

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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, 1st DECEMBER 2019 YEAR A

Parish Mass Book page: 82

PARISH BAZAAR

A big thank you to all who worked so hard for the parish Bazaar, to those who contributed and attended.

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 COMMUNITY CLUB (PCC)

In the Crypt. Entrance via blue door in The Bourne.
Mondays 10.30am to 12 noon. December 2019

Programme:

2nd: Christmas Lunch, members only, booked in advance

9th: Christmas Quiz with Adrian & Raffle. All welcome.

16th: Mince Pies & Carols. 23rd & 30th: Closed
PCC wishes all a happy and holy Christmas.

January 2020 Programme:

6th: LOADS OF CHAT: What did you do?

13th: English Rivers talk by Claire Power

20th: Coffee & Chat. Bring photo of a RIVER if you have one.

27th: Anecdotes of Winchelsea's past by Malcolm Pratt
Don't let any winter wind keep you in your shell.

Come to our warm hall and 'ave a laff.

Members free with annual £5 subscription. Guests welcome: £1 per talk. Tea or coffee with biscuit 50p.

Parish Finances

The offertory collection last weekend came to £1,008.83 including cheques and standing orders.

Many thanks to all concerned.

WINTER FESTIVAL OF FAITHS & CULTURES

Sunday 8th December 2019 5:30 to 9.00pm

Concordia Hall, Church Road, St Leonards on sea

Free Entry, Cakes, Finger Food and Drinks

Festive music performances stalls raffle

Hastings and District Interfaith Forum. Supported by

Chalk Cliff Trust and Hastings Borough Council

BIBLE REFLECTION GROUP

Will meet on the 3 Thursdays of Advent: 5th, 12th and 19th December. In the Parish House. The group will be facilitated by Michael Georgiou. Please join us. This would be a good way to prepare for Christ

On Wednesday 4th December, Mass will be at 9.30am as Fr Eamonn has a meeting in London.

Service/Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Thomas of Canterbury, Magdalen Road, Thursday 5th December at 7pm. All are welcome

DIVINE MERCY PRAYER MEETINGS All welcome to join us in the presbytery at 2.30pm on Mondays: Dec. 9th, 23rd. Jan. 6th, 20th. Feb. 3rd

'Wait for the Lord'. a Service of Music and Prayer from Taize and Iona on Sunday 8th December, at 4 pm, in the Church of St. Thomas of Canterbury and English Martyrs, Magdalen Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, TN37 6ET.

Anyone who would like to help lead the music is warmly invited to attend a practice beforehand at 3 pm.

Right to Life's Both Lives Pledge for mums and babies. Over 80 candidates have signed the pledge already! That is the good news... The bad news is that the UK's largest abortion provider, BPAS, have launched their own campaign. They are asking candidates to support a pledge to introduce an extreme change to our abortion laws that would introduce **abortion on demand, for any reason, up to birth.** This follows both Labour and the Liberal Democrats pledging to introduce extreme abortion regimes to the UK in their manifestos released last week. You can read more about this on Right to Life's website news service. We are now facing a true crossroads this election. The make-up of the next parliament will decide whether we will lose all remaining protections for the unborn child, introducing abortion up to birth or, go the other way, introducing positive new protections that will save lives.

TAKE ACTION: It needs to be absolutely clear to our local candidates that the people in our constituency are against introducing extreme abortion laws in the UK and are instead supporting measures to further protect the unborn child and support mothers. This is where you can help. We need to get the word out as far and wide as possible so that as many people as possible ask their MP candidates to sign the Both Lives Pledge. **Please ask our local MP candidates, Sally-Ann Hart, Peter Chowney and Nick Perry where they stand at <https://righttolife.org.uk/bothlives/> It only takes 30 seconds.**

MASS INTENTIONS AND FEASTS Please note that if your Mass intention is replaced by a funeral Mass, or if there is a Liturgy of the Word on that day, your Mass will be moved to the next available date.

Sat. 30th November, 6pm: Gerry Lewis RIP, recently deceased

Sun. 1st December, First Sunday of Advent, 10am: Intention of Donor

11.30am: Fr John McBrearty RIP (anniversary)

Tues. 3rd December, St Francis Xavier, Priest, 10 am: Gavin Fellows RIP (anniversary)

Wed. 4th December, Wednesday of First Week of Advent or St John Damascene, Priest, Doctor, 10am: Carmencita Angelo (Get well)

Thur, 5th December, Thursday of the First Week of Advent, 10am: Hildegard & Edward Dezateux RIP

Fri. 6th Dec., First Fri., Day of Abstinence, Fri. of First Week Advent or St Nicholas, Bishop, 10am: Thomas McMullan RIP

Sat. 7th December, St Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor, 10am: Parish

Please remember in your prayers all who are ill, including: Jenny Rowley, Sabina Sweeney, Peter Ashwood, Barry Amar, Win Goldsmith, James Grant, Martin Kavanagh, Hazel Gordon, Tracey, Linda Fox, Linda Deeley, Helen Surges, Paul, David McIntosh, Alice, Lucy Marlowe, Patrick Coates, Yvonne, Young Tessa-Mae, Stephen Gurden, Maureen McKenna, Christine Jennings, Freda Barrell, 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.

REFLECTION

Memories surface in the stillness before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament - childhood, youthful, lovely memories. And a Word from the book of Revelation points me in the direction I need to travel on my spiritual journey this Advent, as a way of preparing for Christmas and for eternity. Jesus says, *"you do not love me now as you did at first!"* (Revelation 2) and indeed I know that my love for Him has become quiet, lacking in the kind of feeling I would like to have, needing more ardour, devotion. There was a time when I was a child and I had this really strong love for God and, though I can't return to the past, my prayer is to rediscover something of that kind of love.

The flame of my love for God was somehow quenched and I am now just a heap of embers waiting!

Of course, in childhood love is simpler, purer, less complicated but as we go through life it can become a sorrow, a hurt - experiences we need to emerge from with a different and, perhaps, a stronger kind of love.

My years as a seminarian and young priest were marked by an intense desire for God, like the feeling one gets when you live far from home. It's a home-sickness for God. Everyone who has left home knows that feeling, the anticipation of coming home for Christmas; the waiting for the one you love to come home.

I've learned that all desire is ultimately for God and that is what Advent is really about – *"O God, you are my God, for you I long, for you my soul is thirsting, my body pines for you."* (Psalm 63); *"Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you my God."* (Psalm 42). Like the excitement of the son and daughter on the journey home for Christmas, the anticipation of parents waiting for their child to arrive home.

And it goes beyond me, us, our families and the all of humanity because the whole of Creation is in a state of groaning with us, yearning and waiting for its fulfilment in Christ (Romans 8). Everything that exists is connected to Him comes to completion in Him – *"Christ is everything and He is in everything!"* (Colossians 3:11) – and it is part of our Christian faith that we see ecology, caring for the earth, the environment in the context of God and not separate from Him. Our obligation is not just to the planet and all that lives on it, but to God the Creator of it all.

Something else we tend to forget and maybe don't want to think about – there will be an end of the world as we know it; there will be the Second Coming of Jesus but the extinction we fear is not extinction but rather transformation, re-creation, fulfilment and resurrection. Caring for the earth is part of our preparation for that fulfilment; caring for our souls is also an essential preparation for that fulfilment and our entry into eternal life. The preparation takes place now. It is living now in the way that Jesus calls us to live; it is entering into the movement of the Holy Spirit who prays within us with groans beyond all utterance. (Romans 8)

"...we wait for what God has promised: new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness will be at home." (2 Peter 3) *Eamonn Monson sac*

Seaview Carol Concert 2019, 7th December at 5pm at St John the Evangelist, Brittany Road, St Leonard's

Performances by great choirs including the Seaview Choir. Seasonal sweetmeats and refreshments on sale. Collection for Seaview Project. All are warmly welcome.

CHRISTMAS POSTAGE STAMPS with beautiful scenes from the Nativity are now for sale. Do ask for these Nativity-themed stamps when you are in the Post Office.

REAL ADVENT CALENDARS that focus on the Nativity of Jesus can be found at Tesco or Aid to the Church in Need. You may find it easier to copy the link below from this newsletter on our parish website.

https://acnuk.org/products/?keywords=Advent&product_type=34&product_category=108&search=1&filter=Search