

St. Mary Star of the Sea 1 High Street, HASTINGS TN34 3EY
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PARISH WEBSITE: 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.
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 28th JANUARY 2018 YEAR B
Parish Mass Book page: 132

ON THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ON FRIDAY

FEBRUARY 2nd

there will be the blessing of candles at the
10am Mass. If you would like to bring your
own candles for blessing,
they can be placed in front of the altar and
taken home with you afterwards.

THE MEMORIAL OF ST BLAISE

is on Saturday 3rd February, with the blessing
of throats after our 10am and 6pm Masses.

Anyone intending to get married

in the diocese of Arundel & Brighton is
required to give notice of one year.

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.

January 29: Coffee & chat, Bring & Buy

World Gathering of Families

Join Bishop Richard on a Diocesan Pilgrimage to
the World Meeting of Families with Pope Francis
in Dublin 21-26 August 2018. It's for families of all
sizes, and all age groups are welcome. We'll be
staying together in Dublin City University
accommodation and travelling to events together
by coach. A 3-day congress will be followed by a
Festival of Families and a Solemn Eucharistic
Celebration with Pope Francis.

If you can't make it to Dublin, do join the
gathering at Christ the King, Eastbourne on Sat.
19th May.

For booking forms and more details, email
wmof2018@dabnet.org

MEETING OF CONFIRMATION
CANDIDATES

January 31st at 6pm.

Non-Catholics and those who have not received

First Communion

are invited to seek a blessing by crossing their
arms over their chest.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

We now meet on Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm to
8.30pm. In the presbytery.
All are warmly welcome.

CALLED BY NAME RETREAT

Called by Name is a vocation retreat for young
adults (aged 18-35), 9 - 11th February at Worth
Abbey, Crawley. It's an opportunity to tune in
more deeply to the call of Christ in your life, to
discern His will for you, discover deeper
meaning and direction in your life, and to grow
in the trust and freedom to respond generously
to the Gospel. Includes talks from speakers from
different walks of life, spiritual accompaniment,
and space for prayer and reflection. The retreat
is not aimed only at those discerning a possible
call to religious life/priesthood, but to every
young person seeking to live the call of Christ.
The cost is £63 for students/unwaged, £105
waged, and includes meals and
accommodation. To book, or for more
info, please contact Katrina
on TOC@worth.org.uk / 01342 710318.

PARISH FINANCES

The offertory collection last weekend came to
£890.82 including cheques and standing orders.
The White Flower appeal collection came to £211.57.
Many thanks to all concerned.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday 27th January, 6pm: Paul Murphy RIP

Sunday 28th January, 10am: Joyce Bumstead RIP (birthday)

11.30am: Intentions of Maria and her family

Tuesday 30th January, 10am: Joseph Sampayo RIP, first anniversary

Wednesday 31st January, St John Bosco, 10am: Bernadette Ormiston, get well intention

Thursday 1st February, 10am: John Andrews RIP

Friday 2nd February, Presentation of the Lord, 10am: Eileen McIver RIP

Saturday 3rd February, St Blaise, 10am: Paddy O'Brien RIP

REFLECTION

The Supreme Advantage.

There are many passages in the Bible that express the meaning of life as I experience it. One passage is from Philippians 3 where Paul speaks of the "supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."

I have known that supreme advantage in my own life. Knowing Jesus personally is a singular blessing; it is a relationship which gives meaning to everything, the relationship in which I am truly and most fully myself. It is He who makes the struggles of life bearable. It is in Him that my problems find resolution.

In particular I find the freedom to stand in His presence as a sinner in need of mercy; it is in Him that I experience the forgiveness that I need. To be in need of forgiveness is a holy and healthy position to be in.

To be a Christian is to be a sinner in need of mercy; the journey to heaven is the journey of a sinner in need of mercy, a sinner receiving mercy. Jesus and Mary are the only two sinless ones.

What the Pharisees do to the woman in John 8 is a far too common aspect of our modern culture - the humiliation and shaming of the one who has done wrong, getting satisfaction out of judging and condemning the other, consigning them to a perpetual state of unforgiveness, shame and guilt.

Jesus on the other hand doesn't do shame, humiliation or condemnation. He forgives and sets free the one who comes to Him with the acknowledgement of their sin. He says two things to the woman and says them to us - "neither do I condemn you. Go and don't sin any more."

His forgiveness is to free us from condemnation and it is also an invitation to move on from our sins, to give up our sins in so far as we can. He doesn't want us to remain in our sins but He is not crippling us with guilt or shame.

We, as people of conscience, often cripple ourselves with guilt and shame, especially guilt in relation to our past, a problem that besets us as we get older. Memories come back to haunt us and we can be paralyzed by them.

Both the Prophet Isaiah and St. Paul offer us the way out of this experience, a way forward. **"No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before." (Isaiah 43)** and **"All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3)**

Christian life is a forward moving pilgrimage that has learned the lessons of the past but is not held captive by past failures. When God forgives the sins that we have acknowledged or confess, they are forgiven and even forgotten by Him - **"see I have cast all your sins behind my back"** and **"I no longer call your sins to mind"**.

It's important for older people when beset by guilt of the past to simply say, "I am forgiven" and let it go.

Thankfully, the young don't usually have this difficulty and hopefully they will be protected from making the same mistakes in life that we adults have. But if they do, then it's important that they come to experience the "supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus" and find in the Sacrament of Reconciliation the assurance of the forgiveness that He offers. *Eamonn Monson SAC*

BAPTISM COURSE

Our next Baptism course will be on Saturday 3rd March downstairs in the presbytery from 10.30am to 12 noon, but of course you are also warmly welcome to come to our 10am Mass in the church beforehand. Parents requesting Baptism of babies and toddlers in the 3 months from 3rd March are required to attend. Babies and children welcome.

DIVINE MERCY GROUP All are warmly welcome to join us in the presbytery on the following Mondays at 2.30pm: 29-1-18, 12-2-18, 26-2-18, 12-3-18. There will be no meeting on Monday 1st January.

COLLECTIVE PRAYER MEETING

on the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the parish rooms. All are warmly welcome. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 6th February.
