

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.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 14th July 2019 YEAR C

Parish Mass Book page: 108

CONFIRMATION

We invite those who are planning to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation to send in their names before the end of July via the parish email or phone. We intend to begin classes in September.

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.

TODAY, 14th JULY IS:

SEA SUNDAY

Please give generously to the Apostleship of the Sea collection to help seafarers.

Like the Samaritan in today's gospel, Apostleship of the Sea volunteers are concerned for the welfare of those they meet on board ships.

They provide warm clothes, help seafarers attend Mass, help them get fair working conditions and pay, and help them access the internet so they can contact their families.

O MARY, STAR OF THE SEA, PRAY FOR SEAFARERS, PRAY FOR US

O Mary, Star of the Sea, light of every ocean, guide seafarers across all dark and stormy seas that they may reach the haven of peace prepared in Christ who calmed the storm. O Mary, pray that in days of turmoil and of calm we will look to Christ and say, 'Who is this, that even the wind and sea obey him?'

O Star of the Sea, pray for us and guide us!

PARISH COMMUNITY CLUB

In the Crypt. Entrance via blue door in The Bourne.

Mondays 10.30am to 12 noon.

July programme: 15th: Coffee & Chat

22nd: Adrian Quiz

29th: Coffee & Chat

Members free with annual £5 subscription.

Guests welcome: £1 per talk.

Tea or coffee with biscuit 50p.

IN MEMORIAM

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

EILEEN WITCOMBE

and

RYSZARD WOJCIECH RADECKI

Monday July 15th:

11.00am Remains received into the church

12noon Requiem Mass in Polish followed by

cremation at Hastings Crematorium

and

NICHOLAS CASEY

Thursday July 18th

11am: Requiem Mass

and

MARGARET HALL

Friday July 19th:

Funeral Mass at 1.30pm followed by cremation at

Hastings Crematorium

May they rest in peace

LEAVERS' MASS

Father Eamonn will celebrate the Leavers Mass in Sacred Heart School at 9am on Friday 19th. Mass in the church that day will be at 10.30am. We wish all the leavers every blessing and happiness.

DIVINE MERCY PRAYER MEETINGS

All are welcome to join us at 2.30pm on Mondays:

15.7.19, 29.7.19. No meeting on 22.4.19

Parish Finances

The offertory collection last weekend came to £872.86 including cheques and standing orders.

Many thanks to all concerned.

MASS INTENTIONS AND FEASTS

Sat. 13th July, 6pm: Parishioners

Sun. 14th July, 10am: Phyllis Andrews RIP

11.30am: Sr Vera Burns RIP, recently deceased

Tues. 16th July, 10 am: Gavin Tangen, birthday

Wed. 17th July, 10am: Jesus Balignot RIP, Leonila Nicar RIP, Rosario Olaer RIP

Thurs. 18th July, 10am: Eileen Tangen, thanksgiving

Fri. 19th July, 10am:

Sat. 20th July, Our Lady on Saturday, 10am: Patrick Kelly RIP, birthday remembrance

REFLECTION

"Insomnia can become a form of contemplation. You just lie there, inert, helpless, alone, in the dark, and let yourself be crushed by the inscrutable tyranny of time. The plank bed becomes an altar and you lie there without trying to understand any longer in what sense you can be called a sacrifice." (Thomas Merton, The Sign of Jonas)

Insomnia! A brand of coffee and a state of being! Being awake when you should be asleep. It's been part of my whole life since childhood, though it's less of an affliction now. Most religious people seem to resort to formal prayer like the rosary to help them through the dark hours. Not me! I just groan - "oh God!"

One such night many years ago my distress was so great that I sat up, took hold of my Bible and asked God to speak to me. What opened before me was Ezekiel Chapter 13, and I was particularly struck by verse 10: *"...they have misled my people by saying Peace! when there is no peace."*

My inclination is towards Peace, to be a peaceful presence in people's lives, something that is central to my vocation but God seemed to be telling me not to presume peace, not to pretend peace when the conditions for it are not present. The spirits are always to be tested to see if they are true or false. So too Peace must be tested to be sure that it's true. Perfect Peace is the gift of Christ. He Himself is Peace - even in the depths of insomnia. And I am essentially a missionary of Peace.

It takes two to bring peace to birth in its fullness. If a person of peace lives in the house you enter then peace will remain; if not, it will depart with you. Peace is a relationship; it is mutual and reciprocal. It is a shared blessing. I discover this in a special way in visiting the sick. It would be a great mistake for me to think of myself as the strong going to the weak to offer them what they do not possess. In such encounters I bless and am blessed by the other. Love responds to Love, Peace recognizes Peace.

I'm on a late train home having spent a lovely time overnight with two brother priests - how true the Psalm, how good and how pleasant it is when brothers live in unity. A true joy, an abiding Peace.

And I've been to see my aunt in hospital again. Really thought she was going to die, such was her distress, her colour ashen. While my sister ran to call the nurse, I held my aunt as I held my mother in her final illness, prayed whispering the name of Jesus and she rallied after being given oxygen and antibiotics. It's difficult to see her in this state, extremely difficult for her daughter. You wonder how long! In the midst of her suffering all she was concerned about was that I would get a cup of tea. And she did it again - just as I was leaving, she held my face in her two hands to bless me and I put my two hands to hers in that embrace of my face. We blessed each other. It's hard to decide whether to stay or go.

On my walk home from the station I said goodnight to a stranger standing in the shadows outside MacDonald's. "It's you!" he said with delight in his voice as he came towards me. I recognised him then as the man I rescued unconscious from the pavement on a cold wet night in March. He hugged me. "Bless you man" he said, "I love you!"

It's the morning after now and insomnia had its way again. My aunt had a difficult night but is still with us. God give her what she needs this day.

The squabs (baby pigeons) are thriving, getting fatter by the day. Life ebbs and flows. They raise themselves to full stature as I look in on them. They will fly before I know it. May we all fly to whatever immediate destiny is ours and to our ultimate destiny in God! *Eamonn Monson sac*

BEYOND THE HEADLINES

Then I saw the wild geese flying

In fair formation to their bases in Inchicore,

And I knew that these wings would outwear the wings of war,

And a man's simple thoughts outlive the day's loud lying.

Don't fear, don't fear, I said to my soul:

The Bedlam of Time is an empty bucket rattled,

'Tis you who will say in the end who best battled.

Only they who fly home to God have flown at all. Patrick Kavanagh

Please remember in your prayers all who are ill, including: Jenny Rowley, Fr Gerard Hatton, James Grant, Peter Ashwood, Linda Fox, Linda Deeley, Helen Surges, Barry Amar, David McIntosh, Win Goldsmith, Martin Kavanagh, Peg Metson, Hazel Fischer, Darryl, Lisa, Finbarr Mulhern, Ray Fagan, Lucy Marlowe, Vanessa, Margaret Murphy, Christine Jennings, Young Tessa-Mae, Beverley Lambeth, 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.