

# 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 w/c Sunday 28 December, 2014

| <u>Mass proper</u> |   | <u>Intention</u>  |
|--------------------|---|---|
| Sat                | 27 [Vigil Mass]   | 7.00 p.m. <i>Mary O'Donnell, R.I.P</i>  |
| Sun                | <b><u>THE HOLY FAMILY Of Jesus, Mary &amp; Joseph</u></b><br>Gospel: Luke 2:22-40 Parish Mass Book p. 105 | 10.00 a.m. <i>Pro Populo – for the people of the parish</i><br>12 noon <i>William Aston, R.I.P., &amp; the Aston Family</i>                               |
| Mon                | 29 <i>St Thomas Becket, Bishop &amp; Martyr</i>   | 10.00 a.m. <i>William McDonough, R.I.P</i>  |
| Tue                | 30 <i>Octave of the Nativity</i>  | 10.00 a.m. <i>Marie Canneaux, R.I.P</i>   |
| Wed                | 31 [Mass at St. Mary's House]   | 8.15a.m. -  |
| Thur               | 1 <b><u>MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD</u></b> - Solemnity  | 10.00 a.m. <i>Hannah Roche, In Thanksgiving</i>   |
| Fri                | 2 <i>Sts. Basil the Great &amp; Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops</i>  | 10.00 a.m. <i>John Donald, R.I.P</i>  |
| Sat                | 3 <i>The Most Holy Name of Jesus</i>  | 10.00 a.m. <i>Teresa Nolan, R.I.P &amp; Vera Murray, R.I.P</i>  |
| Sun                | 4 <b><u>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</u></b><br>Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12 Parish Mass Book p.115/118             | [Vigil Mass] 7.00 p.m. <i>Mary Murphy</i><br>10.00 a.m. <i>Sarah Skilton, In Thanksgiving</i><br>12 noon <i>Pro Populo – for the people of the parish</i> |

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

#### FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

On the 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 this 'community of life' or 'domestic church' is an essential part of God's plan for us. Family life is precious and holy and needs defending. 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 an intermediate institution between individuals and society, and nothing can completely take its place. ... 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.

#### FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

There is a pastoral letter from Archbishop Peter Smith which will be read at Mass this Sunday. Copies are available in the Church porch.

Last Sunday's Collection: £428.04, 2<sup>nd</sup>: £76.75 (Crib)

#### 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 and Chris Rodrigues and their team for the beautiful flowers, David Alfred for preparing the crib, the tree and other things, John Morrison and his team for the Church cleaning and Charles Wookey for the music and the choirs for all their work. And to all of you in the parish may God bless you this new year, Fr Bruno.

#### 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.

#### 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 (address above).

*'Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible'* [St Francis of Assisi].

## **PARISH DIARY**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Time</b> | <b>Place</b>      | <b>Event</b>                                    | <b>Contact</b>          |
|-------------|-------------|-------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Sun 11 Jan  | 9.30 am     | Cassidy Centre    | Children's 1 <sup>st</sup> H. Communion meeting |                         |
| Sun 11 Jan  | 7.30 pm     | Brighton Pavilion | Youth Club (Yrs 7-11) Ice Skating               | Peter McDermott, 550187 |
| Mon 12 Jan  | 8.00 pm     | Cassidy Centre    | Parent's 1 <sup>st</sup> H. Communion meeting   |                         |

### **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.

### **ADVENT CAROL SERVICE**

Many thanks to all who prepared and gave us a beautiful Carol service before Christmas. Many people commented on how good it was. We were also able to raise £606.52 for the charity 'Delete Blood Cancer.' Thank you.

### **100 CLUB RESULTS FOR DECEMBER**

Congratulations to our lucky winners: 1<sup>st</sup>, £50, Mr H. Cross; 2<sup>nd</sup>, £30, Mr & Mrs Stewart; 3<sup>rd</sup>, £20, Mrs S. McCormick.

### **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. 23<sup>rd</sup> May, at 3 pm here in St Mary's.

### **PARISH DIARIES, 2015**

There are a few parish diaries for 2015 left. They are free and for your use. Please find them in the church porch.

#### **"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.]

### **THE WORD OF GOD FOR 2015**

'I know the plans I have in mind for you - it is the Lord who speaks - plans for peace, not disaster, reserving a future full of hope for you' [Jeremiah 29:11].

### **QUOTE**

"Christmas is built upon a beautiful and intentional paradox; that the birth of the homeless should be celebrated in every home" [G.K.Chesterton].

### **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 Sat. 10 Jan., 11-12 noon and Monday 12<sup>th</sup> again 11-12 noon.

### **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

### **THANK YOU FROM YOUR SVP**

We are extremely grateful to everyone who returned their twinnage tins with money to help our cause. Thank you all for your help, Luke Fernandes & Mary Cornelius

### **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](http://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](mailto: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

### **FOUND IN A CHRISTMAS CRACKER**

"What did the Zero say to the number Eight?" "I don't know, what did the Zero say to the number Eight?" "I like your belt."