

St Mary's Catholic Church

Surrenden Road, Preston Park, Brighton

Parish Priest: Fr Bruno Witchalls
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 Call John Morrison 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 06 December, 2015

<u>Mass proper</u>		<u>Intention</u>
Sat	05 Vigil Mass	7.00 p.m. <i>Oscar & Davida Bullock, R.I.P</i>
Sun	<u>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)</u> Gospel: Luke 3: 1 – 6 Mass Book p.84	10.00 a.m. <i>Pro Populo – for the people of the parish</i> 12 noon <i>Marie Booty, R.I.P</i>
Mon	07 [Mass at St Mary's House]	8.15 a.m. -
Tue	08 <i>Parish Feast Day - The Immaculate Conception</i>	10.00 a.m. <i>Robert Reid, R.I.P</i>
Wed	09 <i>2nd Week of Advent</i>	10.00 a.m. <i>Priest's Intention</i>
Thurs	10 <i>2nd Week of Advent</i> Mass in the Extraordinary form	10.00 a.m. <i>Priest's Intention</i> 7.00 p.m. <i>For the victims of Abortion</i>
Fri	11 <i>2nd Week of Advent</i>	10.00 a.m. <i>Patrick Larratt, R.I.P</i>
Sat	12 <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> Vigil Mass	10.00 a.m. <i>Private Intention (Sr.Anne)</i> 7.00 p.m. <i>For vocations to the Priesthood</i>
Sun	13 <u>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)</u> Gospel: Luke 3: 10 – 18 Mass Book p.87	10.00 a.m. <i>Harvey Pereira, R.I.P</i> 12 noon <i>Pro Populo – for the people of the parish</i>

Confessions Saturday 10.30 – 11 a.m., 6.15 – 6.45 p.m. & at call
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on hold while work going on in the church
Tea & Coffee after our Sunday 10 a.m. Mass—All are welcome to join us down in the hall for this

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

This Tuesday, 8th December, we enter into a Jubilee 'Year of Mercy' in the Universal Church. Bishop Richard will be reading to us (via a CD) a Pastoral Letter for this occasion (printed copies available in the porch). A symbol that is often used for a Jubilee is that of a 'holy door.' A door separates one room from another, one place from another. Entering through a 'holy door' during a Jubilee indicates our desire to enter into a new place in our relationship with God. We will be often invited this year to step from where we now are and to receive God's mercy, to come to experience it for ourselves and to give that same mercy to others. God bless you this week, Fr Bruno.

SANCTUARY WORK

Behind the scaffolding you may be able to see that the recessed arch is made and the painting of the Sanctuary wall is finished. The scaffolding will begin to come down this week and the Crucifix put back in its place. The lighting is the next stage followed by the stone support for the Tabernacle. God willing all will be done by Christmas.

PARISH 2016 DIARIES are available for you in the porch. They are free. Please take what you need.

Last Sundays Collection: £519.37
 2nd Coll: Arundel Cathedral Maintenance Fund £129.94

PARISH FEAST DAY ON TUESDAY

The greatest of all saints, our Lady, is our parish patron and this Tuesday, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, is our feast day. There will be Mass at 10 am in the Cassidy Centre and we will do the best we can to honour her and ask her to continue to watch over us here in her parish. (Please note there will be no morning Mass on Monday)

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Our Advent Penance Service will be **next Sunday (13th) at 3pm here in the church**. Priests will be available for individual confession. This is an important part of our preparation for Christmas. Other parishes have their penance services on these days:

St Joseph's, Elm Grove: Thursday 10 Dec., 7.30 pm
St John the Baptist's, Kemp Town: Sun 20 Dec., 3 pm

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Thursday 24 th Vigil Mass **	6 pm
Midnight Mass - <i>Carols from 11.30 pm</i>	Midnight
Christmas day (25 th) 'Dawn Mass'	8 am
Christmas day Mass	10 am
Christmas day Mass	Noon

**Going to the Vigil Mass fulfils your Christmas day obligation to go to Mass.

PARISH DIARY

Date	Time	Place	Event	Contact
Tuesdays	3-4 pm	Cassidy Centre	Bible Study & Prayer Group	Luke Fernandes, 556927
Thursdays	2-4 pm	Cassidy Centre	Seniors Club	David Alfred, 01273 540038
Sat 12 Dec	11 am	Church	Choir Practice	Charles Wookey
Sun 13 Dec	9.30 am	Cassidy Centre	Children's 1st Holy Comm. class	Janet Silva, 07732917705
Sun 13 Dec	3 pm	Church	Advent Penance Service	

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

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

CHRISTMAS FAIR - On behalf of the parish I would like to say a big thank you to all those who helped with this year's fair; the stall holders and their helpers, those who set up and cleared away, the caterers who kept us all going and to you the parishioners for your presence and support. It was a joyous celebration in our parish, and many visitors gave kind compliments. Much of the praise goes especially to Eve and her close helpers, Tess and Vicky. After expenses we raised a grand total of c. £3800 (nearly £400 more than last year). A breakdown of what each stall raised is available in the church porch. The parish will make a donation to two local charities. Thank you all, Fr Bruno.

PS: GRAND DRAW PRIZE WINNERS LIST IS IN THE PORCH

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE – Sun 20 Dec. 6pm

Parishioners from St Mary's and St Thomas More's choirs will be coming together to put on our Advent Carol Service. This will be on Sunday 20 Dec. at 6pm here at St Mary's. There will be mulled wine and mince pies after.

Social Concerns Catholaity Stall

We raised £65 from our stall at the Catholaity Fair this year. Raffle ticket sales in the parish raised £138 giving us a total of £203 for Uganda Hands For Hope. Many thanks to all those who sold tickets, supported our stall and helped. Claire Shelton-Jones

ADVENT REFLECTION

During this time of year it is important to find time to schedule in quiet moments or to come to God's house to ready ourselves interiorly for the coming of the Lord at Christmas. His intention was not to come once in a place far away but to enter into the life of each one of us, without exception. 'Advent is that sacred season of anticipation and expectation in which we come to terms with the deepest yearning of our soul - a yearning fulfilled only in Jesus Christ. As we wait in longing for the coming of the Christ child, we turn over to him all the false satisfactions - the compromises - of our life. To live Advent is to live in the awareness of a Presence that changes us. Our Advent preparation is marked by vigilance - custody of the heart in which we keep our soul fixed on the Lord. For what we see incarnate in the infant Jesus we desire for ourselves: purity, innocence, childlikeness restored.' In the birth of this child we see the promise and hope of our own being made new and whole. Come, Lord Jesus, come!

'God's Mercy is greater than any of your sins'

Words from St Francis de Sales

'Do not look forward in fear to the changes in life; rather, look to them with full hope that as they arise, God, whose very own you are, will lead you safely through all things; and when you cannot stand it, God will carry you in his arms. Do not fear what may happen tomorrow; the same understanding Father who cares for you today will take care of you then and every day. He will either shield you from suffering or will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations'.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS

The Children's First Holy Communion classes begin this Sunday with the next next Sun. (13th). Class begins at 9.30am in the Cassidy Centre. The 3rd Confirmation preparation meeting will be Tues. 8th December, 7.30-9 pm, in St Joseph's Hall, Milton Rd, BN2 9TQ.

YEAR OF MERCY PROCESSION – 8th Dec

You are invited to a Procession followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament to start the Year of Mercy. The Procession will begin at St Mary Magdalene Church on Tuesday 8th December at 7 pm. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will take place upon our return to the Church from the Clocktower.

QUIET DAY at Storrington Priory with the Chemin Neuf Community - Saturday 12th December 9.45am-4.00pm. Make a space before Christmas for the Lord - a day with talks, guided prayer, simple lunch... Spiritual accompaniment is available for those who would like it. Enquiries/Registration:ccn.storrington.desk@gmail.com

SVP PARISH FOOD BANK - Your SVP would be grateful for donations of long-life, in-date items for distribution to our needy people e.g. Milk cartons (UHT); Breakfast Cereal; Tea bags; Instant Coffee; Sugar; Jam/ Marmalade; Biscuits; Soup (packet or tinned); Tinned Tomatoes, Meat, Fish or Fruit; Tinned Baked Beans/ Spaghetti in sauce; Rice; Pasta; Noodles. Please place these in the box in the church porch.

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: **Mon 14 Dec., 11am-12pm; Wed. 16 Dec., 6-7pm; Sat 19 Dec., 11am-12pm.** There will be another date in the new year.

And finally ... "Grandma," asked a youngster, "were you once a little girl like me?" "Yes, dear." "Then," continued the child. "I suppose you know how it feels to get an ice-cream cone when you don't expect it!"