

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 (*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 17 December, 2017

		<u>Mass proper</u>		<u>Intention</u>
Sat	1		Vigil Mass	7 p.m. <i>Holy Souls</i>
	6			
Sun	1	3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Gaudete) (B)		10 a.m. <i>Pro Populo – for the people of the parish</i>
	7	Gospel: Jn 1:6-8, 19-28 Parish Mass Book p.87		12 noon <i>Intentions of Maureen Heath</i>
Mon	1	<i>Mass for the day</i>		10 a.m. <i>William McDonough, R.I.P.</i>
	8			
Tue	1	<i>Mass for the day</i>	[Mass at St Mary's House]	8.15 a.m. -
	9			
Wed	2	<i>Mass for the day</i>		10 a.m. <i>Tom McCarthy, R.I.P.</i>
	0			
Thur	2	<i>Mass: 'Rorate Coeli...'</i>	[Traditional Mass]	7 p.m. <i>Intention of Patrick Burke</i>
	1			
Fri	2	<i>Mass for the day</i>		10 a.m. <i>Maureen Patterson, R.I.P.</i>
	2			
Sat	2	<i>Mass for the day</i>		10 a.m. <i>Baby William Knight (Ivana's grandson), R.I.P.</i>
	3		Vigil Mass	7 p.m. <i>Bill Walsh, R.I.P.</i>
Sun	2	4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)		10 a.m. <i>Fred & Ivy Carrington, R.I.P.</i>
	4	Gospel: Luke 1:26-38 Parish Mass Book p.90		12 noon <i>Pro Populo – for the people of the parish</i>
Sun		THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	Vigil	6 p.m. <i>Sr Anne O'Neil, R.I.P.</i>
	2	Mass		Midnight <i>Pro Populo</i>
Mon	4	Midnight Mass – Carols from 11.30 p.m.		10 a.m. <i>Pro Populo</i>
		CHRISTMAS DAY	'Shepherds'	12 noon <i>Michael & Gerard Stone, R.I.P.</i>
Tue	2		Mass	8.15 a.m. -
	5			
		<i>St Stephen, 1st Martyr</i>	[Mass at St Mary's House]	
	2			
	6			

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The third Sunday of Advent is called 'Gaudete' Sunday. *Gaudete* is the Latin for 'rejoice' and comes from the entrance Antiphon at Mass today: '**Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near.**' Rose vestments are worn by the priest to show our joy. To all people of goodwill the coming of the Lord brings a joy which is like nothing else in the whole world. About joy - and re-finding it - St Josemaria Escriva wrote, "For a Christian, joy is a treasure. Only by offending God do we lose it,

The Sanctuary lamp this week is burning for all expectant mothers ; **Our Lady's Lamp** for Frederick Mckay.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

This weeks 2nd collection is for Flowers for the Church in readiness for the celebration of our Lord's Birth from Mary.

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE – **This Sunday, 6 pm**

Our Advent Carol Service, led by parishioners from St Mary's & St Thomas More's, is this **Sunday, 17 Dec., at 6**

because sin is the fruit of selfishness, and selfishness is the root of sadness. Even then, a bit of joy survives under the debris of our soul – the knowledge that neither God nor his Mother ever forgets us. If we repent, if an act of sorrow springs from our heart, if we purify ourselves in the holy sacrament of penance, God comes out to meet and forgive us. Then there can be no sadness whatsoever.” With prayers for a blessed and peaceful run up to Christmas, Fr Bruno.

pm here at St Mary’s. Do invite friends and neighbours. 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 MASS TIMES

The Mass times over the Christmas period are written above. The one Mass that gets particularly crowded is the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at 6 p.m. (with carols from 5.45 p.m.). Come early to get a seat or make the night extra special and come to Midnight Mass (with carols and readings from 11.30 p.m.).

‘Today, as in the times of Jesus, Christmas is not a fairy-tale for children but God’s response to the drama of Humanity in search of peace’ - Pope Benedict XVI

PARISH DIARY				
Date	Time	Place	Event	Contact
Mondays	6.55-8 pm	Cassidy	WCCM Christian Meditation Group	Celia 01273 555967
Thursdays	2-4 pm	Centre Cassidy Centre	Seniors Club	David Alfred, 01273 540038
Wed 20 Dec	1-2 pm	Cassidy Centre	SVP meeting	Luke Fernandes
Thur 21 Dec	11 am	Church	Baptism of Sebastian Francis Brack	
Thur 21 Dec	12 noon	Royal Albion	Parish Christmas Lunch	David Alfred
Sat 23 Dec	12 noon	Church	Baptism of Aoife Kirwin	

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 Cummiskey, Amy Grimes, John & Judy Harrison, Dick & Betty Morris, Liz Regan, Glenn Rodrigues, Terry Rodrigues, Callum Stone, Diana Taylor, Tom Walsh, Tracey Weller & Michael Ward.

SVP Christmas Hamper

Raffle tickets for a Christmas Hamper will be on sale after Masses this Sunday. All proceeds to the parish SVP.

PARISH CHRISTMAS LUNCH

A reminder for those who have signed up that the Parish Christmas Lunch is this Thursday (21 Dec.), from 12 noon, at the Royal Albion

CRIB OFFERINGS - “*One of the greatest gifts you can give this Christmas is hope to children and families in crisis*” (Bishop Richard). This year Bishop Richard has asked that every penny raised through our Crib offerings will go to the **Catholic Children’s Society’s Arundel & Brighton Crisis Fund**. This will provide emergency grants to local children & families who have nowhere else to turn.

ECHOES – Parish based formation in the Faith

Last Friday we had the 2nd session, ‘Why the Holy Spirit?’ The next sessions will be on Friday 12th & 19th January 2018, 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 for you to look at.

St Jude Prayer for Advent

‘Lord Jesus, your power is infinite, your glory, everlasting. Quietly you come, as a tiny baby. Ready my heart for the miracle of your birth. Bring light to this dark world, waiting silently for your presence in the coldness of the night. Waiting is itself your gift, animating our hearts with anticipation.

Bless me with needed patience and faithful discipline to prayerfully prepare to welcome and greet you, My Lord. St. Jude, saint of hopeless cases, find for me God’s grace. May Christmas joy and burning love take root in me and ever grow day by day, to carry joy into this world and inspire all people of good will to deeper faith and hope to renew the face of this our earth. Amen.’

ADVENT CONFESSIONS - Confessions will be here at St Mary’s after each weekday Mass until Christmas.

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. Another car load of food will be dropped off this Wednesday to St George’s in Hangleton.

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:

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 20 Dec., 11am-12pm and Fri 12 Jan., 11am-12pm.**

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.

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

'Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle' Philo of Alexandria (+50 AD)

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

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)