

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 27 December, 2015

<u>Mass proper</u>		<u>Intention</u>
Sat	26 [Vigil Mass]	7 p.m. Fr Stephen Collins, R.I.P
Sun	27 <u>THE HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary & Joseph</u> Gospel: Luke 2:41-52 Parish Mass Book p. 105	10 a.m. Pro Populo – for the people of the parish 12 noon William McDonough, R.I.P.
Mon	28 <i>The Holy Innocents, Martyrs</i>	10 a.m. Priest's Intention
Tue	29 [Mass at St Mary's House]	8.15 a.m. -
Wed	30 <i>Octave of the Nativity</i>	10 a.m. Marie Canneaux, R.I.P.
Thur	31 <i>Octave of the Nativity</i>	10 a.m. Wellbeing of Stanley Harries
Fri	01 MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD, Solemnity	10 a.m. Lety Alfred, R.I.P.
Sat	02 <i>Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen</i> [Vigil Mass]	10 a.m. John Donald, R.I.P. 7 p.m. Priest's Intention
Sun	03 <u>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, Solemnity</u> Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12 Parish Mass Book p.115	10 a.m. Pro Populo – for the people of the parish 12 noon Eva & Viera McCulloch, R.I.P
Mon	04 <i>Weekday of Christmas Time</i>	10 a.m. In Thanksgiving (Liz Davies)
Tue	05 [Mass at St Mary's House]	8.15 a.m. -
Wed	06 <i>Weekday of Christmas Time</i>	10 a.m. Lety Alfred, R.I.P.
Thur	07 <i>Weekday of Christmas Time</i> Mass in the Extraordinary Form	10 a.m. Mary Lenihan, R.I.P. 7 p.m. Private Intention (Andrea & Claudia Banfi)
Fri	08 <i>Weekday of Christmas Time</i>	10 a.m. Priest's Intention
Sat	09 <i>Weekday of Christmas Time</i> [Vigil Mass]	10 a.m. Priest's Intention 7 p.m. Claire Ashing, R.I.P.
Sun	10 <u>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD, Feast</u> Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22 Parish Mass Book p. 118	10 a.m. Pro Populo – for the people of the parish 12 noon William & Christopher Aston, R.I.P

Confessions every Saturday 10.30-11 a.m., 6.15-6.45 p.m. & at call.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

On the first Sunday after Christmas the Church gives us the Feast of the Holy Family. Our Lord did not grow up alone but needed his family, his blessed mother, Mary, and his foster father, good Joseph. They lived as a family and show us that the family is an essential part of God's plan for us. Here is recent papal teaching on the family: *'The family is the privileged setting where every person learns to give and receive love. ... The family is a necessary good for peoples, an indispensable foundation for society and a great and lifelong treasure for couples. It is a unique good for children, who are meant to be the fruit of the love, of the total and generous self-giving of their parents. ... The family is also a school which enables men and women to grow to the full measure of their humanity.'* May the Holy Family intercede for and bless all of our families. God bless you this Christmas and New Year, Fr Bruno.

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

Last Week's Collection: £496.51

2nd Collection Church Flowers for Christmas: £243.02

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.

NEW YEAR AND YEAR OF MERCY

A new year is often a time to make good resolutions. A resource many find useful for deepening their prayer life and faith is the 'Magnificat' monthly booklet. Visit 'magnificat.co.uk' for information and yearly subscription details. In this year of faith St Faustina's diary, 'Divine Mercy in my soul' is the classic guide. Also I have recently been reading Fr Michael Gaitley's, 'Consoling the Heart of Jesus - A do-it-yourself retreat' which I am finding useful.

PARISH DIARY

Date	Time	Place	Event	Contact
Thur 07 Jan	2-4pm	Cassidy Centre	Seniors Club recommences	David Alfred, 01273 540038
Wed 13 Jan	7.30-9pm	Church Hall	Yrs 7-11 Youth club	www.smyclub.co.uk
Fri 15 Jan	7pm	Cassidy Centre	Baptism Preparation Class	Fr Bruno
Sun 17 Jan	9.30am	Cassidy Centre	Children's First Holy Communion Class	Janet Silva
Tues 19 Jan	7.30-9pm	Cassidy Centre	Confirmation Candidates Meeting	Fr Bruno
Wed 20 Jan	1pm	Cassidy Centre	SVP Meeting	

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers those in our parish, or family members, who need our prayers at this time: Lorna Briggs, Ann Chandler, Mary Connett, Mary Cosham, Harry Cross, Paul Green, Claire Hill, Tracey Larratt, Daphne Moffatt, Resi Michel, Dick Morris & Terry Rodrigues.

CHRISTMAS THANKS

Many thanks for all the cards and gifts that were given to me over the Christmas period. I am very grateful for each of them. Thank you also for the offerings given during the Christmas Masses. I would also like to thank all those who contributed their time and effort to make our celebration of the Lord's nativity so special. In particular I would like to thank Joan Spells, Chris Rodrigues and their team for the beautiful flowers, David Alfred for preparing the crib, the tree and other things, those who helped with the cleaning, especially after the recent building work, and Charles Wookey for the music and the choirs for all their work. Thank you all, Fr Bruno.

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Many thanks to all who joined with St Thomas More's and gave us a beautiful Carol service before Christmas. Many people commented on what an uplifting and joyous occasion it was. It raised £495.46 for the charity "Mary's Meals", who have written to thank us. Thank you.

YEAR OF MERCY - TRAVELLING ICON OF OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION. The icon of Our Lady of Consolation, representative of the Year of Mercy, will travel around the diocese visiting schools and parishes. The icon will give people access to the Year- especially in circumstances where they are unable to travel to one of the Holy Doors. **Here at St Mary's we will welcome the Icon on Thursday 14th January.** Details to follow.

AN INVITATION FROM BISHOP RICHARD

As part of the Diocesan celebrations for the Year of Mercy, Bishop Richard would like to invite young people to join him for an evening of Reflection, Saturday 27 February, at St Paul's Catholic College, Burgess Hill, 6-9pm. The evening is open to all young people of secondary school age (11-18). More information can be found on facebook at: <http://bit.ly/ReflectionEveningSussex>



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 piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my petitions, through the merits of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.'

ST BERNADETTE'S SCHOOL FORMS

For parents wanting to apply to send their children to St. Bernadette's Primary School this September Fr Bruno will be in the presbytery to sign forms on Sat. 09 Jan., 11-12 noon and Monday 11th Jan. again between 11-12 noon. The forms will be taken to the schools after this.

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY CONFERENCE

A five day symposium on the theology of the body (for young adults, 18-35) is taking place in London, 13-17 January. It includes a public lecture by Christopher West open to all. Visit www.stpatricksoho.org for more details.

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).

"Why atheists love Christmas"

When I was an atheist, Christmas was my favorite time of year...There was a change that came over my family, my neighborhood, my town and my country....people seemed to spend more time thinking about others than about themselves....We atheists celebrated peace, love and goodness: our Christian neighbors celebrated the One who is Peace, Love and Goodness itself. After my conversion to Christianity, I came to see that the love I sensed back then seemed so palpable, so real, because it *was* real. I would discover that all of those wonderful sensations of the season had a source, and that source is God himself. I would encounter the shocking truth that God became a man to walk with us, to suffer with us, to suffer for us, and that his coming into this world was the coming of Love itself. It was only then that I could see that the warmth and beauty I sensed all around me those cold December nights was not something, but Someone. Whenever someone feels love, she feels God - even if, like me for so long, she doesn't even know he's there. I could never have imagined it at the time, but when I remember how my heart would swell upon witnessing the selfless generosity that filled the air at Christmastime, I see now that, even when I was an atheist, what I loved about Christmas was Christ. [Jennifer Fulwiler, author of *Something other than God: How I passionately sought happiness and accidentally found it*, also blogs at ConversionDiary.com.]