

St. Mary Star of the Sea 1 High Street, HASTINGS TN34 3EY
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(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, GOOD SHEPHERD, SUNDAY OF EASTER, 22nd APRIL 2018 YEAR B
Parish Mass Book page: 265

TODAY, SUNDAY, 22nd APRIL

there will be a special collection for the Education of Future Priests. Gift-aidable.

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.

April programme:

23rd: Talk by Jane Jackson: Shakespeare and the poetic art.

30th: Coffee & chat: *You* bring some of *your* old documents.

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.

BAPTISM COURSE

Our next Baptism course will be on Saturday 23rd June 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. Please have a possible date in mind for Baptism when you come.

Rosary on the Coast for Faith, Life & Peace in the British Isles:

We will be processing from St Thomas of Canterbury & English Martyrs at 2.30pm on Sunday, 29th April and will gather on the Seafront opposite the Queen Victoria Statue. Everyone is very welcome and invited to join us for refreshments upon our return in the John Fisher Room.

Rosary on the Coast is an initiative of the Lay Faithful across the British Isles inviting the faithful of our nations, with the support of our clergy and Bishops, to a Day of Prayer for Faith, Life and Peace which will surely be pleasing to the Holy Spirit, and to Our Blessed Mother. The Rectors of our two National Marian Shrines (Walsingham & Our Lady of the Taper) in England and Wales have given Rosary on the Coast their full backing

and encouragement. You can find lots of information on their Facebook page and website where you can also read the Briefing Document for the event.

Benediction will be celebrated after the Rosary.

DIVINE MERCY GROUP

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

PARISH FINANCES

The offertory collection last weekend came to £854.04 including cheques and standing orders.
Many thanks to all concerned.

MASS WITH ANOINTING AND PRAYER FOR HEALING

is at 10am on the last Saturday of every month.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. 21st April, 6pm: Parishioners
Sun. 22nd April, 10am: Margaret & John Conroy RIP
11.30am: Vernice Austrie RIP
Tues. 24th April, 10am: Mary Godon, Special Intention
Wed. 25th April, St Mark, 10am:
Thurs. 26th April, 10am:
Fri. 27th April, 10 am:
Sat. 28th April, 10am:

I Have Decided To Follow Jesus

I'm not much into country music but the first time I saw Charlie Lansborough on tv he made me cry with his song "My Forever Friend", which is about the friendship of Jesus. My tears were not of sadness but of recognition. I felt the inner conviction that Jesus is my forever friend. This conviction is better expressed for me in the song by Delirious? - "What A Friend I've Found". My life, my vocation is based in my friendship with Jesus.

When God says to the Prophets "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you came to birth I consecrated you. I have called you by your name. You are mine." I know what this means. I feel it! Because of it I know that I have been destined for priesthood from my mother's womb and even before that.

I've always had an instinct for God, an attraction for Him and I've always wanted to be a priest at the altar for as long as I can remember. During the Easter holidays of my final year in secondary school there was a vocations workshop on in the Redemptorists College down the road from home. I had planned to go but when the time came I didn't feel like missing out on the holidays. My mother said "maybe you should go all the same".

So I went out of respect for her and I met Fr. Vincent Kelly the Pallottine Vocations director who made a deep and joyful impression on me and he invited me to visit the community in Thurles. I fell in love immediately with the place, the community and I knew that I had found my home. Vocation is about finding one's home, our place and state of belonging in this world.

I was on a high after my visit to Thurles and determined that it was there I would live. My parents were a bit frightened because no one had ever of the Pallottines and Mam was sure they might be a sect or at least a "strange crowd". She told one of the neighbours of her concern about the Pallottines. The woman told her she need not worry because two of her own neighbours were Pallottines and that they were a lovely community. I have heard others talk about the austerity and coldness of seminary life but for me there was nothing austere in the Pallottines and there was great warmth. That's how my vocation began and it was a very innocent, uncomplicated beginning.

Over the next 46 years I was to learn how God shapes us and forms us through struggle, suffering and sin. As the Book of Sirach says "If you aspire to serve the Lord, prepare yourself for an ordeal" (Sirach 2) - not a great way of trying to attract people to a way of life. But it is true that we cannot become anything worthwhile in life without challenge, without the cross. A vocation is like climbing a mountain, doing the Camino to Santiago - demanding, difficult, involving risk and it is thrilling.

What has held me together in all of it is the Eucharist and the Word of God; I have learned the meaning and power of obedience from Mary at the Annunciation; I have found meaning in ministering to other people, finding Christ in them time and time again. Family, community and friends are also essential in helping us stay on the road that God has marked out for us.

I have been chosen and, as the song says, "I have decided to follow Jesus - no turning back".

Eamonn Monson sac