

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.

**SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 23rd February 2020 YEAR A** Parish Mass Book page: 139

Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, with Masses at 10am and 7.30pm, both with distribution of ashes.

It is a Day of Fasting and Abstinence.

Fasting is a considerable reduction in food for ages 18 to 60. Abstinence, which is mandatory for age 14+, is from meat or, for vegetarians and vegans, from another food group.

We welcome the pupils and staff of the Sacred Heart School to our 10am Mass on Ash Wednesday.

Parish Finances

The Offertory collection last weekend came to £938.06 including cheques and standing orders.

Many thanks to all concerned.

CORONA VIRUS

We consider it prudent to exclude the sign of peace and the reception of the Chalice at Holy Communion for the time being.

IN MEMORIAM

Please pray for the repose of the souls of

JENNY ROWLEY

Removal to Church: 4pm on Monday March 2nd

Funeral Mass: 10am on Tuesday March 3rd

and of

SILVIA GIOVANNA IORIO

Removal to church: Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> Feb at 4/4.30pm

Funeral Mass: Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 10am

Followed by committal at Hastings Crematorium

May they rest in peace.

Lent Material 2020

This year the Diocese is pleased to share the Lent programme from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. A number of churches are keeping 2020 as “the Year of the Word” so this course, with its focus on scripture, will be an ideal resource for Lent 2020. Can

be downloaded as one booklet from

[www.ctbi.org.uk/lent](http://www.ctbi.org.uk/lent)

Annual Formation Day for Those who Support the Bereaved in Parishes:

This year on Wednesday 20th May, at St Bernadette’s, Crawley. To book contact [rosie.read@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:rosie.read@abdiocese.org.uk)

Notice of Intention to Marry:

For those of you considering marriage please be aware that this Diocese requires that you contact the parish in which you wish to be married 12 months beforehand, in order to begin the appropriate preparation and complete the required paperwork. Thank you. Bishop Richard

DIVINE MERCY PRAYER MEETINGS

All welcome to join us in the presbytery

at 2.30pm on Mondays:

2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> March

SEND OUT YOUR LIGHT

The Parish of The Good Shepherd extends a very warm invitation for you to attend "Send out your light", a Lent

Service of Music and Prayer from Taize and Iona on Sunday 1st March, at 4 pm, at St. Thomas of Canterbury, Magdalen Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, TN37 6ET and, if you would like to help lead the music, you are invited to attend a practice beforehand at 3 pm.

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.

February 2020 Programme:

24<sup>th</sup> Competition of Photos: bring one of yourself as an adult and one as a baby or child. Don't put your name on them: we've got to guess!

Members free with annual £5 subscription.

Guests welcome for free (except £1 per talk).

Tea or coffee with biscuit 50p.

Beginning Experience, a notice from Jon Harman Diocesan Adviser for Formation and Spirituality

A weekend away for those who find themselves single again following separation, divorce, or the death of a partner. The Beginning Experience is a weekend programme to help you to move from the darkness of your grief into the light of a new beginning and to face the future with renewed hope. Next weekend is 3-5 April at the Domus Mariae Centre, Chigwell, Essex. More information from Freda 01322 838415 or Maura 01322 551503 or John at [johnbrotherton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:johnbrotherton@hotmail.co.uk)

**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. 22nd February, 6pm: Cancer patients

Sun. 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 10am:

11.30am: Margaret Molloy RIP, anniversary

Tues, 26<sup>th</sup> February, 10am:

Wed. 27<sup>th</sup> February, 10am:

7.30pm:

Thurs. 28th February, 10am: John Walsh RIP

Fri. 29th February, 10am:

Sat. 30th February, 10am: Holy Souls

**Please remember in your prayers all who are ill, including:** Bill Bilotta, Tracey Fischer, Clair, Yvonne, Lucy Marlowe, David McIntosh, Peter Ashwood, Barry Amar, Hazel Gordon, Win Goldsmith, Martin and Brenda Kavanagh, John Kirby, Young Tessa-Mae, 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, Tommy Gaynor and Donna.

### **DAWN**

I sit on a dune in the cold dark before dawn, facing east where the sun will rise, contemplating the beauty of God to the restful rhythm of ruminating camels. God is in this place to be adored, honoured and praised. And when I pray "Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit" – a prayer without me in it - it seems as if all of heaven responds "Amen!" and the sands of this desert respond "Amen! Glory be!"

The rising of the sun will be beautiful, awe-inspiring, but it is not the sun that I am waiting for. I wait for Jesus who comes once more from east and west, north and south. He comes anew each day to tell us of the Father's Love. The sun is a reminder of this reality and even as we wait, He is already present in our waiting.

This is the most silent, still and solitary part of the day – precious as water in this Sahara. I drink about four litres of water here each day. May I drink in even more of the Holy Spirit into my soul and may this time of prayer give due honour to the Most Holy Trinity.

We sing the Divine Office of Lauds (Morning Prayer) after the sun has risen and then go to gather up our belongings before having breakfast which our guides have laid out for us on mats. One of the miracles of the desert is porridge which I seldom eat at home but here somehow my body tells me that this is what it needs. Here I find myself eating food I don't normally like and I eat it simply because my body asks for it. All of the food is fabulous and we are astounded every day by what Brahim produces. Meals are very happy occasions, true to Psalm 133 that says "how good and how pleasant it is when brothers live in unity!"

We are twelve priests – John from England who was the one entrusted to my prayer, Brother Philip Thomas, also from England, Joe from Ghana, Matthew and Rajiv from India, Brothers Thomas, Luc and Arnold-Sharbel from France, Angelus and Abram from the United States, John (nick-named His Grace on this Pilgrimage) and myself from Ireland. Four are from the community of St. John, two of us are Pallottines and the other six are diocesan. Most of us didn't know each other before coming here and most of us live in England. John and I have been companions for almost 48 years and it is a blessing for us to be together on this part of life's journey, to be present to each other without having to say much. All twelve of us here blend very well, are at home with each other and help each other to keep going. Laughter is very much the tonic of our down times, especially in the evenings. And though I am used to much more silence at home, I recognize the importance and necessity of these times of joy. Once we have finished breakfast and are ready to set out, we have a very valuable presentation of the theme of the day from our leader Father Luc - leaving things behind, letting go, praying unceasingly, gratitude, attentiveness.

There is one young camel who protests long and loud against the burden he has to bear. As soon as he sees the herdsman coming with the saddle, he begins to wail with an anguish that I identify with – though someone said he is only messing. Whatever he's at, it resonates with something inside me. One morning I said to those standing near, "he doesn't realize he has another week of this!" to which His Grace responded, "don't be projecting your own feelings onto that poor camel!" Indeed! *Eamonn Monson sac*

### **Remembering Babies Who Have Died**

**3<sup>rd</sup> February is when the Charity LIFE, commemorate the all-too-brief lives of babies who did not live to birth or beyond infancy. The main purpose is to remember the lives lost and to reach out to anyone affected, with support and compassion. Here at St. Mary Star of the Sea we will hold this commemoration on Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup> at all Masses that weekend but particularly at the 10am Mass on the Sunday.**

**<https://lifecharity.org.uk/baby-loss-matters>**