

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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 24th March 2019 YEAR C

Parish Mass Book page: 160

SEASON OF LENT

Take 5 for Lent: Read the Bible for 5 minutes every day. Think of 5 things you are grateful for. Smile at 5 people. Take 5 minutes for silence. Pray for 5 people. And please remember the importance of giving alms 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.

Fr. Eamonn will visit Sacred Heart School on Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th for confessions with Years 5 & 6.

The Bethlehem Nativity Group

A missionary from Bethlehem, will visit us this weekend 23rd-24th March to talk about the Holy Land and sell religious articles made out of Olive Wood from the Holy Land to help poor Christian families. Any help you could give to them will be highly appreciated. (When you help the poor you help our Lord).

BEST WISHES AND BLESSINGS

To all taking part in the half-marathon and the charities they represent.

CAFOD invite you to "Guiding Light", a Way of the Cross with St. Oscar Romero, today, Sun. 24th March, St Oscar's anniversary, at 3 pm, in Holy Redeemer Church, Upper Church Road.

OUR NEXT BAPTISM COURSE

is on Saturday 15th June, starting with Mass in the church at 10am. The course ends at 12 noon. Parents requesting Baptism for babies and toddlers in the 3 months from 15th June are required to attend. Please come with a possible date in mind.

FR TADEUSZ WILL BLESS POLISH BASKETS OF EASTER FOOD on Holy Saturday here at Star of the Sea at 3.30pm

The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

is tomorrow, Monday March 25th.

Mass will be celebrated tomorrow at 10am.

Next weekend March 30th and 31st

Fr. Rosario Arputham SMA will make an appeal on behalf of the missions of the SMA Fathers.

IN MEMORIAM

The Funeral of Carmelina James will take place in Hastings Crematorium on Wednesday 27th at 3.30pm
May she rest in peace.

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. 25th March: 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.

Parish Finances

The offertory collection last weekend came to £948.66. The collection for CAFOD came to £510.75. Many thanks to all concerned.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES

For 2019 are now available at the back of the church ready for collection. Anyone interested in helping to raise parish funds who is a taxpayer may do so by signing a GAD declaration. The government will then add to your donation at no cost to you. Please contact Fr Eamonn at the parish email address: stmarystarofthesea.hastings.uk@gmail.com

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. 22nd March, 6pm: Trevor Weeks RIP

Sun. 23rd March, 10am: Phyllis & John Andrews RIP

11.30am: John Walsh RIP

Mon. 25th March, Annunciation of the Lord, 10am:

Tues. 26th March, 10am: Mr and Mrs Boyle RIP

Wed. 27th March, 10am:

Thurs. 28th March, 10am:

Fri. 29th March, 10am:

Sat. 30th March, 10am:

SPRINGTIME BEGINS

The first day of springtime breaks with heavy clouds as I set out along the A27 from Hastings to Crawley for a meeting of Priests. I used to dislike this road intensely but I've become accustomed to it now and take it as it comes, take the traffic as it is, though this morning it's not bad at all.

On the radio they're talking about "The Terrible Sonnets" of Gerard Manley Hopkins, the 19th century English Jesuit priest and poet whom I became quite fond of when still at school. The Terrible Sonnets were written in Ireland, a place where he felt exiled and suffered from depression, a condition I have struggled with for many years, maybe even since I was a child. "I wake and feel the fell of dark, not day" he wrote. I know this feeling well.

But I smile at the thought of exile, living away from one's homeland which for Hopkins was like oppressive captivity whereas for me I feel free. This is what I think in the silence after the radio has been turned off.

Along the way I glance at the hedgerows. The bare brown branches of winter are slowly taking on a delicate shade of green mingled with white and yellow, colours that remind me of home. And the occasional cherry blossom. The radio talks about those too and, to my dismay, I discover that they are a symbol of war and courage in Japan. Kamikaze pilots decorated their planes with a particular kind of cherry blossom.

Life and the world are full of paradox and contradictions. Even the beautiful blossoming bushes are somewhat spoiled with an abundance of shredded plastic that cling resolutely to the branches, the grass verges littered. I have to keep my mind on the emerging beauty; it's what we need to do in life. No matter how littered our lives may be, we can keep our attention focused on the good that's there as well.

Interestingly, some of the meeting I attended focused on depression and stress in the life of the priest. It's not often we talk to each other about these things, much less admit what we struggle with. Men in general are not so good at admitting to something like depression. The Bishop told us how the armed forces deal with this - they put two men side by side in battle, they become companions in war and as well as being trained to fight they are trained to tell each other when they are feeling down or whatever. Saying it is half the victory.

The agony of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane is a good refuge for those who are depressed or going through trauma. The Gospels tell us how distressed and frightened He was, so He knows what it's like and He takes all our distress in there with Him, taking it all the way to the victory of the Cross.

Eamonn Monson sac

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

Fr Gerard Hatton, Barry Amar, David McIntosh, Hazel Fischer, Martin Kavanagh, Tracey, Yvonne, Win Goldsmith, Lal Donaldson, Peter Ashwood, Ray Fagan, Lucy Marlowe, Albert Dennett, Linda Frost, Linda Deeley, Helen Surges, Steve, James Grant, 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