

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 (GAUDETE) OF ADVENT, 8th DECEMBER 2019 YEAR A

Parish Mass Book page: 88

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:

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 £708.80 including cheques and standing orders.

Many thanks to all concerned.

BIBLE REFLECTION GROUP

Will meet on Thursday 19th December at 7pm 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

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

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Christine Jennings who died on December 8th. May she rest in peace. Many of you will remember her late daughter Susan. Christine's funeral Mass will be celebrated on January 7th at 10.00am.

DIVINE MERCY PRAYER MEETINGS All

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

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

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2019 at
ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA**

Sunday December 22nd

10.00am – Mass; 11.30am – Mass

12.30pm – Confessions/Reconciliation

Christmas Eve Tuesday December 24th:

9.30am – Adoration & Morning Prayer

10.00am – Morning Mass

10.30am – Confessions/Reconciliation

2.00pm Confessions/Reconciliation

5.00pm – Children's Mass

9.30pm – Christmas Carols

10.00pm – Christmas Night Mass

Christmas Day Wednesday December 25th:

10.00am – Mass; 11.30am – Mass

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.

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. 14th December, 6pm: John Bumstead RIP (birthday)

Sun. 15th December, Third, Gaudete, Sunday of Advent, 10am: Con Power RIP

11.30am: Audrey Haste RIP (recently deceased)

Mon., 16th December, 10am: Holy Souls (intention of Eileen Di Francesco)

Tues. 17th December, 10 am: Bernard Collinson RIP (anniversary)

Wed. 18th December, 10am: Special Intention in Honour of St Lucy

Thur, 19th December, 10am: Christine Jennings RIP (recently deceased)

Fri. 20th Dec., Day of Abstinence, 10am: Parish

Sat. 21st December, 10am: Hildegard & Edward Dezateux RIP

Please remember in your prayers all who are ill, including: Patrick Coates, Lorrie Csobonas, Tracey, Hazel Gordon, Peter Ashwood, Barry Amar, Win Goldsmith, James Grant, Martin Kavanagh, Linda Frost, Linda Deeley, Helen Surges, David McIntosh, Young Tessa-Mae, Jenny Rowley, Stephen Gurden, Maureen McKenna, Christine Jennings, Fiona Skowronski, 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: In Expectancy of Surprise

When we come to the seasons of the Church Calendar, the seasons of the Holy Spirit, we have expectations that our lives will match the season in its time - sorrow in Holy week, joy at Easter and Christmas - but it does not always work like that. Many people come through Advent to Christmas in the sorrow of grief, the absence of loved ones. Human life, life in the Spirit is not a neatly packaged thing.

The Holy Spirit who came upon Mary – and upon us - is a Spirit whose direction we cannot predict or control – like the wind that blows where it will. Mary surrendered her life to the movement of the Spirit and as a result she entered into her time of expectancy to become the Mother of Jesus. Pregnancy is a great teacher of what the life of faith, life in the Holy Spirit, can be.

The expectant couple do not know who their child will be and, even if today they can know the child's gender, they do not know what the child will look like or be like. And when the child is born, they are surprised by joy. And as the child grows, they are constantly surprised and amazed by the person emerging before their eyes. What spoils the life of a child sometimes is that parents move from expectancy to expectation. They have expectations of what the child should become and sometimes push the child in the direction of their own expectations.

Expectations are narrow and defined and often harsh. We do it to each other all the time and when someone doesn't live up to our expectations of them, we become disappointed, even angry. We sometimes try to tie God to our own expectations, wanting Him to fit in to our agenda, our ways of thinking and doing things. Expectancy is open, always open to the surprises that emerge in life. The expectant person is one who waits and is open to the joy that can enter into sorrow, open to what God can do in any moment. Open to it, waiting for it and ready, an openness and a capacity for surprise that is evident in children.

I spent the whole of this afternoon in the company of the children from Sacred Heart School watching and listening to them practise for their Carol concert and I'm carried along by the joy and the earnestness with which they sing about the birth of Jesus. Talking to children later about what they like most about Christmas, only one knows what present he's getting. The rest are waiting to be surprised. And it was also striking to note how not one of them mentioned Santa or Father Christmas. The birth of Jesus and the happiness of being together with family seem to be what matters most to them. May they be blessed!

Eamonn Monson sac

ANGELS AND SHEPHERDS: The Nativity at the 5pm Mass on Christmas Eve will be played by the class preparing for First Holy Communion. Those children who do not have a particular role in the Nativity are invited to come to Mass as Angels and Shepherds, to honour and worship Jesus in the joy of Christmas night.