioners from St Mary's and St Thomas More's choirs will be coming together to put on our Advent Carol Service. This will be on Sunday 20 Dec. at 6pm here at St Mary's. There will be mulled wine and mince pies in the hall after. Please feel free to invite your friends along.

PARISH 2016 DIARIES are available for you in the porch. They are free. Please take what you need.

ADVENT REFLECTION

'I feel intimately, O my God, that, whenever I am left to myself, I go wrong. As sure as a stone falls down to earth if it be let go, so surely my heart and spirit fall down hopelessly if they are let go by you. You must uphold me by your right hand, or I cannot stand. How strange it is, but how true, that all my natural tendencies are towards sloth, towards excess, towards neglect of religion, towards neglect of prayer, towards love of the world, not towards love of you, or love of sanctity, or love of self-governance. I approve and praise what I do not do. My heart runs after vanities, and I tend to death, I tend to corruption and dissolution, apart from you. My God, I have had experience enough what a dreadful bondage sin is. If you are away, I find I cannot keep myself, however I wish it – and am in the hands of my own self-will, pride, sensuality, and selfishness. And they prevail with me more and more every day, till they are irresistible. In time the old Adam within me gets so strong that I become a mere slave. I confess things to be wrong which nevertheless I do. I bitterly lament over my bondage, but I cannot undo it. O what a tyranny is sin! It is a heavy weight which cripples me. By your almighty power, I entreat you, O my Lord, to give me life and sanctity and strength! *[Blessed John Henry Newman]*

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.

Never give up on asking for forgiveness from God. Your sins are not greater than God's mercy.

Novena Prayer for Christmas (17-24 Dec.)

God of light,

A child is born for us and a Son is given to us.
Your eternal Word leaped down from heaven
in the silent watches of the night,
and now your Church is filled with wonder
at the nearness of her God.

Open our hearts to receive his life
and increase our vision with the rising of dawn,
that our lives may be filled with
his glory and his peace. Amen.

SVP BOXES - Thank you to everyone who has donated so generously (There are 6 boxes in the porch ready for re-collection No's 40/50/60/67/68 & 85)

SVP PARISH FOOD BANK – Your SVP would be grateful for donations of long-life, in-date items for distribution to our needy people e.g. Milk cartons (UHT); Breakfast Cereal; Tea bags; Instant Coffee; Sugar; Jam/ Marmalade; Biscuits; Soup (packet or tinned); Tinned Tomatoes, Meat, Fish or Fruit; Tinned Baked Beans/ Spaghetti in sauce; Rice; Pasta; Noodles. Please place these in the box in the church 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: **Mon 14 Dec., 11am-12pm; Wed. 16 Dec., 6-7pm; Sat 19 Dec., 11am-12pm.** There will be another date in the new year.

BOOK RECOMMENDATION

'**Finding Sanctuary**' by *Abbot Christopher Jamison* from Worth Abbey, which featured in the TV series, 'The Monastery', in 2005. This inspirational book offers easy ways in which monastic life and the teachings of St Benedict can be put into practice in our modern, hectic lives – thus providing peace and spiritual space in busy-ness! [From Luke Fernandes]

DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES FOR 2016

These are available in the church porch. They are £4.50 each and provide much useful information about our diocese. They include names, addresses and telephone numbers of priests, parishes and schools, all the diocesan agencies, a calendar for the coming year and much more.

And finally ... Somebody has well said that there are only two kinds of people in the world: those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord", and those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning".