

St Mary's Catholic Church

Surrenden Road, Preston Park, Brighton

Parish Priest: Fr Bruno Witchalls
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 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 2 weeks commencing Sunday 25 December, 2016

		<u>Mass proper</u>	<u>Intention</u>
Sat	24	CHRISTMAS EVE Mass book p. 98 MIDNIGHT MASS (Carols from 11.30pm) p. 98	6 pm. Angilina Brannigan, R.I.P. Midnight Pro Populo – for the people of the parish
Sun	25	<u>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD 'Christmas Day'</u> Gospel: John 1:1-18 Parish Mass Book p.101	10 a.m. Pro Populo – for the people of the parish 12 noon Coral Olson (1 st Holy Communion Anniv)
Mon	26	<i>St Stephen, Protomartyr</i>	10 a.m. In Thanksgiving (MMS)
Tue	27	[Mass at St Mary's House]	8.15 a.m. -
Wed	28	<i>The Holy Innocents, Martyrs</i>	10 a.m. Fr Stephen Collins, R.I.P.
Thur	29	Traditional Mass	7pm. Priest's Intention
Fri	30	<i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Feast</i>	10 a.m. Marie Canneaux, R.I.P.
Sat	31	<i>Octave of the Nativity</i> [Vigil Mass]	10 a.m. Mother Mary Ambrose, R.I.P. 7 p.m. Priest's Intention
Sun	01	<u>MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD</u> Gospel: Luke 2:16-21 Parish Mass Book p.109	10 a.m. Pro Populo – for the people of the parish 12 noon Michael & Gerard Stone, R.I.P.
Mon	02	<i>NO MASS AT ST.MARY'S TODAY</i>	- -
Tue	03	<i>NO MASS AT ST.MARY'S TODAY</i>	- -
Wed	04	<i>NO MASS AT ST.MARY'S TODAY</i>	- -
Thur	05	<i>NO MASS AT ST.MARY'S TODAY</i>	- -
Fri	06	<i>Weekday of Christmas Time</i>	10 a.m. Jack O'Regan, R.I.P.
Sat	07	<i>Weekday of Christmas Time</i> [Vigil Mass]	10 a.m. Lety Alfred, R.I.P. 7 p.m. For the Intentions of Dick & Betty Morris
Sun	08	<u>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</u> Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12 Parish Mass Book p. 115	10 a.m. Pro Populo – for the people of the parish 12 noon Mary Cosham, R.I.P.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for 1 hour before Friday Morning Mass
Confessions every Saturday 10.30-11 a.m., 6.15-6.45 p.m. & at call.

CHRISTMAS

This feast is one full of wonder for all ages. The wonder may begin for children with the gifts they receive from their family. But later as we grow up hopefully the wonder moves to the gift that is in the manger, the divine child, the greatest of all gifts ever given to men, the fulfillment of all true human longing. Everything else the world has to offer pales as nothing before the person of Jesus Christ. We are coming to the end of a difficult and unsettling year on so many levels. This next year, 2017, does not promise to be different. However, on this night and in the glow of this season we remember that God has not forgotten us. It is his world we live in and he has sent us the one who alone can give light and salvation us and all men. May we each renew our love and thanks to him today and may God bless each of you this Christmas and New Year, Fr Bruno.

Last Sunday's Collection: £619.47,
 2nd Collection Christmas Flowers: £280.11

The Sanctuary lamp these two weeks is burning for David Alfred & Family; Our Lady's Lamp for Elisabeth Newton, R.I.P.

CHRISTMAS THANKS

Thank you to all those who have put in so much time and effort in preparing the church and Masses for Christmas. In particular I would like to thank Joan Spells and Chris Rodrigues and their team for the beautiful flowers, David Alfred for preparing the crib, the tree (kindly donated by a parishioner) and sacristy duties, those who help with the cleaning, the ministries, the serving, the music and so many other things. Thank you all and to all of you I wish you a blessed and peaceful Christmas, Fr Bruno.

'A God who became so small could only be Mercy and Love' [St Therese of Lisieux]

PARISH DIARY

Date	Time	Place	Event	Contact
Sun 8 Jan	9.30 am	Cassidy Centre	Children's First Holy Communion Class	Janet Silva
Tues 10 Jan	3-4 pm	Cassidy Centre	Bible Study & Prayer Group	Luke Fernandes
Wed 11 Jan	7.30-9 pm	Church Hall	Yrs 7-11 Youth club	www.smyclub.co.uk

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, Diana Taylor, Tom Walsh & Tracey Weller.

SVP 'CRISIS APPEAL' CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Due to the superb generosity of everyone, including our parishioners, we are able to donate £500 on your behalf, split between two local Homeless Charities: St Anne's Day Centre and St Thomas Fund, A Residential Rehabilitation Service. Thank you very much! Luke Fernandes

SVP CHRISTMAS RAFFLE PRIZE WINNERS

1st Prize : Judy Harley - £35 Meal for 2 at Donatello's
 2nd Prize: Penny Gurowich - Frozen Turkey
 3rd Prize: Philip Spells - Hamper

100 CLUB WINNERS – DECEMBER DRAW

Congratulations to the winners of our December Draw: 1st Prize, £50 Mrs C Yates; 2nd Prize, £30 Mr B Regan; 3rd Prize, £20 Mrs L Holmes.

CHRISTMAS by Jennifer Hubbard

'Setting up the Nativity, decorating the tree, and wrapping presents all come with quiet echoes of her laughter, for these were some of her last moments on earth. While part of me would very much like to leave the painful box of reminders unopened, we resolved we would not forgo Christmas because Christmas is far too important. I never fully grasped the depth of the Christmas story. I only knew the glow emanating from the manger, Mary's grace, the serenity – it all captivated me. Only after my little one died did I appreciate the depth of what had really happened that first Christmas, and from where the light and calm came. Surely Mary did not anticipate making an exhausting pilgrimage to Bethlehem, yet she walked with grace. Surely she thought that when she arrived there would be room at the inn, and still she accepts a place in the stable. The serenity is palpable as Mary peacefully gazes upon her newborn. Surely she did not expect the One swaddled in her arms to lead her to his cross, yet she will stand at its foot. I've come to see that which I found enchanting is really a promise fulfilled in the manger. It's the reminder that a journey walked in faith, although sometimes painful, is anointed with his peace, grace and love. Because of that, we have no other option than to open the box of reminders and mark this season in faith, trusting the baby in the manger is the reason I will see Catherine again.

Jennifer Hubbard, resides in the USA. The younger of her two children, Catherine Violet, was a victim of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting on Dec. 14, 2012. This reflection written in December's Magnificat.

Before the paling of the stars

*Before the paling of the stars,
 Before the winter morn,
 Before the earliest cockcrow Jesus Christ was born:
 Born in a stable, cradled in a manger,
 In the world His hands had made born a stranger.*

*Priest and king lay fast asleep in Jerusalem,
 Young and old lay fast asleep in crowded Bethlehem:
 Saint and Angel, ox and ass, kept a watch together,
 Before the Christmas daybreak In the winter weather.*

*Jesus on His Mother's breast in the stable cold,
 Spotless Lamb of God was He, Shepherd of the fold:
 Let us kneel with Mary maid,
 with Joseph bent and hoary,
 with Saint and Angel, ox and ass,
 To hail the King of Glory. [Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)]*

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Many thanks to all who prepared and gave us a beautiful Carol service before Christmas. Many people commented on what a joyous occasion it was and an eloquent witness to the gift of our Christian faith. Thank you all. A collection was taken for the charity 'Mary's Meals.

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.

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 11th January 6-7 pm**. The forms will then be taken directly to the schools.

FOODBANK - Many thanks to those of you who drop items off into our foodbank box. This is an important work of charity we do. During this Christmas time 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 people's faces. Our foodbank box is in the porch. Thank you.

And finally ... *Wife to husband on Christmas morning: 'You angel! Just what I need to exchange for just what I wanted.'* And ... Little Jennie was being taught that it was the proper thing to do to write a 'thank-you' letter to those persons who sent her gifts at Christmas. She seemed to do pretty well until it came to Aunt Rose's gift. Finally she finished her note which read: 'Thank you for your Christmas present. I always wanted a pin-cushion, although not very much.'

"The family is more sacred than the state, and men are begotten not for the earth and for time, but for heaven and eternity" [Pope Pius XI]