

St. Mary Star of the Sea 1 High Street, HASTINGS TN34 3EY  
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PARISH WEBSITE: [www.stmarystarofthesea.net](http://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.  
FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY, 5<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2020 YEAR A  
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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.

PCC wishes all a happy and holy Christmas.

January 2020 Programme:

6<sup>th</sup>: LOADS OF CHAT: What did you do?

13<sup>th</sup>: English Rivers talk by Claire Power

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

27<sup>th</sup>: 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.

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

Come to our Marriage party!

On January 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Christ the King, 3 Princes Road, Eastbourne BN23 6HT we are holding an evening to celebrate the beauty of Marriage. It will be an opportunity to reflect on our own marriages and to enjoy meeting others. As a couple you are a living witness to the fidelity and love Christ has for His church, so if you are interested in promoting this wonderful Sacrament please join us RSVP; Simon Kirkdale at [SIMkirk@gmail.com](mailto:SIMkirk@gmail.com)

Parish Finances

The Offertory collection on Sunday 29th December came to £753.07 including cheques and standing orders. Many thanks to all concerned.

***Eastbourne Deanery Initial Safeguarding Awareness Training in the church hall at Our Lady of Ransom, 2-4 Grange Rd, Eastbourne BN21 4EU on Wednesday 22nd January from 7-9 p.m***

If you are able to attend, please book online at <https://www.dabnet.org/ViewArticle/?section=Courses&id=1498&subsect=Safeguarding> (is easy to copy and paste this link from this newsletter on our parish website) or give your name to our Safeguarding Rep., Chris Emary, tel. 07518 521286. This training is for *everyone* but particularly those who work with or minister to Vulnerable Groups (Children and Adults at Risk.) It is the expectation of the Bishop, Trustees and Safeguarding Commission that this initial training is undertaken and refreshed every three years. New Volunteers should undertake the Initial Training within the first year of being appointed. A Refresher Training Programme is now being rolled out. From this year there will be one Initial Safeguarding Awareness session per Deanery per year and one Refresher session per Deanery per year. The next Eastbourne Refresher Training session will be in July 2020. We would be grateful to have names/numbers by 15<sup>th</sup> January for refreshment and hand out purposes. If you are unable to attend and wish to undertake online training, just email [bethany.arthur@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bethany.arthur@abdiocese.org.uk) with your name, parish and role. Bethany will register you with EduCare, the National online Training Provider. The sections of the modules can be dipped in and out of so can be done when convenient. There is also Certificate provision on successful completion.

DIVINE MERCY PRAYER MEETINGS All

welcome to join us in the presbytery at 2.30pm on Mondays: Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>. Feb. 3rd

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. 28th December, 6pm: Susan Vann RIP

Sun. 29th December, Epiphany, 10am: Breda Keogh RIP

11.30am: Michael Chapman RIP, recently deceased

Tues 31st December, St Raymond of Penyafort, Priest, 10am:

Wed. 1<sup>st</sup> January, 10am: Special Intention

Thurs, 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 10am:

Fri. 3<sup>rd</sup> January, St William, 10am:

Sat. 4<sup>th</sup> January, 10am:

Please remember in your prayers all who are ill, including: Brian Hicks, Lorri Fritchley, Tracey Fischer, Hazel Gordon, Peter Ashwood, Barry Amar, Win Goldsmith, James Grant, Martin Kavanagh, David McIntosh, Young Tessa-Mae, Jenny Rowley, Desmond Coles, Stephen Gurden, Maureen McKenna, 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

Coming to the end of this year and the decade since 2009, I've been looking back in gratitude at those ten years, going back a further ten to the end of the year in which Maura had died and the arrival of the new millennium. This is what I wrote then in my diary:

*"The sea at Ballyloughan was still and clear as glass, reflecting all the colour - the orange, dark red and pink of the sky as the sun went down over the hills of Clare. The buildings too were washed in the colour and a cargo ship, moving slowly towards the docks, cast its shadow as it passed between the sun and the Galway coastline. The sound of birds echoed, birds skimming in formation over the water, flying towards the south.*

*I stood in contemplation and awe and worship. Even Vincent Browne or Stephen Hawking, if they stood here, would understand worship, without having to have it explained. It seems kind of God to let me witness this at year's end and maybe it's an omen of better things. Afterwards I went to the Mervue Adoration Chapel to worship the One who is behind, above, beyond and within such beauty.*

*Eve and Har were at home when I returned and, with Mam, we did some reminiscing and laughing by the fire. Mam and I rang in the New Year quietly, having said Mass at 10.30pm, we had a few drinks and stood at the front door at midnight shouting Happy New Year to Margaret and Brendan Dowling, the Clohertys, the Quigleys and the Kennedys who came out briefly. The air was crisp with a heavy frost and the horns of the boats in the docks sounded like they were just in front of us. This used to be a wild night for us. Now the wildness had passed to two lively parties pouring out into the gardens across the avenue. It's another kind of life, a world apart." Most of those have gone from us into everlasting life.*

We cross the threshold now of these two years – 2019 into 2020. Into this new decade. Every threshold, every transition has meaning – its memories and its hopes, its curses and blessings, its losses and gains. We make the crossing with Mary Mother of God, in the spirit of the Epiphany, God seen again in this little Child in the poverty of the night, the Light that shines in the darkness, Light never to be overpowered.

In revealing Himself to the Magi, God shows His absolute freedom and His ability to surprise. He is discovered in this feast, not by men of faith and not in formal prayer but by so-called pagans who were watching the stars. So accustomed were they to gazing into the night sky that they noticed when something new occurred and something really new did occur when Jesus was born. Creation reacted to his birth and the Magi were ready, open to this new event and to its surprise, the surprising self-revelation of God that we sometimes miss because we are too distracted, tightened up, closed. This is the season for opening the doors of our hearts to the Truth revealed in Christ, this Beauty "ever ancient, ever new."

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

*Eamonn Monson sac*