

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 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 27 November, 2016

<u>Mass proper</u>		<u>Intention</u>
Sat	26	Vigil Mass
Sun	27	1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)
		Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44 Parish Mass Book p.82
Mon	28	<i>1st Week of Advent</i>
Tues	29	Mass at St Mary's House
Wed	30	<i>St Andrew, Apostle and Martyr, Feast</i>
Thur	01	<i>Feria</i> [Traditional Mass]
Fri	02	<i>1st Week of Advent</i>
Sat	03	<i>St Francis Xavier, Priest</i>
		Vigil Mass
Sun	04	2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)
		Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12 Parish Mass Book p.85

7 p.m. *The Barnes Family*
10 a.m. *Pro Populo – for the people of the parish*
12 noon *Martine Annette Olson, R.I.P.*
10 a.m. *Patrick Bernard & Anne Loakman, R.I.P.*
8.15 a.m. -
10 a.m. *Margaret McGoldrick, R.I.P.*
7 p.m. *Kenneth Miller, R.I.P.*
10 a.m. *Dec'd parents of Mary Marlow*
10 a.m. *For vocations to the Priesthood*
7 p.m. *Helen Maguire, R.I.P.*
10 a.m. *Myrtle & William Chapman & Jennifer Martin, R.I.P.*
12 noon *Pro Populo – for the people of the parish*

Confessions every Saturday 10.30-11 a.m., 6.15-6.45 p.m. & at call
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8.50 – 9.50 a.m. Friday
Tea & Coffee after our Sunday 10 a.m. Mass - All are welcome to join us down in the hall for this

SUNDAY GOSPELS IN ADVENT

Once more we begin this Sunday the holy (and brief) season of Advent. It is one of the most spiritually important seasons of the year for us as Christians. We are given four Sundays to help prepare us for a worthy and beautiful celebration of Christmas. The readings from Mass these Sundays are given to help us, especially the four gospel readings. Every year they follow the same pattern. The first Sunday of Advent is about the final coming of Christ, continuing the theme we had last Sunday – Christ the King – the last of the Church's year. (The first part of Advent is actually about being ready for Christ's return and our meeting him on the day of judgment. Only from the 17th December do our thoughts turn to his first coming in Bethlehem). The second Sunday shows John the Baptist preparing a community of repentance for the Lord. The third Sunday shows John pointing out the Lamb of God, and the fourth turns our attention to Mary as she makes ready for the birth of her Son. I hope all of us will find time to spend reading the word of God this Advent. A good place to start is to read and meditate on the gospel of the day during Advent. Also we could commit to daily Mass or an extra Mass during the week. God bless you this Advent, Fr Bruno.

Last Sunday's Collection: £583.04
 2nd coll. for the Cathedral Maintenance fund: £81.85

The Sanctuary lamp this week is burning for Jeff Thomson, R.I.P.; Our Lady's Lamp for the wellbeing of Callum Stone. If you would like any of these lamps to burn for a special intention please contact the parish office. Recommended donation £5.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

As I write this the final preparations are being made for our Christmas Fair in the church hall. It is an important event for the parish and the local community. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Tess & Eve Morrison for all the time and effort they put into making this such a great parish community event and to her team of helpers for bringing it all together on the day. It is good to see a strong parish spirit come together. May God bless the day and all those who will take part.

ADVENT BEGINS THIS SUNDAY

The 'Walk with Me' booklets are available in the porch. Booklets are £1 each and are filled with prayers, readings and thoughts to help guide us through this season.

PARISH DIARY

Date	Time	Place	Event	Contact
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 30 Nov	7.30-9pm	Church Hall	Yrs 7-11 Youth Club	www.smyclub.co.uk
Fri 02 Dec	7 pm	Cassidy centre	Baptism Preparation Class for parents	Fr Bruno
Mon 05 Dec	8 pm	Cassidy Centre	Parents 1 st Holy Communion Meeting	Janet Silva
Sun 11 Dec	9.30 am	Cassidy Centre	Childrens 1 st Holy Communion Meeting	Janet Silva

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.

100 Club Draw Winners – November

Congratulations to our November winners: 1st prize, £50, Mrs M Cornelius; 2nd prize, £30, Fr Oliver Heaney; 3rd prize, £20, Mr David Alfred.

MARY COSHAM, R.I.P

The Requiem Mass for Mary Cosham will be here at St Mary's at 10 a.m. on Monday 12th December.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE – Friday 23 Dec.

Parishioners from St Mary's and St Thomas More's choirs will be coming together to put on our 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'

ST BERNADETTE'S SCHOOL 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: **Wed 14 Dec., 11am-12pm; Fri 16 Dec., 6-7pm; Sat 17 Dec., 11am-12pm.**

LOGS FROM THE PARISH GARDEN

Some thinning and felling of trees needed to be done in the parish garden last week. Some of the wood was cut into log size. These logs would not be good to burn this winter, but next if stored in a dry place. If you have a log fire at home and would like some please make contact with Fr Bruno.

MASS – Looking towards the Lord

This Advent Mass at St Mary's will once more be said 'ad orientem'. This posture of the priest is not essential for the celebration of Mass. The Mass is equally valid and real said either side of the altar. However we could say that this ancient posture is not superfluous since it pertains to the Sacrament's well-being. If the Mass always looked like a fraternal meal around a table there is a danger that some might easily think it was nothing but an ordinary meal. This posture – the moments the priest turns towards Christ on the Cross – by its sensible sign, instructs the faithful to discover that there is more going on in the Mass than simply what is seen. It is also an act of trusting the Holy Spirit to guide and teach us in a deeper way. The Church is ruled by the Holy Spirit who does nothing inordinate. The Church's Missal itself tells the priest the moments at Mass when he must face the people and when he must turn and face the apse.

Prayer for Generosity (St. Ignatius of Loyola)

Lord, teach me to be generous.
Teach me to serve you as you deserve;
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labor and not to ask for reward,
save that of knowing that I do your will.

CURRY EVENING FUNDRAISER – This Sat.

Cassidy Centre - Sat 3rd December, 4.30 – 8 pm

Come & Support us raising money in aid of the homeless people of Brighton & Hove. Enjoy good food and entertainment. Chicken or Vegetarian curry will be available. Tickets : Adults £7 children £4 or a Family ticket (2 adults + 2 Children) £20. For more information or tickets contact Ethil on 01273 506845 or 07710 982652

The Journey: A Teenage Retreat for Advent

Join us at Worth Abbey this Advent to explore what Christmas is really all about! Like the wise men journeyed to meet Jesus after his birth, this advent each of us can make our own journey to meet Him. This is an invitation to put aside the Christmas lists and to go back to basics. It will be a weekend of fun and games, prayer, arts and crafts and much more! **This retreat is for all those in years 7-9 and will be running at Worth Abbey from 2-4th December.** The weekend costs £84 but bursaries are available. Email toc@worthabbey.net for more info.

FOODBANK UPDATE

Many thanks to those of you who regularly, generously and anonymously drop items off into our foodbank box. I met the lady who runs our local foodbank who wanted to pass on her thanks to the parish. This is an important work of charity we do that we can never know in this life the good it does. I was recently with a priest who says Mass in a high security prison and he saw a 'Foodbank' box at the back of their chapel. Some of them, from the little pocket money they had and earned, were donating to those in need. As we come up to Christmas remember the needy as you shop. Our foodbank box is in the porch. Thank you.

Paraprosdokians ... these are figures of speech (Winston Churchill loved them) in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected, frequently humorous. For example: 'Where there's a will, I want to be in it' or 'Evening news is where they begin with 'Good evening' and then proceed to tell you why it isn't' or 'You don't need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.' Here's one from Churchill, 'You can always count on the Americans to do the right thing, after they have tried everything else.'