

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.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT, 18th MARCH 2018 YEAR B

Parish Mass Book page: 173

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION IN LENT

Praise to You, O Christ
King of eternal glory.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

every Friday in Lent after the 10am Mass.

WANTED!

Men aged 16+ and Women and Children to take part in the Procession of Witness on Good Friday 30th March at 10.00 am. We need Roman soldiers and members of the crowd. There will be a couple of run-throughs before the day to familiarise you with the route and details. We unfortunately cannot allow children to take part without a parent. For more information please contact Michelle Brown on 07857667478 or brownshell2001@hotmail.com

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated for the local parishes on Wednesday March 21st at 7.00pm in St. Thomas of Canterbury, St. Leonard's on Sea. We encourage our parishioners to avail of this opportunity to prepare spiritually for Easter. Individual confessions will be available here at St. Mary's Star of the Sea after Mass of the Lord's supper on Holy Thursday, after the Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday afternoon and on Holy Saturday from 12noon to 1pm.

Anyone intending to get married

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

Non-Catholics and those who have not received First Communion are invited to seek a blessing by crossing their arms over their chest.

Confirmation candidates' meeting
on Wednesday 28th at 6.00pm.

The Deanery Confirmation will now be on Sunday 8th of July at St Martha's Church,
Little Common at 3.00pm.

Home and nursing home visits before Easter Could Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and others write down the names of those who need a visit on the page in the church porch so that I can visit them.
Fr Eamonn

Calling all children

After 10am Mass today Sunday 18th March. In the hall when we have coffee, there will be a craft session for children aged 2 to 9 to make cards etc. for celebrating Easter. Please note that parents remain responsible for their children and they must remain in the hall.

COME ALONG AND ENJOY.

Becoming a Secondary RE teacher

The University of Sussex offers full and part time PGCE and School Direct Courses in Religious Education resulting in qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and a PGCE of up to 90 Masters Level Credits For more information visit

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/education/ite/pgceandschooldirectsecondary/religiouseducation>

To discuss further contact either Sally Dudley, Initial Teacher Education Recruitment, Selection and Admissions Lead at Sussex University s.e.dudley@sussex.ac.uk or Claire Rooney, RE Curriculum Tutor c.rooney@sussex.ac.uk

The parish bereavement group will meet after the 10am Mass on Saturday March 24th. The group also gathers for 15 minutes' prayer at Our Lady's altar after the 10am Mass every Tuesday.

PARISH FINANCES

The offertory collection last weekend came to £938.50 including cheques and standing orders.

The collection for Survive-MIVA came to £694.45.

Many thanks to all concerned.

THE KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA

invite Catholic men to join their organization. We help in parishes, fundraise for charities and have a social programme. If interested, please take a leaflet from our section on the noticeboard at the back of the church or phone 754721 for more information.

SPUC has written thanking all for the donation of £218.57 for the recent White Flower Appeal.

The Sacrament of anointing and prayers for healing will be celebrated during the 10.00am Mass on Saturday March 24th

EASTER RETREAT FOR YOUNG ADULTS at Worth Abbey, 29 March to 1 April, and/or a Cross Walk 25th to 29th March. Contact Katrina on TOC@worth.org.uk / 01342 710318.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday 17th March, 6pm: Reginald Harding RIP

Sunday 18th March, 10am: John Andrews, RIP

11.30am: Margaret Kilroy, RIP

Tuesday 20th March, 10am:

Wednesday 21st March, 10am: Leslie Hall, RIP

Thursday 22nd March, 10am:

Friday 23rd March, 10am:

Saturday 24th March, 10am: Therese & Joseph Boyle, RIP

NOTHING IS EVERYTHING (In The Hands of God)

Recently it dawned on me that, unusually, I had come through the winter without getting depressed and I was moving towards Lent full of purpose and confidence. I knew what I had to give up and take on, fully aware that the practices of Lent should lead me closer to God, make a better person of me.

Lent had hardly begun when I was hit by a nasty cold that soon turned into a viral infection.

I've never felt as ill in my whole life. All my confidence left me, my enthusiasm for Lent evaporated and the feeling of God's presence disappeared. I knew by faith that He was there but I felt nothing only misery.

Like Hezekiah in Isaiah 38 I turned my face to the wall and, though I felt sorry for myself, I found myself thinking of the people being bombed out in the suburbs of Damascus. I also thought of my friend who has been sick in bed for 30 years. And the family of Autumn, the girl who died in January at the age of one year and two months. Others here and at home who are struggling with serious illness. I prayed for them and reminded myself that their plight is infinitely worse than mine.

I was housebound for two weeks and it was a great relief to be able to celebrate public Mass again, a reminder to me that this is truly my vocation, the altar is the place where I belong. The presence and care of my sister Evelyn, the support of Fr. Tony, the concern of the people of the parish and the neighbouring priests - all these were real blessings, expressed in messages, in daffodils, biscuits, chocolate and other gifts that came to my door; expressed beautifully in the messages that the little children brought to the altar on my first Sunday back; expressed in the prayers that were offered on my behalf. When I couldn't pray myself, I was sustained by the prayer of the people.

My energy levels are still low, as are my spirits and I know that Lent has been taken out of my hands by God. It's as if I have become the desert, the nothingness, the silence. And when the song '*Breath of Heaven*' sings these words in me - "*I offer all I am for the Mercy of your plan*" - I know that all I am is nothing and nothing is everything in the hands of God.

Like Moses I have sought to see the face of God, wanting my life to be hidden in Him especially in the Eucharist, a tender hiding. Like Moses God has hidden me in the crevice of a rock, a hard place. He has shadowed me with His hand and permitted me to see the back of Him. (Exodus 33:18-23)

It may not be the kind of spiritual experience I would choose but whether it is shadow or light, hidden or revealed - He is always here wherever we are. And perhaps it is a lesson for all who are drawn by Him into the cloud, that strangely it is in cloud and darkness we discover the radiance we aspire to. *Eamonn Monson sac*

DIVINE MERCY GROUP Do join us in the presbytery on the following Mondays at 2.30pm: 23-3-18, 23.4.18, 7.5.18, 21.5.18 and 4-6-18. NB: No Divine Mercy prayer group on 9-4-18.

Service of Taize Music and Prayer on Good Friday (30th March), at 8 pm, in the Church of St. Thomas of Canterbury and English Martyrs, Magdalen Road, TN37 6ET. All are warmly invited.

PARISH COMMUNITY CLUB In the Crypt. Entrance via blue door in The Bourne. Mondays 10.30am to 12 noon. Annual subscription £3. Coffee/tea & biscuit, 50p. Guests welcome to talks for 50p. March programme: 19th: Adrian's quiz (VERY HARD!); 26th coffee and chat.

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED

for our 10am Sunday Mass. If you have made your First Holy Communion and would like to serve, please speak to Dominic Cockerton to find out more.