

# St Mary's Catholic Church

Surrenden Road, Preston Park, Brighton

**Parish Priest:** Fr Bruno Witchalls  
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 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 18 December, 2016

<u>Mass proper</u>		<u>Intention</u>	
Sat	17	Vigil Mass	<b>7 p.m.</b> <i>Pro Populo – for the people of the parish</i>
Sun	18	<b>4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)</b> Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24 Parish Mass Book p.90	<b>10 a.m.</b> <i>Marion Harding &amp; Bill Martin, R.I.P.</i> <b>12 noon</b> <i>Richard Lord, R.I.P.</i>
Mon	19	<i>Mass for 19 December</i>	<b>10 a.m.</b> <i>Oscar &amp; Davida Bullock, R.I.P.</i>
Tues	20	Mass at St Mary's House	<b>8.15 a.m.</b> -
Wed	21	<i>Mass for 21 December</i>	<b>10 a.m.</b> <i>William McDonough, R.I.P.</i>
Thur	22	Traditional Mass	<b>7 p.m.</b> <i>Olga Surgand Lucciani, R.I.P.</i>
Fri	23	<i>Mass for 23 December</i>	<b>10 a.m.</b> <i>Fr David Barnes</i>
Sat	24	<i>Mass for 24 December</i> <b>CHRISTMAS EVE - Vigil Mass</b> Mass book p.95 <b>MIDNIGHT MASS (Carols from 11.30pm)</b> p.98	<b>10 a.m.</b> <i>Anne &amp; John McEvoy, R.I.P.</i> <b>6 p.m.</b> <i>Angilina Brannigan, R.I.P.</i> <b>Midnight</b> <i>Pro Populo – for the people of the parish</i>
Sun	25	<b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b> Gospel: John 1:1-18 Parish Mass Book p.101	<b>10 a.m.</b> <i>Pro Populo – for the people of the parish</i> <b>12 noon</b> <i>Coral Olson (1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Anniv)</i>

**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 – Not Christmas day though or New Years Day**

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

This last Sunday before Christmas we hear of the miraculous birth of Jesus from the point of view of Joseph, Mary's betrothed. When he first finds out that his wife-to-be is with child and he knows that he is not the father we hear that his intention is 'to put her away quietly.' However, an angel of the Lord tells him not to but rather not only to remain but to take Mary as his wife and to adopt Jesus as his own son. Joseph does this and from that moment he is beside Mary watching over and protecting her and the child. He is called to become a husband and a father. Many people have a great devotion to just, silent and dutiful St Joseph. Maybe we all can pray to and ask St Joseph to help us do those things he did so faithfully, that is to receive the Lord into our lives, to have a deep love for our Lady and her honour and to live the lives and vocations we have received with fidelity. I pray that all of you may have a blessed and peaceful Christmas. Fr Bruno.

### WORDS FROM THE SAINTS

"In this life no man can fulfil his desires, nor can any creature satisfy a man's craving, for God alone satisfies and infinitely surpasses man's desire, which for that reason is never at rest except in God" [St Thomas Aquinas].

Last Sunday's Collection: £499.88, 2<sup>nd</sup> Coll.: £93.62  
 This weeks 2<sup>nd</sup> collection will be for Christmas Flowers.

**The Sanctuary lamp this week is burning for Linda Cullen, RIP ; Our Lady's Lamp for all babies lost through miscarriage.** If you would like any of these lamps to burn for a week for a special intention please contact the parish office. Recommended donation £5.

### CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE – This Friday

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.

### CHRISTMAS MASSES TIMES

There will be carols for half an hour before the Midnight Mass. The 6pm Vigil Mass gets very crowded which ends up with standing room only. If you can, consider making the night extra special and come to Midnight Mass.

Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> Vigil Mass	<b>6 p.m.</b>
Midnight Mass – <i>Carols from 11.30 pm</i>	<b>Midnight</b>
Christmas day Mass [Dawn Mass]	<b>10 a.m.</b>
Christmas day Mass	<b>Noon</b>

## **PARISH DIARY**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Contact</b>
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 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.

### **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 18<sup>th</sup> December: 1<sup>st</sup> prize: £35 Meal for 2 at Donatello's; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize: Frozen Turkey (5-6 people); 3<sup>rd</sup> prize: A Hamper.

### **SCHOOL FORMS**

For parents wishing to apply to send their children to St Bernadette's Primary School (or Cottesmore) in September Fr Bruno will be in the presbytery to sign forms on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 6-7 pm**. Please note this will be the last day as forms have to be collated and taken to the schools for Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January.

### **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.

### **AUDIO RESOURCE**

At the website 'discerninghearts.com' you can find some excellent free audio downloads. The different series by Fr Timothy Gallagher come recommended including 'The discernment of God's will in everyday decisions' and 'the discernment of spirits'. They and other talks there can be of great help in our spiritual growth as persons.

**FOODBANK** - Many thanks to those of you who drop items off into our foodbank box. This is an important work of charity we do. As we come up to Christmas remember the needy as you shop. The usual tinned goods, cereals, toiletries and at this time of year special treats I'm sure would bring smiles to some peoples faces. Our foodbank box is in the porch. Thank you.

### **RECEIVING THE NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL**

If you would like to be put on a (BCC) mailing list to receive the parish newsletter via email, send an email to the parish office. This can be useful if you are away over the holidays and it means you can keep up with different events happening in the parish.

### **Prayer to St Joseph**

'My beloved St Joseph, adopt me as your child. Take charge of my salvation. Watch over me night and day. Preserve me from occasions of sin. Obtain for me purity of body and soul and the spirit of true prayer. Win for me a spirit of sacrifice, humility and self-denial. Obtain for me a burning love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and tender love for Mary, my Mother. St Joseph, be with me in life, be with me in death, and obtain for me a favourable judgment from Jesus. Amen.'

### **TEENAGE RETREAT FOR YRS 7-9 - INSPIRE**

Worth Abbey - Feb. 10-12<sup>th</sup>. This February there will be another retreat at Worth Abbey for young people in school years 7-9. INSPIRE is part of a youth retreat programme which has been running successfully for a number of years. The retreats are run by an experienced team, with the support of the monastic community at Worth and the Diocese. They give young people a brilliant chance to meet other young Catholics and to explore their faith in the beautiful atmosphere of Worth Abbey. There are also games, sports, social activities & much more. The weekend costs £84, but bursaries are available. For more info, or to book, Email [toc@worthabbey.net](mailto:toc@worthabbey.net) (bookings close Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> or when the retreat is full). For any questions, email [Jack.Regan@dabnet.org](mailto:Jack.Regan@dabnet.org) the Diocesan Youth Officer.

**A&B News** - The latest edition of the A&B News has arrived. Free copies are available in the porch

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

### **DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES, 2017**

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

### **OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM**

Recently, on December 8<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a Statue of Our Lady of Walsingham was enthroned in the side chapel of St George and the English Martyrs in Westminster Cathedral. If any of you visit the cathedral you can go and pray there. When the shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham was re-established in England in 1897 the pope at the time, Leo XIII, said 'When England returns to Walsingham, Our Lady will return to England.'

**And finally ...** An old-time pastor was riding furiously down the road, hurrying to get to church on time. Suddenly, his horse stumbled and threw him to the ground. Lying in the dirt, his body wracked with pain, the pastor called out, "All you angels in heaven, help me get up on my horse!" With extraordinary strength, he leaped onto the horse's back - and fell off the other side. From the ground again, he called out, "All right, just half of you angels this time!"

**"Everything is a reminder of the Cross. We ourselves are made in the shape of a cross" - St John Vianney**