

St. Mary Star of the Sea 1 High Street, HASTINGS TN34 3EY  
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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.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, 6th MAY 2018 YEAR B

Parish Mass Book page: 270

THURSDAY MAY 10th IS THE FEAST OF THE  
ASCENSION AND A HOLY DAY OF  
OBLIGATION. MASSES AT 10.00am and 7.30pm

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On Sunday May 13th, we celebrate FIRST HOLY  
COMMUNIONS

at the 10am Mass. Please pray for the children,  
their parents and teachers.

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DIOCESAN GRANDPARENTS' PILGRIMAGE  
to the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation, WEST  
Grinstead, with Bishop Richard. Wednesday 13th

June 2018, 10.45 to 3.30 approx.

Church of Our Lady of Consolation & St Francis,  
Park Lane, West Grinstead RH13 8LT.

Adoration and Reconciliation; Mass with Bishop  
Richard. Coffee & tea provided. Please bring a  
packed lunch. Limited parking. Please car  
share. Booking essential due to space. Contact

Katherine Bergin 01293 651152. Email:

[Katherine.bergin@dabnet.org](mailto:Katherine.bergin@dabnet.org)

#### THE WORD WHO IS LIFE

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Thank you for your engagement with the  
Consultation Process that has been taking place  
across the Deaneries during these last months. I  
have been very encouraged by the way in which  
people have reflected on the Mission of the Diocese  
and the way in which we can all be engaged in  
carrying it out in the years ahead. The responses,  
gathered at a second round of meetings, are a key  
element in the development of a Pastoral Plan for  
the Diocese. Now that this round of meetings is  
complete, I shall work with a small team to write  
the Pastoral Plan. I shall be coming around the  
Deaneries again later in the year to present this  
Plan. Please keep this endeavour in your prayers,  
that all in the Diocese will focus ever more deeply  
on the Word who is Life, who calls us to be His  
people and to be His witnesses in the world.

With every blessing, + Richard

#### BEREAVEMENT GROUP

The newly-formed prayer group that meets on  
Tuesday mornings to pray together for the dying  
and bereaved people in our parish is going from  
strength to strength and we would be happy if  
anyone who has 15mins. could join us any Tuesday.  
We do realise that having time to meet is a luxury  
that not many people have, but if you are unable to  
join us you can be reassured that we are praying for  
you when you need it. We hope to have some parish  
prayer cards which will be freely available to anyone  
who is helped to pray through suitable words. We  
also hope to see action on the re-decoration of the  
Patmore chapel in the next few weeks.

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

#### PARISH FINANCES

The offertory collection last weekend came to  
£848.47 including cheques and standing orders.

Many thanks to all concerned.

#### SECOND COLLECTION ON MAY 13th

for World Communications Network.

#### COLLECTIVE PRAYER MEETING

on the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the  
parish rooms. Next meeting, 8th May.

#### CHURCH CAR PARK

When you park in the car park, could you make  
sure you leave room for people with prams and  
pushchairs to walk through the car park to the  
church. They can't walk through when cars are  
parked too closely together. Many thanks.

#### BEST WISHES TO DEACON DUNCAN

with his play The Diary of a Nobody, which runs at  
the Stables Theatre until May 12th.

### MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. 5th May, 6pm: Leo Shea RIP

Sun. 6th May, 10am: Con Power RIP

11.30am: John Andrews RIP

Tues. 8th May, 10am: Autumn Garwood RIP

Wed. 9th May, St Athanasius, 10am: Maura Monson Foster, RIP, Birthday Remembrance

Thurs. 10th May, The Ascension of the Lord, 10am: Florence Amy Bate RIP

7.30pm: Parishioners

Fri. 11th May, 10 am: James McDonagh RIP

Sat.12th May, 10am:

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### LOURDES: Silent Witness To Love

You can smell the flood, the after-effects wafting from the closed hotels and shops. In the river a snapped tree juts sideways into the air. Reconstruction, sacred areas cordoned off, inaccessible for now.

Thankfully the Grotto is open. There's an overwhelming innocence in the unpretentious humble pilgrims. A recently born baby in her father's arms, toddlers, ordinary modern young women and men, the old, the sick; every race and nation.

I kneel in the spot where St. Bernadette prayed when she saw Mary and my prayer is intense, sad with the sorrow of those I'm pleading for. It is incredibly beautiful and peaceful.

A strong breeze blows down the rock rustling the leaves, blowing out the candles that the attendant is trying to light. I always feel that Mary is present in the breeze in the trees but I wonder would she extinguish the flame on and the joy of her people.

And I wonder about the floods that destroyed this place twice in two years. Nothing is as it should be. There's turbulence, conflict, a spiritual warfare going on in the world where everything sacred, including life itself is trampled upon in the name of progress. The wolves are scratching at the door of all that is holy.

Angry is how you would describe the river. It runs fast and high and green. It too reminds us that it burst its banks once and could do so again. And still there is peace and joy and hope here in the Grotto.

It's lovely to observe the young who are keen to stand or kneel in the spot where St. Bernadette knelt when she first saw Our Lady. Do they find a connection in the spiritual experience of one as young as themselves?

The place where St. Bernadette prayed! In the evening I was sitting near this spot again before the candle light procession. A young couple came and knelt there close to the spot where the miraculous spring emerged. He took a little box from his pocket, opened it and there was a ring inside. Without a word he took her hand and placed the ring on her finger. She smiled and then started to cry. They both cried and embraced a while. Then they prayed in silence for a long time.

There is love in Lourdes – so much love! When it was time for me to leave I bent down to wish them God's blessing. She reached up and kissed me on both cheeks. I gave him a hug and went off to join the procession. I was the silent witness to love, the ultimate treasure of the human heart.

*Eamonn Monson sac*

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### DIVINE MERCY GROUP

Do join us in the presbytery on the following Mondays at 2.30pm: 21.5.18 and 4-6-18. NB: No Divine Mercy prayer group on Monday 7th May, Bank Holiday.

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Anyone intending to get married in the diocese of Arundel & Brighton is required to give notice of one year.