

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.

SECOND – TRANSFIGURATION - SUNDAY OF LENT / ST PATRICK'S DAY 17th March 2019
YEAR C

Parish Mass Book page: 156

SEASON OF LENT

Special second collection for Cafod Lenten Fast

Day will be taken up this weekend

The Catenians have kindly given us leaflets of the Stations of the Cross for Lent which are available in the church foyer. They offer us an appropriate way to pray during Lent.

During Lent we are asked to pray for:

Candidates for the Sacraments; Women; The Needy and Hungry of the World; Penitents and Wanderers.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION DURING LENT:

Praise to You, O Christ,
King of eternal glory!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday during Lent, after 10am Mass.

CAFOD in St. Leonards Deanery

invite you to "Guiding Light", a Way of the Cross with St. Oscar Romero, on Sunday 24th March, at 3 pm, in Holy Redeemer Church, Upper Church Road, Hollington TN37 7AS. On this day, in 1980, Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador was assassinated whilst celebrating Mass. 24th March is the Feast Day of St. Oscar Romero.

INSPIRE 2019 - DAY FOR YOUTH LEADERS

'INSPIRE' is the annual day for anyone who works with young people and young adults in a Catholic context, and anyone who is interested. It's happening on Saturday May 11th at St Joseph's Church, Redhill, 10am to 2.30pm. Tickets are £10. The day will include some time with the Bishop, as well as a series of presentations on important questions in youth and young adult ministry. To book head to tinyurl.com/InspireBookings or Email Jack.Regan@abdiocese.org.uk

ON THURSDAY

Fr Eamonn will be attending the Council of Priests at Crawley. At 10am there will be Liturgy of the Word instead of Mass.

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 & biscuits, 50p. Talks free to members, 50p to guests. March programme:

18th: Coffee & Chat

25th: Clare Power on Captain James Cook

Anyone intending to get married

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

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.

Easter Triduum Retreat for Young Adults (18-35s),

this Easter weekend at Worth Abbey, celebrating the Passion and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. To Book, please contact The Open Cloister at Worth Abbey (TOC@worthabbey.net) for a booking form. If you have any questions, do email us at youngadults@wellspringbrighton.org.uk.

The Bethlehem Nativity Group

A missionary from Bethlehem, The Holy Land, will visit us on the weekend of 23rd-24th March to briefly talk about the Holy Land and sell religious articles made out of Olive Wood from the Holy Land to help and support poor Christian families.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. 16th March, 6pm: Paul Murphy RIP

Sun. 17th March, 10am: Francesca & Lucy D'Souza

11.30am: Jim Needham RIP

Tues. 19th March, St Joseph, Spouse of BVM, 10am: Clare Cullen RIP

Wed. 20th March, 10am:

Thurs. 14th March, 10am: Liturgy of the Word

Fri. 21st March, 10am:

Sat. 22nd March, 10am:

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

Fr Gerard Hatton, Barry Amar, David McIntosh, Hazel Fischer, Martin Kavanagh, Tracey, Evie, Win Shoemith, Lal Donaldson, Peter Ashwood, Ray Fagan, Lucy Marlowe, Albert Dennet, Linda Frost, Linda Deeley, Helen Surges, Young Tessa-Mae, Alan Turner, Margaret Aris, Sheila Black, Debbie Wood, Jacob, Lila Brooker, Tracy Coal, Christopher Browne, Michael Ramsay, Spencer Ramsay, Michelle Spencer, Rosa Santos and Tommy Gaynor.

DIVINE MERCY PRAYER MEETINGS All are welcome to join us at 2.30pm on Mondays: 25.3.19, 8.4.19, 6.5.19, 20.5.19, 3.6.19, 17.6.19, 1.7.19, 15.7.19, 29.7.19. No meeting on 22.4.19

LET US KNEEL BEFORE THE GOD WHO MADE US

A few years ago in Dublin I celebrated Mass in a school classroom – the group who made their First Holy Communion last year. A lovely experience. After Communion a few of the children knelt down to pray and I noticed the others watching them so I asked, “*do you know why these knelt down?*” And plenty of answers were given, many of the children having a clear sense of when it is necessary to kneel in prayer – like you kneel down if you are praying for someone who is very sick.

One lad put up his hand and said “*you would kneel in front of a king!*” and with this answer he showed an understanding of who Jesus is and the honour that He deserves, an honour that is His as the Son of God, an interior movement of the Holy Spirit in prayer. I then invited the children to kneel. We all knelt together and, with hands joined and eyes closed, we spent a brief silence listening to Jesus speak His love for us. And we spoke our love for Him!

It's quite a common gesture in the Bible; people frequently kneel in front of Jesus when making a request. This is not something that He demands but it is an inherent instinct in the human soul, a good instinct, an instinct that opens us up to an experience of God that is quite profound and transforming. It is the invitation of Psalm 96 which prays, “*come in let us bow and bend low, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker, for He is our God.*”

Sports people kneel in victory and in loss; adults kneel before children; the addict, the depressed, the distressed and the worst of sinners kneel before Jesus in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and there is no contradiction in this because in my brokenness, I need it.

Kneeling in prayer is not an indication of my holiness, it doesn't mean that I have it all together. I kneel to plead from the depths of my struggle and I kneel to adore from the depths of that same struggle. And, when I'm not able to kneel physically, I can still do it in my heart and soul.

Jesus takes His friends “*up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves*” and in their presence He was transfigured. For Him it must have been the most beautiful ecstasy; for His friends it was a mixed experience. It was good for them to be there, so good that they wanted to remain, but it was also an experience of cloud and confusion, shadow and fear.

And it is from the cloud rather than the brightness that the central message is given to the three friends – “*this is my Son the Beloved. Listen to Him!*” It's not said in the text but I feel they must have been on their knees in the face of this experience. *Eamonn Monson SAC*