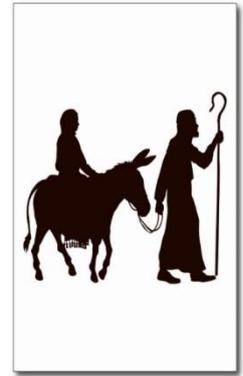


St Mary's Catholic Church

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 the church and to our parish

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

Parish Newsletter for w/c Sunday 21 December, 2014

<u>Mass proper</u>		<u>Intention</u>
Sat	20 [Vigil Mass]	7.00 p.m. <i>Claire McDonald & Family</i>
Sun	21 <u>4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)</u> Gospel: Luke 1:26-38 Parish Mass Book p. 90	10.00 a.m. <i>Pro Populo – for the people of the parish</i> 12 noon <i>Anne & John McEvoy, R.I.P.</i>
Mon	22 <i>Mass for 22 December</i>	10.00 a.m. <i>Sarah Skilton, In Thanksgiving</i>
Tue	23 <i>Mass for 23 December</i>	10.00 a.m. <i>In Thanksgiving (MS)</i>
Wed	24 [CHRISTMAS EVE, VIGIL MASS] [MIDNIGHT MASS, <i>Carols from 11.30 p.m.</i>]	6.00 p.m. <i>Private Intention</i> Midnight <i>Pro Populo – for the people of the parish</i>
Thur	25 <u>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</u> [Dawn Mass] 'Christmas Day'	8.00 a.m. <i>Michael & Gerard Stone, R.I.P.</i> 10.00 a.m. <i>Pro Populo – for the people of the parish</i> 12 noon <i>Sheila Conway, Dessie & Kathleen Armstrong</i>
Fri	26 <i>St Stephen, The First Martyr</i>	10.00 a.m. <i>Fr Stephen Collins, R.I.P.</i>
Sat	27 <i>St John, Apostle & Evangelist</i> [Vigil Mass]	10.00 a.m. <i>Tom McCarthy, R.I.P.</i> 7.00 p.m. <i>Mary O'Donnell, R.I.P.</i>
Sun	28 <u>THE HOLY FAMILY, Of Jesus, Mary & Joseph</u> Gospel: Luke 2:22-40 Parish Mass Book p. 105	10.00 a.m. <i>Pro Populo – for the people of the parish</i> 12 noon <i>William Aston, R.I.P., & the Aston Family</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 Mass, Monday & Tuesday

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

I came across these words recently, words which may resonate more with those of us who have celebrated many Christmases: '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. The body gets the most from this world, but 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, our heart's truest longing and the fulfillment of all our desires' [Fr Charles Pope]. Until we are at home in God and God is in us we are not where we should be. Today, a few days before we celebrate Christmas we hear of our Lady. In her 'Yes' to the angel Gabriel and her 'Yes' to making a space for God in her she shows us what it is to be a Christian – it is someone in whom God lives. May she help us to say 'Yes' to him too. God bless you all this Christmas, Fr Bruno.

"All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle." St Francis of Assisi

Last week's collections: 1st: £505.90, 2nd: £154.45 (Flowers)

CHRISTMAS MASSES

See above for the Mass times over Christmas. The one Mass that gets particularly crowded is the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at 6 p.m. Come early to get a seat or make the night special and come to the Midnight Mass.

CRIB COLLECTION

The Crib Collection this year will be going to help our fellow Christians in the Holy Land. The bishop's there ask us to pray for them in their suffering and troubles.

FROM POPE FRANCIS

'For me, faith was born of an encounter with Jesus. It was a personal encounter that touched my heart and gave new direction and meaning to my life. It is not something external or imposed, but rather that which comes from within and is self evident. Jesus, in fact, impacts us, shocks us, and renews us.'

PARISH DIARY

Date	Time	Place	Event	Contact
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 this 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.

PARISH MISSION WEEKEND

Fr Michael Creech, C.Ss.R., wrote to thank me for last weeks 'Mission weekend' here at St Mary's and particularly for the warm welcome he received from you. Thank you.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

This will start in the New Year on Saturday 10 January. Meetings will start at 5.30 pm in the Cassidy Centre. Details will be sent out soon to the candidates. The date for the confirmations is Sat. 23rd May, at 3 pm here in St Mary's.

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 (see over).

QUOTE

'The world promises you comfort, but you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness' [Benedict XVI].

'Abrahams expectation'

From the beginning to end of Scripture we discover stories of people who are compelled to wait. The patriarch Abraham received the promise that he would become, despite his old age, the father of a son and through that son the father of descendants more numerous than the stars in the night sky. But the fulfillment of that promise took a long time. Through many years, as he and his wife grew older and older, as the likelihood of their parenthood became increasingly remote, Abraham waited. Did he doubt? Did he wonder whether he had misconstrued the divine promise? Did he waver in his faith? Did he endure the taunts of his enemies and the pitying glances of his friends? Probably. But he waited, and in time the promise came true. The season of Advent reminds us that God sometimes completes his will only after a long period of time. So, like Abraham, we wait [Fr Robert Barron].

A PRAYER

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, [State your intention], through the merits of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.'

HOSPITAL VISITS

The priests and chaplains ministering in our local hospitals are not automatically given the names of Catholic patients admitted to hospital. If you, or someone you know, is admitted to hospital please let your priest know so that he can either visit himself or tell the hospital chaplain.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES FOR 2014

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.

PARISH DIARIES, 2015

The parish diaries for 2015 have finally arrived. They are free and for you. Please find them in the church porch.

THE RUCKSACK PROJECT

If you would like to get involved with helping those living rough on the streets over these freezing winter months, please read on: The Rucksack Project is not a charitable organisation, but a worldwide movement born out of a simple idea to help those sleeping rough. The idea is a simple one: source items from a list - see below (either from charity shops or from rummaging around in your own wardrobe), get a rucksack and put all items inside. Bring the rucksack to the designated meeting point (details to follow) and hand it over to someone in need. If however, you would like to get a rucksack together but cannot bring it along to the event on the 10th January 2015, that is fine, you can pass it to me and I will take it for you. Maybe your child would like to take part in filling a rucksack?

• A large rucksack • A sleeping bag • A woolly hat • Gloves • Scarf • Underwear (new) • Socks (new) • A fleece • A Thermos flask • A few tins of soup with ring-pulls (easy to open) • A spoon • Tissues

For more information, please take a look at the following link: www.therucksackproject.org. For those of you who use Facebook, I have set up an event on my page. Otherwise, please contact me on maynymoo@yahoo.co.uk or 07903 882909 if you would like to get a rucksack together.

EXACT LOCATION and TIMINGS TO BE CONFIRMED

Many thanks, Jermayne French

NEW PARISHIONER'S FORMS

If you are fairly new to the parish you are invited to take and fill in one of the 'New Parishioner's Forms' in the church porch. There is useful information for you and helps us to keep our parish records up to date. Thank you