

St. Mary Star of the Sea 1 High Street, HASTINGS TN34 3EY
Tel: 01424 421263 Email: stmarystarofthesea.hastings.uk@gmail.com

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.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 3rd February 2019 YEAR C

Parish Mass Book page: 132

SECOND COLLECTION

For the Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund
will be taken up next weekend.

PARISH FINANCES

The offertory collection last weekend came to
£900.89 including cheques and standing orders.

The collection for Pax Christi
on 19th/20th January came to £121.24.
Many thanks to all concerned.

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, Miss
Cronin misscronind@strichardsc.com or the Chair
of Governors, Alison
Horan ahoran@strichardsc.com

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.

January 28th: Respite care at the Hospice – talk by
Felicity.

February programme (closed if snowy):

4th: coffee and chat

11th Big Book Sale

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

25th: Energize talk by Kate.

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

LIFE CHARITY'S *BABY LOSS MATTERS*

Our parish is participating in Baby Loss Matters, an
initiative by the national prolife charity Life, to create
memorial spaces in churches across the country to
commemorate the lives of those lost before, during,
or shortly after birth for any reason. The memorial
spaces include prayer cards, as well as details of
support services if you feel you need them.
The memorial spaces are for anyone who wishes to
make use of them.

Our memorial spaces are the Coventry Patmore
Chapel for the Bereaved and the Lady Chapel.

Do visit New Pilgrim Path website:

www.newpilgrimpath.ie The site is inspired by Pope
Francis' enthusiasm for the Internet. He urges
Christians to "walk the streets of the digital
highways... Let us boldly become citizens of the
digital world... in order to dialogue with people
today and to help them encounter Christ". New
Pilgrim Path is aimed at helping fellow Christian
travellers of all denominations to mine the rich
resources of the Web in the search for meaning and
belonging. Because the choice is so huge and, at
times, bewildering, we provide a brief description of
every site we have visited. This aims at helping visitors
to New Pilgrim Path find the sites that are likely to be
relevant and interesting to them at the particular stage
of their journey. We have pages devoted to a range of
resources, including daily prayer, Divine Office,
online retreats, inspirational reflections, spiritual
poetry, religious broadcasts, and many others.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. 2nd February, 6pm: Daniela Salacka RIP

Sun. 3rd February, 10am: John Andrews RIP

11.30am: Nelson Golez RIP

Tues. 5th February, St Agatha: 10am: Dawn McGrath RIP

Wed. 6th February, Ss Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs of Japan: 10am: For healing

Thurs. 7th February, 10am: Theresa Bleasdale RIP

Fri. 8th February, St Josephine Bakhita, First Friday, Day of Abstinence, Day for the Victims of Trafficking: 10am: Fr Kevin Ward, birthday intention

Sat. 9th February, Our Lady on Saturday, 10am: Parishioners

The Solitary Life of a Single Woman

Mary, a neighbour at home died recently. She was about a year younger than me and lived three doors away, lived there most of our sixty-something lives. There are two brothers and a sister, all of them married with their own families but Mary remained single and lived at home alone for many years since her parents died. A solitary life, even an isolated one. No one in the avenue ever seemed to get close to her, there was no sign of friends coming to see her.

We were not close, though we would always have a chat at her gate when I'd be home. The talk was mostly about her health because she had been fighting cancer for quite a few years and I would promise to pray for her. Her response to this promise of mine one day was, "you're a liar, you're a liar!" Maybe I wasn't praying enough. Maybe she was telling the truth.

But I did think of her and pray when in my mind I would go around the sixteen terraced houses in the avenue and I would feel what I thought must be her loneliness, though maybe she wasn't lonely at all.

The last time I spoke to her was in August before returning to Hastings. She had aged terribly and was pretty honest about her condition, even her aloneness. "But I'm not alone" she said, "haven't I got God with me all the time!" It's what Jesus Himself said of His own aloneness – "You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me." (John 16:32). And Padre Pio featured a lot in our conversations. She had great faith in him.

When I was home in January, I looked at her house every day wondering was she there, was she alright but there was no one to answer my questions and she wasn't there, she was already dying in the Hospice and died a few days after I returned here. I feel the sadness of her passing and the starkness of her death notice that said nothing about her funeral except, "Private cremation to take place in Shannon Crematorium." We felt the need to honour her life and death, to connect with the family's grief but there was nothing, no way of doing that. And I now ask myself, "who are we that we think we should seek to enter a grief that is not ours?" The starkness of it now seems appropriate because it fits with the kind of solitude she lived. I offered Mass for her and in that there is the only connection necessary.

All of this makes me think of those who live single lives, those who are alone in the world. They are overlooked so much of the time by society and church. We value marriage, family, relationships and rightly so but we often neglect the single life which has a value in itself and is also a valid vocation from God by which the Church and the world is served and saved. *Eamonn sac*

Sacred Heart School is launching Breakfast Bagel Day

on Tuesday 5th February. All children will be offered a Bagel in school during the day (unless you specifically ask us not to for allergy reasons). These will then be offered on a daily basis (free of charge) to all children attending Early Birds.