

St. Mary Star of the Sea 1 High Street, HASTINGS TN34 3EY
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PARISH WEBSITE: www.stmarystarofthesea.net

Office Hours for Hall Bookings and Baptism Certificates 10am-2pm Mon-Fri

(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.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 17th February 2019 YEAR C

Parish Mass Book page: 139

Today is Racial Justice Sunday - promoting dignity for all workers.

Prayer for those facing exploitation:

By the word of your Son,

Confront our greed,

Challenge us when we treat people
as means of profit,

Or discriminate against our fellow human beings.

Raise us up to new life in Your service

That in all our works

Begun, continued and ended in You

We may glorify your holy name.

Through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, Amen.

PARISH FINANCES

The offertory collection last weekend came to £888.30 including cheques and standing orders.

The collection for the Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund came to £172.18.

Many thanks to all concerned.

BAPTISM COURSE

Parents requesting Baptism for their babies or toddlers in the next few months are required to attend a Baptism course. The next course is on Saturday 9th March, starting at 10am Mass in the church and then moving into the parish rooms after Mass. The course ends at 12 noon. Babies and children welcome.

Please have a date in mind for Baptism when you come to the course.

The Governing Body of St Richard's Catholic College in Bexhill

are looking to recruit a Foundation Governor. Foundation Governors represent the diocese and are appointed by the Bishop at the recommendation of the parish priest. If you have skills and time to offer the college please contact the Principal at misscronind@strichardscc.com or the Chair of Governors, ahoran@strichardscc.com

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.

FAITH IN POLITICS INTERNSHIP

The Catholic Parliamentary and Public Affairs Internship

Scheme is recruiting at least six recently

graduated Catholics to learn from an intensive experience of political and social action in a spiritual

context. The scheme will run from September 2019 until July 2020. Internship positions are given with

Christian MPs and Peers in Parliament, the Catholic Education Service, CAFOD and the Caritas Social

Action Network. All interns also gain from retreats and spiritual guidance, as well as living in a vibrant, young

Catholic community in the centre of London. During the year, as part of their overall formation, interns will study for a Postgraduate Certificate in Catholic Social Teaching

from St Mary's University, Twickenham. Further information can be found at www.faithinpolitics.org.uk.

Applications are open, and the closing date is 28 February 2019. Applications should be made through the website.

Please direct any

questions to stephanie.macgillivray@cbcew.org.uk,

NEWMAN SOCIETY TALK

Monday 18 February 7pm for 7.30pm – 9pm. 'Never again: the legacy of clerical sexual abuse'. A talk by Will Kent from Catholic Voices. Christ the King Parish Room,

3 Princes Road, Eastbourne, BN23 6HT. Organised by Eastbourne and Bexhill Newman Association. Entrance

free. All warmly welcome. Contact Alex 07957632208 or Edward 01424219788 or John 01323 726334

PARISH COMMUNITY CLUB

In the Crypt. Entrance via blue door in The Bourne. Mondays 10.30am to 12 noon. Annual subscription only

£3. Guests welcome at 50p per session. Coffee/tea & biscuit, 50p. Talks free to members, 50p to guests.

February programme:

11th Big Book Sale

18th: coffee and chat, Kate to pop in to give out leaflets.

25th: Energize talk by Kate

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Anyone intending to get married

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. 16th February, 6pm: John Georgiou RIP (anniv.)

Sun. 17th February, 10am: Ana Frances & Sr Joseph Michael D'Souza RIP
11.30am: Parishioners

Tues. 19th February, 10am: Dawn McGrath RIP

Wed. 20th February, 10am: In Thanksgiving

Thurs. 21st February, St Robert Southwell, Priest, Martyr, 10am: Peg Metson (for healing)

Fri. 22nd February, The Chair of St Peter the Apostle, 10am: Miceal & Eamonn Joyce RIP

Sat. 23rd February, St Polycarp, Bishop, Martyr, 10am: Hazel Fischer, Special Intention

LOURDES: WAITING FOR A BATH

It's a very hot day but my time standing under the burning sun lasts only half an hour and then I'm into the shaded, seated area. Normally I really dislike waiting in a queue of any sort but there's a blessedness here waiting in common with others. Waiting and silent. Present. Waiting to get into the holy bath of Lourdes. The feast day of Lourdes was last Monday, February 11th. There's one section for women and another for men. Sometimes my eyes are closed, sometimes I simply observe. This reminds me of the pool of Bethesda in John 5 - the paralysed waiting for the moment of healing. We're all paralysed in one way or another, all in need of healing. Dads with their little sons get priority over the rest of us, which is only right. They are a beautiful sight. A young father holds his paralysed son in his arms. The boy spends his time looking up into the face of his father. Their eyes meet, their faces touch and the child utters incomprehensible sounds as his Dad whispers words that seem soft and gentle. Maybe funny words because they both laugh. After two hours waiting my time arrives to go into the building and I'm taken in behind a curtain where three men are sitting on brown plastic chairs wearing only boxers. I strip down to the same vulnerable state. That's what I feel - that we are in a vulnerable state as we wait. Richard Rohr talks a lot about the need for rites of passage or initiation for Western men; the need to be confronted by our own vulnerability in order to mature. This bath experience offers something like that - for me at least. Though I know I have confronted my vulnerability many times, nakedness is somehow more threatening than any crisis I've endured. One of the attendants takes me respectfully - as though I am a child or an old man - through the final curtain into the bath area. I stand in cold water up to my ankles - like Ezekiel in the Temple stream. With eyes closed the only prayer in me is "Your will be done!" Making the sign of the Cross I say "I'm ready" while the two bath attendants bring me backwards down into the cold water until all but the tip of my face is submerged for the briefest moment. They surge me back onto my feet. I feel like a dolphin or a whale breaking the surface. The body dries of its own accord, one of the miracles of the bath in Lourdes. I shake hands with each of them and say "God bless!" Once more back through the curtain, I get fully dressed and walk out into the beautiful warm sunshine. *Eamonn Monson sac*

Please remember in your prayers all who are ill, including:

Fr Gerard Hatton, Barry Amar, Albert Dennett, Lal Donaldson, Lucy Marlowe, Vanessa Stockleigh, Ray Fagan, David McIntosh, Jim Needham, Hazel Fischer, Patrick Ashwood, Martin Kavanagh, Mrs Gasson, Yvonne, James Grant, Adeline Dastous, Tracey, Peg Watson, Helen Surges, Linda Frost, Linda Deeley, Young Tessa-Mae, Margaret Aris, Sheila Black, Debbie Wood, Jacob, Lila Brooker, Tracy Coal, Christopher Browne, Michael Ramsay, Spencer Ramsay, Michelle Spencer, Rosa Santos and Tommy Gaynor.

FAMILY RETREAT, THE OPEN CLOISTER, WORTH ABBEY, Tuesday 19th to Thursday 21st February 2019, with activities for youngsters. £284 based on family of 4, fully-inclusive. Further details and booking forms from 01342 710318 or toc@worth.org.uk