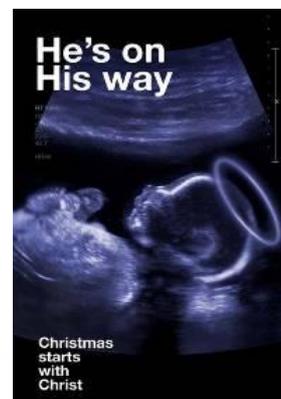


St Mary's Catholic Church

Surrenden Road, Preston Park, Brighton

Parish Priest: Fr Bruno Witchalls
 Priest's House, 5 Surrenden Road, Brighton, BN1 6PA
 Telephone: (01273) 554509
 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 our church and to the parish

(The Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Trust is a Registered Charity No. 252878)

Parish Newsletter for w/c Sunday 14 December, 2014

<u>Mass proper</u>		<u>Intention</u>
Sat	13 [Vigil Mass]	7.00 p.m. <i>Christina Macleod, R.I.P.</i>
Sun	14 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28 Parish 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	15 <i>Advent Week 3</i>	10.00 a.m. <i>Margaret McGoldrick, R.I.P.</i>
Tue	16 <i>Advent Week 3</i>	10.00 a.m. <i>Patrick McGlew</i>
Wed	17 [Mass at St Mary's House]	8.15 a.m. -
Thur	18 <i>Mass for 18 December</i> [Mass in the Extraordinary Form]	10.00 a.m. <i>Richard Lord, R.I.P.</i> 7.00 p.m. <i>In Thanksgiving (Francisco Aguirre)</i>
Fri	19 <i>Mass for 19 December</i>	10.00 a.m. <i>Private Intention (Liz Davies)</i>
Sat	20 <i>Mass for 20 December</i>	10.00 a.m. <i>Timothy Heneage</i>
Sun	21 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) Gospel: Luke 1:26-38 Parish Mass Book p. 90	[Vigil Mass] 7.00 p.m. <i>Claire McDonald & Family</i> 10.00 a.m. <i>Pro Populo – for the people of the parish</i> 12 noon <i>Anne & John McEvoy, R.I.P.</i>

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

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for 1 hour before 10 a.m. weekday Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

Tea and Coffee after our Sunday 10 am Mass. All are welcome to join us down in the hall after Mass.

Last week's collections: 1st: £596.47, 2nd: £81.94

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

I am grateful to Fr Michael Creech being here with us this weekend. He will be taking the burden of preaching off of me and today I can hear someone else breaking open the Word of God for us believers. During Advent most of the first readings are from the old testament prophet Isaiah. This book is often called the '5th gospel' since so much of it deals with God's promise to come and save his people. The name 'Isaiah' actually means 'God is Salvation'. This prophet gave the Jewish people a great longing and yearning for God to come and save them, his chosen people. For us as Christians though we know that this yearning for God to come and save us has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. He is our saviour. For this reason our yearning has been changed into joy, joy at his presence and closeness to us. Mass begins today with these words: 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near.' God has drawn close to us, what remains is for us to join the shepherds and wise men and draw close to him and know the deep joy and peace his presence brings. God bless you this week, Fr Bruno.

"Not all those who wander are lost." J. R. R. Tolkien

PARISH MISSION THIS WEEKEND

This weekend Fr Michael Creech a Redemptorist priest will be here to offer the Sacrifice of the Mass and preach. He was ordained priest in 1958 and has been saying Mass and preaching for longer than many of us have been alive. One of the important charisms of the Redemptorists is preaching and reconciling sinners to God through confession. He will be hearing confessions after all Sunday Masses. If it has been a while since you went to confession take this opportunity to go and find the real peace that confession and the forgiveness of sins brings.

SECOND COLLECTION

This week the 2nd collection will be for the flowers which we will have in the Church as we celebrate Christmas.

ST BERNADETTE'S SCHOOL FORMS

For parents wanting to apply to send their children to St Bernadette's Primary School next September Fr Bruno will be in the presbytery to sign forms on the following dates: **Mon 15 Dec., 11am-12pm & 5-7pm, Fri 19 Dec., 5-7 pm.** There will be another date in the new year.

PARISH DIARY

Date	Time	Place	Event	Contact
Tuesdays	8-9 pm	Cassidy Centre	Bible study & prayer group	Luke Fernandes, 556927
Sun 14 Dec	9.30 am	Cassidy Centre	Children's 1 st Holy Communion session	Janet, 01273 552900
Tue 16 Dec	12 noon	R. Albion Hotel	Christmas Lunch	David Alfred, 540038
Wed 17 Dec	7.30-9 pm	Church hall	Yrs 7-11 Youth Club	smyclub.co.uk
Fri 19 Dec	2 pm	Church	St Bernadette's Carol Service	
Sun 21 Dec	6 pm	Church	Parish Christmas Carol Service	

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers those in our parish, or family members, who need our prayers at this time: Nikki Braterman, Lorna Briggs, Ann Chandler, Gladys Dillon, Mary Connett, Peter Cornelius, Paul Green, Claire Hill, Monica McLauchlan & Trudy Wood.

CANDLELIGHT ADVENT SERVICE

There will be a Candlelight Advent service of music, readings and carols at **6pm on Sunday 21 December** in St Mary's. The Adult's and children's Choirs of St Marys and St Thomas More will be singing. It will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the Hall. There will be a collection for 'delete blood cancer' a charity which has helped one of our parishioners so much recently. This is a good thing to invite your friends to. For those singing there are two more rehearsals - 8pm Thur 18th, 11am Sat 20th.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Wed. 24 th Vigil Mass	6 pm
Midnight Mass - <i>Carols from 11.30 pm</i>	Midnight
Thur. 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. Boxing day this year falls on a Friday. The bishops have permitted Catholics to be exempt from the usual Friday abstinence from meat on this day.

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].

CHRISTMAS NOVENA - 17-25 December

'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.'

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICES

Opportunities to be reconciled with God this Advent:

St Joseph's, Elm Grove: Tue 16 Dec., 7.30 pm

St John the Baptist's, Kemp Town: Sun 21 Dec., 3 pm

Also this Sunday and Saturdays here in St Mary's.

QUOTE - 'I am more sinful and flawed than I ever dared believe, more loved and welcomed than I ever dared hope' [Elyse M. Fitzpatrick].

London Catholics visiting Brighton for the day - Saturday 20 December, we will visit the Old Steine; see the Ice Skating and visit the Christmas Activities for the day. Click on www.thirtysomethings.net to come up and meet us.

SVP TWINNAGE COLLECTION TINS

Those who have these tins are requested to return them to the Church for collection over the next two weekends. The money is used to help the needy in Brighton as well as the twinned villages in India. Contact Luke Fernandes (01273 556927) or Mary Cornelius (558812)

DIOCESAN DIRECTORY FOR 2015

The new diocesan directories arrived this week. There are some available in the porch for you (£4.50 each).

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS THIS MONTH

For the world: that the birth of the Redeemer may bring peace and hope to all people of good will.

For parents: that parents may be true evangelizers, passing on to their children the precious gift of faith.

BOOK RECOMMENDATION [by Luke Fernandes]

'Proof of Heaven' is a gripping story by an eminent American neurosurgeon Eben Alexander. He describes his miraculous experience of the afterlife while in a coma for a week due to near-fatal, massive brain damage caused by bacterial meningitis. This personal account of a rational, evidence-based, medical scientist changed him into a committed man of God. He is now certain of life after death and sustains the hope by reasoned argument that heaven is a reality we can all reach.