

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: Saturdays: 10.30am to 11am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays 10.30am and after the 6.00pm Mass.

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 29th July 2018 YEAR B

Parish Mass Book page: 112

### MASS ON WEDNESDAY 1st AUGUST

will be at 9.30am instead of 10am.

### THE FOODBANK IS VERY SHORT OF FOOD

Please could you bring items of in-date, non-perishable food and put them in the box at the back of the church.

### A BLESSING AT COMMUNION TIME

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

### VOLUNTEERS FOR CHURCH CLEANING

needed on Mondays and/or Wednesdays. Please speak to Fr Eamonn if you would like to volunteer.

### 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.

Talks free to members, 50p to guests.

July 30th: Our Old Town Week Bumper Coffee Morning, with stalls, lots of comfy seating, coffee/tea and biscuit at usual price – 50p - and you can buy yourself a cake. *Many apologies from newsletter typist for last week's wrong date for this.*

August programme: 6th: Talk on MOPPS (Marsham Older People's project), Peter Parterfield.

13th: Coffee & Chat. 20th: Talk on Marianne North/South by Claire Power. 27th: Bank Holiday (closed).

September programme: 3rd: Tales of Hastings by Sam Langley. 10th: coffee & chat. 17th: Outing – venue decision nearer date, but will be booking in August.

24th: Coffee & chat – bring 2 or 3 holiday snaps

### Warming up the Homeless in Hastings

Our main concern is to ensure those sleeping rough are warm and dry. We supply sleeping bags, tarps, warm clothing, toiletries, some food consisting of breakfast packs, pot noodles and hot drinks. Distribution Nights –

If you would like to help any of our teams in Hastings you are welcome to join us, see website for details.

<http://warmingupthehomeless.co.uk/> Email:

[Warmingupthehomeless@gmail.com](mailto:Warmingupthehomeless@gmail.com)

### PARISH FINANCES

The offertory collection last weekend came to £983.59 including cheques and standing orders.

The collection for the Apostleship of the Sea the weekend before last came to £155.01.

Many thanks to all concerned.

### Anyone intending to get married

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

### HALL CLEANING

We need someone to take charge of the cleaning of the hall, especially the toilets  
- volunteers welcome!

### DIVINE MERCY GROUP

Do join us in the presbytery at 2.30pm on Mondays: 30.7.18, 10.9.18, 24.9.18, 8.10.18, 22.10.18 and 5.11.18. There will be no

Divine Mercy meetings in August.

### HASTINGS OLD TOWN CARNIVAL PROCESSION, 4th August

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO PARKING IN THE HIGH STREET DURING THE ROAD CLOSURES 3 PM - 8 PM. Cars parked between these times will be towed away. THANK YOU. MICHELLE BROWN HOTCA

### CARNIVAL DAY EVENTS ON STADE

THERE WILL BE FUN FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT BETWEEN 12 PM AND 4PM ON THE STADE OPEN SPACE ON Carnival Day, Saturday 4th August.

### Initial Safeguarding Awareness Training, Tuesday 21st

August, 7-9pm

at St Mary Magdalene, Bexhill TN40 1HR

If you can attend, please send your name to the Safeguarding Office –

[safeguarding@dabnet.org](mailto:safeguarding@dabnet.org)

### OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE ON SUNDAY 2nd

SEPTEMBER

There will be no newsletter in August.

There will be no Polish Mass at Star of the Sea in August.

### MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. 28th July, 6pm: Annelous Igbokule RIP

Sun. 29th July, 10am: Autumn Garwood RIP

11.30am: Anna Francesca & Vicente D'Souza RIP

Tues. 31st July, St Ignatius Loyola: 10am: Renzo Scorson RIP, recently deceased

Wed. 1st August, St Alphonsus Liguori: 9.30am: Newly-qualified doctors who start their jobs today

Thurs. 2nd August: 10am: Michael O'Hara RIP, anniversary

Fri. 3rd August, 10.00 am: Parishioners

Sat. 4th August, St John Mary Vianney: 10.00am:

### Reflection: **INTOLERABLE LANGUAGE: Will you also go away?**

Chapter 6 of the Gospel of John will be read at Mass over the next month or so. In it Jesus presents himself as bread for the hunger of humanity, the Bread of Life. The miracle of the loaves and fish, the rejection of earthly power, the escape to the solitude of the hills, the walking on water are all part of the mystery of Eucharist. The teaching that follows these events is provocative, demanding an unambiguous response, pushes us to a moment of decision. We cannot be indifferent.

"The bread that I shall give is my flesh for the life of the world...**I AM** the bread of life..." The response of many was to say that this is intolerable language, who could ever accept it? And most of the disciples left him at that stage. "What about you" he asked the twelve "will you go away too?" Where do I stand, with whom do I stand?

Jesus is immediately aware of the people's hunger, ready to do something about it. He is alert, attentive, listening. He who dwells in the deep silence of the Father listens as the Father listens, is attentive as the Father is attentive. Through the immediate physical hunger He intends to feed the deeper hunger of the human heart.

A lovely line, an encouraging thought is that **Jesus himself knew exactly what He was going to do** about this great hunger. But He also wants us, the disciples to participate in His response. We as Community, as individuals are called to enter with Him into the profound silence of the Father, to hear the hunger of the people as God hears it. To listen to the cry of others, to listen without prejudice and without any agenda of our own. It is a call to universal listening, to be universal as He is universal and that includes **listening to what I do not want to hear**.

On a personal level Jesus is alert to the hunger that is in me, in each of us. The question is - am I alert to the hunger that is in me? What is the hunger that is masked by my addictions - the obvious addictions and the more subtle ones. Will I allow God to feed these hungers in a Godly way?

I am called to allow myself to taste and feel my deepest desires, to acknowledge them to God and to myself as a first step towards dealing with them in a life-giving way. It means I have to live in the depths of my own being and not simply continue drifting along the surface of my own reality. To live a real life that is offered to God in the Eucharist, to live a life that is capable of being disturbed, unsettled and ultimately transformed.

We ourselves may think that we do not have what is necessary to deal with our life's hunger, that what we have is clearly not enough. But the response of Jesus is to take these little, inadequate offerings and to find in them reasons for gratitude. He gives thanks and somehow the power of gratitude makes the miracle happen. There is enough, even more than enough.

An aspect of our Eucharist is to allow the inadequacy of our lives to be taken by Jesus, to be held by Him, to be empowered by His gratitude. We need to surrender our lives into His hands. This is not a lifeless, timid surrender, a simple giving up or resignation. It is a surrender born out of struggle, it is the fruit of an honest wrestling with God and myself, wrestling with my deepest desire. And out of all this comes the abundance that is more than enough. Jesus himself is the food for my desire, the abundance for which I yearn.

There's an interesting translation of this passage in which Jesus tells the disciples to gather up what's left over. Most translations talk about gathering up the scraps but this has Jesus telling them to gather up "the broken bits". The broken bits of our lives are collected and saved, saved for another day, another feeding. They are the reserved sacrament by which others will be fed, blessed and saved.

*Eamonn Monson sac*