

**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)**

**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.

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 24th February 2019 YEAR C

Parish Mass Book page: 141

HASTINGS FOODBANK

is short of tinned meat, tinned potatoes and tinned fish. If you can provide any of these, please put them in the crate at the back of the church. Many thanks.

PARISH FINANCES

The offertory collection last weekend came to £1006.91 including cheques and standing orders. 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:misscronind@strichardscc.com) or the Chair of Governors, [ahoran@strichardscc.com](mailto: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.

TAIZE SERVICE

The Parish of The Good Shepherd extends a warm invitation to attend "Send out your light", a Lent Service of Music and Prayer from Taize and Iona on Sunday 10th March, at 4 pm, in the Church of St. Thomas of Canterbury and English Martyrs, Magdalen Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, TN37 6ET. If anyone would like to help lead the music, they are invited to attend a practice beforehand at 3 pm.

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 and applications: [www.faithinpolitics.org.uk](http://www.faithinpolitics.org.uk). Closing date is 28 February 2019. Please direct any questions to [stephanie.macgillivray@cbcew.org.uk](mailto:stephanie.macgillivray@cbcew.org.uk).

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: 25<sup>th</sup>: Energize talk by Kate.

Anyone intending to get married

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

SPUC

has written to the parish to thank all who supported the 2019 White Flower Appeal. The amount raised was £110.87, which will be used in SPUC's campaign to defeat the decriminalization of abortion.

The CYMFed Flame Congress

Saturday 2 March 2019, at Wembley Arena. A young people's celebration of Catholic faith, in a vibrant atmosphere. Book on the CYMFed website: [www.cymfed.org.uk/flame2019](http://www.cymfed.org.uk/flame2019).

## MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. 23rd February, 6pm: Marie Carey RIP  
Sun. 24th February, 10am: In Thanksgiving: Cockerton Family  
11.30am: Margaret Kilroy RIP  
Tues. 26<sup>th</sup> February, 10am: Dawn McGrath RIP (anniversary)  
Wed. 27<sup>th</sup> February, 10am: Patrick Tuohy RIP  
Thurs. 28th February, 10am: Holy Souls  
Fri. 1<sup>st</sup> March, St David, 10am: Maria Fagiani RIP (recently deceased)  
Sat. 2<sup>nd</sup> March, Our Lady on Saturday, 10am: Parishioners

### *RAFORD: My Mother's Home and God's*

I'm remembering Raford, the house on the hill in the country that was my mother's birthplace, and I'm thinking of the clear cold water from the rain barrel at the gable end, cold water scooped up in a white enamel basin put standing on the kitchen table. White soap in a saucer and a blue towel to wipe away from my face the shock of the cold water of the morning.

Granny cut slices of brown bread made by her own hands, the wholemeal wholeness of her heart in it and lavished with salty country butter churned by the same hands and mine.

Everything and everybody was washed in rainwater and we went to the well down the lane to draw that which would quench our thirst and wet the tea. We brought tea in a billy can across the fields to Grandad in the bog and helped him load the cart with turf, sitting on top of it for the journey home, staring down into the black water of the bog holes, terrified that the cart would turn over when its wheels went to the very edge. It never did and we never fell into that cold blackness. We needn't have been afraid at all.

Back in the kitchen at night we sat by the open fire, staring silently into it and beyond it with no distraction except for the ticking of the clock and Granny getting up to make rice pudding which she gave to me on a red plastic plate. I see it still and taste it.

When Pope Francis talks of the domestic church, I think of those childhood days of Raford. I feel the warmth and safety of it and it tells me that this is what it is like to be in the presence of God, this is what it's like to pray - God is like my Granny and we love each other without question, without having to say a whole lot to each other.

They are gone now, my mother and grandparents, gone to their eternal home and the house on the hill is now filled with the grace and warmth, the love and the faith of aunty Carmel. It's always a blessing to go there whenever I can. I went there some months after my mother's death and ended up crying like a child for the loss of her and the kitchen was again a chapel where I received the calm consolation of Carmel. God and grace can easily be found in the kitchens of our lives if we allow Him enough space to make His presence felt. *Eamonn Monson sac*

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

Fr Gerard Hatton, Kevin Murphy, Barry Amar, Lucy Marlowe, Ray Fagan, David McIntosh, Hazel Fischer, Patrick Ashwood, Martin Kavanagh, Tracey, Helen Surges, Linda Frost, Linda Deeley, Eve, Win Shoesmith, 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.