

# 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 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 20 December, 2015

<u>Mass proper</u>		<u>Intention</u>
Sat	19 Vigil Mass	7 p.m. <i>Private Intention (L. Davies)</i>
Sun	<b><u>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)</u></b> Gospel: Luke 3: 39-45 Mass Book p.90	10 a.m. <i>Pro Populo – for the people of the parish</i> 12 noon <i>Wellbeing of Stanley Harries</i>
Mon	21	10 a.m. <i>Thomas McCarthy, R.I.P</i>
Tue	22 [Mass at St Mary's House]	8.15 a.m. -
Wed	23	10 a.m. <i>Wellbeing of Stanley Harries</i>
Thurs	24 <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> [Vigil Mass] <b>MIDNIGHT MASS</b> [Carols from 11.30pm.]	<b>6 p.m.</b> <i>Nikki Braterman, R.I.P</i> <b>Midnight</b> <i>Pro Populo- for the people of the parish</i>
Fri	25 <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> [Dawn Mass]	<b>8 a.m.</b> <i>Michael &amp; Gerard Stone, R.I.P</i> <b>10 a.m.</b> <i>Pro Populo – for the people of the parish</i> <b>12 noon</b> <i>In Thanksgiving (M. S)</i>
Sat	26 Vigil Mass	7 p.m. <i>Fr Stephen Collins, R.I.P.</i>
Sun	27 <b><u>THE HOLY FAMILY</u></b> Gospel: Luke 2: 41-52 Mass Book p.105	10 a.m. <i>Pro Populo – for the people of the parish</i> 12 noon <i>William McDonough, R.I.P</i>

**Confessions Saturday 10.30 – 11 a.m., 6.15 – 6.45 p.m. & at call**  
**Tea & Coffee after our Sunday 10 a.m. Mass–All are welcome to join us down in the hall for this**

### THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

As we approach Christmas I found this reflection useful: 'Most of us begin by thinking the world can make us happy. But if we reach maturity, both spiritual and emotional, we realize that we were made for something higher, something more akin to our hearts truest longings ... our soul needs something else, someone else - and that someone is God. Without God our hearts are restless and unsatisfied. Sadly, many try to bury this longing with more and more of the world. In the end it does not work. We need God.' Until we are at home in God and God is in us we are not where we should be. Like our Lady we could say a Christian is one in whom God lives. May she help us to welcome him into our hearts in the days ahead. God bless you this Christmas, Fr Bruno.

### SANCTUARY WORK

Most of the work is now complete and new lighting has been installed giving us a clearer impression of how the sanctuary will eventually look. All that remains to do is for the stone support to be put in and the Tabernacle moved to below the crucifix. This will be done in the New Year.

Last Sundays Collection: £523.66. 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection Brighton & Hove Deanery Homeless Fund: £416.13

### CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

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

### ADVENT CAROL SERVICE THIS SUNDAY, 6pm

**CHRISTMAS MASSES - A reminder:** 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 coming to Midnight Mass or if you have small children to one of the other Christmas Day Masses: the Shepherd's Mass at 8am, or 10am or Middy.

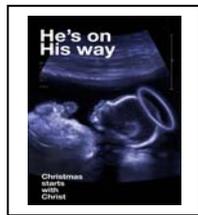
**BOXING DAY MORNING MASS -** There will be no morning Mass in the church Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> December.

### CRIB COLLECTION

Thank you to David Alfred for having set up our crib. This year Bishop Richard has asked that the crib collection goes to 'Friends of the Holy Land'. It is a charity helping our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land. Every penny will help the poorest Christian families, especially in and around Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza and Israel, with education, employment, health, housing costs and other necessities.

## PARISH DIARY IMPORTANT DATES

*Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December!  
The Nativity of our Lord  
Jesus Christ. He is the  
reason for the Season.*



## A Christmas Blessing

O God, whose Son was born in Bethlehem, on that wondrous night, lead us to that same place, where Mary laid her tiny child. As we look on in wonder and praise, make us welcome Him and all new life, and care for His handiwork; the child, our neighbor, the stranger, the earth, the sky, the sea and our souls. O God, bless us in Your great love. Amen

## 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.

## CHRISTMAS FAIR DONATIONS

As promised we have donated some of our takings from the Christmas fair to two charities; £500 has been sent to Brighton Voices in Exile and £500 to the Catholic Relief Service for the aid it is providing in Syria.

## 100 CLUB DRAW – December Winners

Congratulations to our December winners: 1<sup>st</sup> prize (£50) to Miss C Hammond, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize (£30) to Mrs B Knott, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize (£20) to Mrs N Bond.

**World Mission Sunday 2015 (Missio)** – We have received a letter thanking us for our donation of £204.94. Missio is the Pope's official charity for overseas mission. For more information visit [www.missio.org.uk](http://www.missio.org.uk)

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Do you have a child in KS1 at school? (Years R, 1 or 2). The signup sheet for now until Easter is now in the Church porch with just 7 slots to fill. It's really easy to lead a session with the children and you can 'buddy up' with a friend if you like. We have specific Children's liturgy books for you to use and take the pressure off you thinking of something. Contact Abi Rowe for more information: [abi.rowe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:abi.rowe@yahoo.co.uk). Thank you.

## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS

The Sacramental programs will resume in the New Year. First Holy Communion Children's meeting, Sun 17 Jan. First Holy Communion Parents meeting, Mon 18 Jan. Confirmation Meeting at St Mary's, Tue 19 Jan.

### A REFLECTION ON MOTHERS

"The most important person on earth is a mother. She cannot claim the honour of having built Notre Dame Cathedral. She need not. She has built something more magnificent than any cathedral – a dwelling for an immortal soul, the tiny perfection of her baby's body ... The angels have not been blessed with such a grace. They cannot share in God's creative miracle to bring new saints to Heaven. Only a human mother can. Mothers are closer to God the Creator than any other creature; God joins forces with mothers in performing this act of creation ... What on God's good earth is more glorious than this; to be a mother?" [Card. Mindszenty]

## SCHOOL FORMS - Supplementary Info 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: Sat 9 Jan 11am-12noon and again on Mon 11 Jan 11am-12pm.

**SVP PARISH FOOD BANK** – Your SVP would be grateful for donations of long-life, in-date items for distribution to our local people in need, 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. If you can spare any of these items please place these in the box in the church porch. What we collect is regularly taken to our local food bank which operates out of St George's church hall, Hangleton, and they are always grateful. The Food Bank provides food to individuals and families who find themselves in crisis or urgent need. They offer a hot or cold drink and a chat with people who may be able to point them in the right direction for assistance. They are open every Wednesday between 12.30pm-2.30pm and are run by volunteers. For more information phone 07990 631892 or email: [Hangletonfoodbank@yahoo.com](mailto:Hangletonfoodbank@yahoo.com) or see poster in the porch. Many Thanks

## 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.

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

**And finally ...** The sleigh was all packed, the reindeer were fed, but Santa still knelt by the side of his bed, "Dear Father," he prayed, "be with me tonight. There's much work to do and my schedule is tight. My sack will hold toys to grant all kids' wishes. The supply will be endless like the loaves and the fishes. I can do all these things, Lord, only through you. I just need your blessing, then it's easy to do. I do this only to honour the birth of the one that was sent to redeem us, your most holy Son. So to all of my friends, lest your glory I rob, Please, Lord, remind them who gave me this job. Amen."

*'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 true peace' [Pope Benedict xvi].*