

**St. Mary Star of the Sea 1 High Street, HASTINGS TN34 3EY**  
**Tel: 01424 421263**      **Email: [stmarystarofthesea.hastings.uk@gmail.com](mailto:stmarystarofthesea.hastings.uk@gmail.com)**

PARISH WEBSITE: [www.stmarystarofthesea.net](http://www.stmarystarofthesea.net)  
(Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Trust – Registered Charity 252878)  
Society of the Catholic Apostolate (Pallottines)

Parish Priest: Fr Eamonn Monson, SCA

Parish Deacon: Rev. Duncan Brown

Normal Mass Times

Sundays: 6.00pm (Sat), 10.00am, 11.30am. Tuesday to Saturday: 10.00am  
Adoration: First Friday of Month 10.30am to 12 noon. Saturdays: 10.30am to 11am.  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays 10.30am and after the 6.00pm Mass.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER 2017 YEAR B

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SECOND COLLECTION FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS  
each Sunday in Advent.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The amount raised came to a grand total of  
£2567.91 . Hearty thanks to all concerned

BREAKFAST TODAY

Come and join us for an excellent breakfast in the  
hall today. If you are worried about moving your  
car to let parishioners park for the 11.30am Mass,  
just park in the Stables Theatre Car Park. The  
Stables have kindly given us permission to use their  
car park today.

The coffee morning and cake sale

last weekend to raise money for the refurbishing of  
the Marianne Patmore Chapel raised £163 . Many  
thanks to those who organized it and to all who  
supported it.

World Gathering of Families

Join Bishop Richard of a Diocesan Pilgrimage to  
the World Meeting of Families 21-26 August 2018.  
If you can't make it to Dublin, do join the gathering  
at Christ the King, Eastbourne on Sat. 19<sup>th</sup> May.  
For details of both, email [wmof2018@dabnet.org](mailto:wmof2018@dabnet.org)

BLOOD DONATION SESSION

at Hastings Centre, The Ridge TN34 2SA on  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 09.30 to 14.15. To make  
an appointment, please visit [www.blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk) or  
phone 0300 123 23 23

TEMPORARY PART-TIME TEACHER OF RE / ENGLISH

Required for the spring and  
summer terms 2018 to teach  
mainly KS3 classes. Further  
details and an application form are  
available at [www.strichardscc.com](http://www.strichardscc.com).  
Apply immediately for a January  
start.

IN MEMORIAM

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

PATRICK DRIVER RIP

Funeral Mass: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 10am  
and

TIMOTHY BUTLER, RIP

Funeral Mass: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 12.30pm  
Committal at Hastings Crematorium at 2pm

May they rest in peace.

The Funeral Mass at 12 noon will replace the 10am Mass.

Confirmation 2018

Bishop Richard Moth will celebrate this Sacrament in  
St Mary Star of the Sea Church on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June  
at 3.00 p.m. Young people of the Parish in Year 10  
or above who wish to be confirmed are invited to  
contact Fr Eamonn or Deacon Duncan as soon as  
possible. Classes will commence in January.

PARISH COMMUNITY CLUB

In the Crypt. Entrance via The Bourne. Mondays  
10.30am to 12 noon. Doors open 10am. Annual  
subscription £3. Coffee/tea & biscuit, sometimes  
cake 50p. Guests for talks 50p.

December programme:

4: Christmas Dinner, members only  
11: Mince pies & Carols. Raffle for club funds  
18: closed                      25: Christmas Day: closed

January programme:

1: New Year's Day: closed  
8: Pillar Box Red – illustrated talk by Steven  
Whitford (Hastings & St Leonard's Society)  
15: Coffee & chat  
22: In the Steps of St Paul by Anna Witham  
29: Coffee & chat & Bring & Buy

PARISH FINANCES

The offertory collection last weekend came to £720.59  
including cheques and standing orders.  
The collection for the Cathedral Maintenance Fund came  
to £27.90. Many thanks to all concerned

### MASS INTENTIONS and FEASTS:

Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 6pm: Gavin Fellows RIP

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 10am: Paola Cerbella RIP and John Meton

11.30am: Patrick Driver RIP

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December, 10am: Norman Heywood RIP

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, St Nicholas, 10am: Liturgy of the Word

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December, St Ambrose, 10am: Funeral Mass: Patrick Driver RIP

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary:

12.30pm: Funeral Mass: Timothy Butler, RIP

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December, St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin, 10am: Very special birthday intention

### DIVINE MERCY GROUP

All are warmly welcome to join us in the presbytery on the following Mondays at 2.30pm:

4-12-17, 18-12-17, 15-1-18, 29-1-18, 12-2-18, 26-2-18, 12-3-18

There will be no meeting on Monday 1st January.

### *Maranatha: Hope for the Hopeless*

In the early 1980's the famous Benedictine monk John Main came to Tanzania to give a retreat and teach his Maranatha method of meditation. It's a simple method of sitting still for 20 minutes morning and evening, repeating the Word 'Maranatha' over and over in silence. The word is referred to as a mantra. Maranatha is the great prayer of Advent and it means 'Come Lord Jesus', expressing the profound yearning for God that is in the heart of every person. It is the Advent prayer of the whole Church.

The retreat was attended by the Medical Missionaries of Mary and some Pallottines and it's safe to say that the sisters were more enthusiastic about it than the priests.

One day, a long time after the retreat, one of the sisters was on her way to Arusha and she stopped for a break in a Pallottine Mission house where she asked the priest, "how is your mantra going?" "Well sister" he replied, "it's like this! Every morning I get up and I sit down and I say to myself, 'hopeless, hopeless, hopeless!'"

Hopeless - this is something we often feel in relation to prayer and our spiritual lives; people feel hopeless about a lot of situations. Hopelessness affects the sick, the old, the addict, the sinner, the child at school, the student, the unemployed. It affects many people coming up to Christmas.

Last year more than ever I had been affected by the early darkening of the evenings of winter. It comes in so fast even on bright days and it will continue to get darker a bit earlier every day until near Christmas. It's like the darkness tugs at the darkness within myself, tugs at my depression, seeking to bring me down.

One day at home in Mervue, Galway I was standing in the kitchen, looking out the window into the back garden. It was so dreary and damp and cold. And it touched the dreariness within me, seeking to take hold of me.

Like my mother I like to go out into the garden first thing in the morning, just to look at it, but that day I thought 'I can't go out into that misery'. Still something persuaded me and as I walked I saw in the midst of all the dreariness a fuchsia in full bloom. It was one I planted there earlier in the year, one of my very few successful plantings. And it struck me that God was reminding me that it is always necessary to be on the lookout for signs of hope and beauty.

We are one with Jesus who is saying to us in the gospel - stay awake, be alert! Be aware that, as this fuchsia is the work of God's hand, so are we - even more so. And God is our Father as He is the Father of Jesus. He is hid from us in the mess of our lives and He is there to be found, to be waited for and searched for. This is an essential of our Advent, our preparation for Christmas, for the coming of Jesus who is always Hope for the hopeless! *Eamonn Monson SAC*

### Candlelit Advent Service of Music and Prayer from Taize and Iona.

Sunday 10th December, at 4 pm, at St. Thomas of Canterbury, Magdalen Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, TN37 6ET. You are all warmly invited to attend.

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Pilgrimage to Assisi and Padua, 16th – 21st April 2018. For information, please contact Jocelyn Rowe on 01797 222014 or [cjbrowe@waitrose.com](mailto:cjbrowe@waitrose.com) And see poster at back of church.