

St Mary's Catholic Church

5 Surrenden Road, Preston Park, Brighton

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Hall and Cassidy Centre – Enquiries and Bookings –
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All visitors to St Mary's are most welcome to the church and to our parish
 (The Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Trust is a Registered Charity No. 252878)

Parish Newsletter for w/c Sunday 9 December, 2018

Mass proper		Intention	
Sat 08	Vigil Mass	7 p.m.	<i>Deceased Parents of Mary Marlow</i>
Sun 09	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C) Gospel: Luke 3:1-6 Mass Book p.84	10 a.m. 12 noon	<i>Pro Populo – for the people of the parish</i> <i>Marie Booty, R.I.P.</i>
Mon 10	Mass at St Mary's House	8.15 a.m.	-
Tue 11	Mass at St Mary's House	8.15 a.m.	-
Wed 12	Mass at St Mary's House	8.15 a.m.	-
Thurs 13	Mass at St Mary's House	8.15 a.m.	-
Fri 14	Mass at St Mary's House	8.15 a.m.	-
Sat 15	<i>Advent Weekday</i> Vigil Mass	10 a.m. 7 p.m.	<i>For an end to Abortion</i> <i>For the Youth of the parish</i>
Sun 16	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C) Gospel: Luke 3:10-18 Mass Book p.87	10 a.m. 12 noon	<i>The Ryan family</i> <i>Pro Populo – for the people of the parish</i>

Confessions every Saturday 10.30-11 a.m., 6.15-6.45 p.m. and at call

PARISH DIARY				
Date	Time	Place	Event	Contact
Mondays	6.55-8 pm	Cassidy Centre	WCCM Christian Meditation Group	Celia 01273 555967
Thursdays	2-4 pm	Cassidy Centre	Seniors Club	David A. 01273 540038
Wed 12 Dec	7.30-9 pm	Church Hall	Youth Club Yrs 7-11	www.smyclub.co.uk
Sat 15 Dec	12.45-1.45	Church	Christmas Choir Rehearsal	Charles (St. M.)/Paula (St T.M)
Sun 16 Dec	9.15 am	Cassidy Centre	Parent & Child 1 st Communion lesson	Janet S. 07732917705

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

In the busyness of this time of year we all need to find time to schedule in quiet moments of prayer to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord at Christmas. His intention was not to come once only in a place far away but to enter into the life of each one of us, without exception. Here is what someone wrote: 'Advent is that sacred season of anticipation and expectation in which we come to terms with the deepest yearning of our soul – a yearning fulfilled only in Jesus Christ. As we wait in longing for the coming of the Christ child at Christmas, we turn over to him all the false satisfactions – the compromises – of our life. To live Advent is to live in the awareness of a Presence that changes us. Our Advent preparation is marked by vigilance – custody of the heart in which we keep our soul fixed on the Lord. For what we see incarnate in the infant Jesus we desire for ourselves: purity, innocence, childlikeness restored.' In the birth of this child we see the promise of our being loved, willed and necessary to God fulfilled. God bless you this Advent, Fr Bruno.

WALK WITH ME

This short season to help prepare us inwardly for Christmas began last week. The 'Walk with Me' booklets are in the porch (£1) and are filled with prayers to help guide you through this holy season.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Here are the Mass times over the Christmas period. The one Mass that gets particularly crowded is the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at 6pm. Come early to get a seat or make the night extra special and come to Midnight Mass. (A reminder: Please be mindful of parking restrictions & not parking on the grass verges) - Please note also that there will be no 10am morning mass on December 24th

Monday 24 th Vigil Mass **	6 p.m.
Midnight Mass – <i>Carols from 11.30 pm</i>	Midnight
Christmas day Mass	10 a.m.
Christmas day Mass	Noon
Boxing day Mass	10 a.m.

** Going to the Vigil Mass fulfils your Christmas day obligation to go to Mass.

PARISH

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers G.Alfred, Mary C & P. Walsh.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Next week's collection will be for flowers for the Church in readiness for the celebration of Christmas.

Weekday Masses - There will be no weekday Masses in St Mary's this week. Daily Mass though can be found at St Mary's House (38/39 Preston Park Avenue) at 8.15 am during the week. Confessions after Saturday morning Mass and before the evening Mass as normal.

The Parish Office will still be contactable during this time & will be booking appointments for the New Year. (Emails & Phone messages will be dealt with as normal)

As always please remember that Fr Peter Fitch is the Hospital Chaplain & can be reached on 01273 087839.

MISSIO – Red Box -

Thank you to all Red Box holders for supporting this official charity for the missions of the Church. Please could we ask that all boxes, or their contents along with your name, come back to the Parish office by Dec. 16th. Your boxes will then be returned to you. Currently we have only had the contents of 3 brought in.

CNCS – Advent Artistic Project

Newman are launching an artistic challenge in school under the theme #whatareyouwaitingfor? & are looking to their students & wider community to submit poems, artwork, original photography, short stories/ writing/articles (of no more than 500 words) on this theme. The theme of 'what are you waiting for?' is as wide as it can be - it could be linked directly to Christmas & Advent or to our hopes and dreams about the world, life, family, the environment, the future, the universe and beyond...The email address for enquiries or entries is: whatareyouwaitingfor@cncs.co.uk

THE TRADITION OF A CHRISTMAS CRIB

Following a beautiful and firmly rooted tradition, many families set up their crib immediately after the feast of the Immaculate Conception, as if to relive with Mary those days full of trepidation that preceded the birth of Jesus. Putting up the crib at home can be a simple but effective way of presenting faith, to pass it on to one's children. The crib helps us contemplate the mystery of God's love that was revealed in the poverty and simplicity of the Bethlehem Stable. St Francis of Assisi was so taken by the mystery of the Incarnation that he wanted to present it anew at Greccio in the living nativity scene, thus beginning an old, popular tradition that still retains its value for evangelisation today. Indeed, the crib can help us understand the secret of the true Christmas because it speaks of the humility and merciful goodness of Christ, who "though he was rich he made himself poor" for us. His poverty enriches those who embrace it and Christmas brings joy and peace to those who, like the Shepherds in Bethlehem, accept the Angel's words: "Let this be a sign to you: in a manger you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes". This is still the sign for us too, men and women of the third millennium' [Pope Benedict XVI]. (Excerpt from the *Magnificat*)

School Supplementary Forms

For parents wanting to apply to send their children to St Bernadette's Primary School (or Cottesmore) next September Fr Bruno will hopefully be in the presbytery to sign forms on the following dates: **Fri 14 Dec., 6-7pm; Sat 15 Dec., 11am-12pm; Wed 19 Dec., 11am-12pm; Fri 11 Jan 11am-12pm.**

DIOCESAN

Wintershall Nativity Play - 12th-16th Dec.

The Nativity at Wintershall near Bramley in Surrey. A 50 volunteer cast in biblical costumes, assisted by a full complement of sheep, donkeys, horses and a sheepdog, tell the story of how Jesus our Saviour came into the world. Please see their website for further details: www.wintershall-estate.com.

CRIB OFFERINGS

"This Christmas please help children and families in crisis" Bishop Richard Moth. This year, again, Bishop Richard has asked that every penny raised through our crib offerings will go to the Catholic Children's Society's A&B Crisis fund. This fund provides emergency grants for children and families in our Diocese who are facing a crisis in their lives. Every single penny donated to the Crib will be given out via these grants.

Fr David Goddard, R.I.P. Requiem Mass

Some parishioners may remember Fr David Goddard from our pilgrimage to Our Lady of Consolation. There will be a Requiem mass (extraordinary form) on Tuesday 18th December, 7.30pm, at Our Lady of Consolation, West Grinstead and then a further Requiem mass at Arundel Cathedral on Wednesday 19th December at 11am.

OTHER

CAFOD World Gifts - the true spirit of Christmas Giving - Give a gift that will change a life. There are gifts for every budget from Happy Queen Bee at £4 to Help a Refugee child at £46. Catalogues are available in the Church porch or you can buy online at cafod.org.uk/worldgifts.

Reverse Advent Calendar – Foodbank Project

If you're thinking of donating to the foodbank this festive season, one idea is a "Reverse Advent Calendar". Add an item from the list to a box each day of advent this year and donate it at the end! Stock will not necessarily be given out before Christmas as it will be sorted according to shelf life, so there is no rush to bring it in in December...Donations are still needed in January. **A list of what is needed most is by the collection box as well as a Reverse Advent Shopping list next to our newsletters for you to take with you.** Thank you to everyone who makes donations. They make such a difference too many people who live locally & struggle making ends meet. All donations gratefully received and can be left in the box in the church porch..... At this time of year I'm sure 'luxuries' like chocolates and Christmas Puddings would also be appreciated.