

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.

SECOND, 'LOW', SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY) 8th APRIL 2018 YEAR B

Parish Mass Book page: 259

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:

9th: History of insults: Richard Sumner. (This is
the talk postponed by the snow.)

16th: Coffee & chat and view a few old
documents: Inflation is the very devil.

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.

DIVINE MERCY CELEBRATIONS

at St Mary Magdalene Church, Bexhill,
today, Sunday 8th, at 2.45pm. All are
warmly invited.

IN MEMORIAM

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

Marie Hollands,

Funeral Mass: Friday 20th April at 1.45pm.

May she rest in peace.

There will be no 10am Mass on this day.

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

On Sunday 29th April 2018 at 3pm. 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.

THANK YOU TO ALL

for your Easter Offerings.

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.

The collection for the Holy Places
came to £83.70

COLLECTIVE PRAYER MEETING

on the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the parish
rooms. Next meeting, 10th April. Do join us.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. 7th April, 6pm: Ellen Hassell RIP

8th April, 10am: Vicente and Ana Francesca D'Souza RIP

11.30am: Little Autumn Garwood RIP

Immersed In Mercy

St. Vincent Pallotti wrote that he was in extreme need of what he calls an “infinite deluge of divine mercy” and he says “I found myself immersed in an immense sea of divine Mercy”.

They are powerful images – being washed in the deluge, being immersed in the sea and finding oneself. It is when I am so overwhelmed, immersed in God that I find my true self, who I truly am and who I am called to become. What matters in this immersion is that I become an altogether new creation (Galations 6:15). It matters that I keep striving for this and not settle for less.

The Mercy of God is big hearted and incredibly generous. If we only knew what God is offering, if we only knew who God really is! If only we would allow ourselves spiritually to go down into the waters of the Jordan, the waters in baptism, to go down in Christ, immersed with Him and in Him. Emerge from it in Him!

Vincent Pallotti says that everything God does is merciful, everything He is is merciful. Mercy is God's very essence, God's very self. Jesus is Mercy in essence. And when we are immersed in Him then everything we experience in life becomes mercy – even when it doesn't seem like it, even when we don't understand it in that way.

The Bible defines Mercy as 'rechem' which is a mother's womb, indicating that God's instinct is like that of a mother for the child in her womb, though God's instinct is of course infinitely greater and all perfect.

“Can a woman forget her nursing child, or lack compassion for the child of her womb? Even if these forget, yet I will not forget you.” (Isaiah 49:15)

Another word for Mercy is 'hesed' which expresses the tender, faithful, loyal, dedicated love and compassion of God for His people such as is found in the marriage covenant between a husband and wife; the love that a father or mother feels for their child.

“I drew them to me with affection and love. I picked them up and held them to my cheek; I bent down to them and fed them” (Hosea 11:4)

The pain of labour also tells us something about the reality of Mercy – that it involves suffering. A friend of mine described her experience of being in labour for 20 hours, reminding me that in delivering Mercy God enters into birth pangs, that the cross of Jesus is the womb that gives birth to the new People of God. The tomb becomes the womb from which new life emerges.

So if we are looking for an authentic experience of Mercy then we have to become Mercy in all its tenderness, the Mercy that experiences labour pains of giving birth in spirit. Many of us simply want a soft, consoling Mercy that involves no pain on our part. But, as the old song says, “if you will not bear the cross you can't wear the crown.”

This is the consequence of being immersed in the sea of divine Mercy. The ultimate consequence is that through the labour pains of Mercy, through the suffering that visits us we are identified with God through Jesus in His agony, humiliating trial, abandonment and death and ultimately identified with the transforming power of the resurrection. *Eamonn Monson sac*

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.

NEWSLETTER NOTICES can be emailed (in a way that's easy to copy and paste) to stmarystarofthesea.hastings.uk@gmail.com If you don't have access to email, please could you drop your notices in the box just outside the door to the presbytery. Many thanks.