

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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, 8th DECEMBER 2019 YEAR A

Parish Mass Book page: 85

PARISH BAZAAR

A big thank you to all who worked so hard for the parish Bazaar, to those who contributed and attended. The total raised was £2520

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:

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 Thursday 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 Christmas

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.

CATHOLIC BISHOPS' STATEMENT ON VOTING IN THE GENERAL ELECTION is available @

<https://stmarystarofthesea.net/2019/12/03/2019-general-election-statement-and-bishops-plenary/>

The statement concentrates on the key issues – not parties or manifestos – offering a series of points that can be put to candidates prior to voting asking candidates how they will uphold:

1. The innate dignity of every human being; defending both the child in the womb, the good of the mother and an understanding of the immeasurable good of a child not yet born?
2. The dignified care for those who are terminally ill and dying while resisting the false compassion of assisted suicide or euthanasia?
3. The needs of those who are frequently neglected or discarded by society such as people with disabilities, Travellers, older people, those who are homeless, those in prison and those trapped in modern slavery?

(other points can be read on the website above)

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.

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

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. 7th December, 6pm: Special Intention

Sun. 8th December, Second Sunday of Advent, 10am: Mary Agnes Durkin RIP (anniv.)
11.30am: Roy Bourner RIP (anniv.)

Tues. 10th December, 10 am: Dawn McGrath RIP

Wed. 11th December, 10am: Margaret Terrill RIP

Thur, 12th December, Our Lady of Guadalupe, 10am: Mary Lowery (birthday)

Fri. 13th Dec., St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr, Day of Abstinence, 10am: Audrey Haste RIP (rec. dec'd)

Sat. 14th December, St John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor, 10am: Hildegard & Edward Dezateux RIP

Please remember in your prayers all who are ill, including: Padraig Cloherty, Eva Roxwood, Nancy Costello, Peter Ashwood, Barry Amar, Win Johnson, James Grant, Martin Kavanagh, Linda Fox, Linda Deeley, Helen Surges, David McIntosh, Cristina Canning, Young Tessa-Mae, Jenny Rowley, Stephen Gurden, Maureen McKenna, Christine Jennings, Fiona Skovronski, 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

He is one of the strongest men I know, a hunter, builder, fisherman, priest. Steady, stalwart. But the serious illness of his sister whom he loved brought him low, upset him greatly for he is also strong in love and loyalty. I was comforting him and he said, "I envy you your strength!" And I replied, "you have seen me at my weakest!" He had indeed witnessed me close up at my weakest worst. But he said, "it's only your strength I remember."

Memory is a strange thing. When I look back at my life as it was ten to fifteen to twenty years ago I remember it in largely negative terms, think of myself as a mess and a failure but when I read my diaries from that time I am brought face to face with something a lot more positive than I realized. When I read of other things this friend and colleague said about me in those years then I know that, in fact, I was ok – more than ok. What he has said of me bears a weight beyond all others because he confronted and challenged me, demanded that I make the changes that were necessary in my life. Perhaps the strength he admires is that I hauled myself out of a very deep pit, climbed upwards, moved forward instead of falling back or going into reverse. It was strength in weakness, the strength of God at full stretch.

So, I remember this and thank God for it in a Magnificat kind of way. It is Mary who comes to mind now; Mary who represents all of us who are lowly; she who remembers with gratitude what God has done and honours Him – "the Almighty has done great things for me...and has lifted up the lowly." This is exactly what God has done in me. Magnificat prayer is a positive and grateful way of remembering, a prayer that was so important to the Jews from the time of Moses who called the people to remember and never forget all that God has done. It is, of course, central to the Mass, the Eucharist which is the great prayer of thanksgiving of the Church offered to the Father in the name of Jesus. So, I thank God that I sank so low in order to know what it is to be lifted up, that I am so weak that it is God who can be so strong. I thank God for the man who saw me and sees me anew, remembering the good of me rather than anything else.

This friend has revealed something of God's own nature to me, and that is the nature, the reality of God's forgetfulness. *Eamonn Monson sac*

At St. Martha's Bexhill there is an evening Mass every Thursday at 7pm

All in the Old Town community and visitors are invited to an Advent Taize ecumenical service of Prayer in Songs & Words on Sunday 15th December at 4 pm in St Clement's Church.

All are welcome to participate in this calm space of peace, Scripture, and silences for reflection and meditation, that hopes to lead participants to contemplate and celebrate their relationship with God and with one another.