

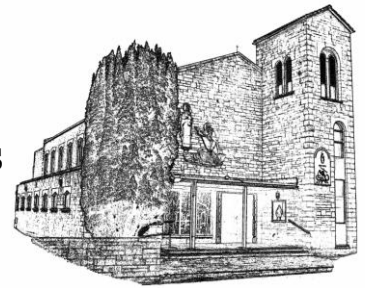
The Parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St Wilfrid

The Presbytery, 12 Church Road, Selsey, West Sussex, PO20 0LS

Phone: 01243 604953

Parish website: www.stwilfridselsey.co.uk

PARISH PRIEST: Father John Healy



3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

13th/14th December 2014

Mass Times

Saturday	5.30pm	For the Intentions of the Parish	
Sunday	10.00am		
Monday		Weekday of Advent	
	10.00am		
Tuesday		Weekday of Advent	No Mass
Wednesday		Weekday of Advent	No Mass
Thursday		Weekday of Advent	No Mass
Friday		Weekday of Advent	
	10.00am		
Saturday		Weekday of Advent	No Morning Mass

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

	5.30pm	Edie Daly RIP	
Sunday	10.00am	For the Intentions of the Parish	

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 4.45 to 5.15pm.

[3rd Sunday of Advent – page 87 in the Parish Mass Book]

STONEPILLOW: This local charity “offers shelter, information and support to empower homeless and vulnerable people in West Sussex to make positive changes in their lives.” It has become our Christmas charity this year. Proceeds from the Parish Supper and Sing-a-Long will be donated to Stonepillow, as will any donations made to our **Christmas Message Board**.

We are also invited to use a shoe box, or similar, and fill it with gifts for those men and women who will be homeless this Christmas and who will turn to Stonepillow for a little Christmas cheer. Filled boxes can be wrapped or unwrapped. Useful gifts might include gloves, scarves and socks to help keep warm; toiletries to help keep clean; and those little luxuries we all enjoy at Christmas (but no alcohol). There is also a box under the table in the porch for non perishable dried and canned food, root vegetables and other consumables with a medium to long-term shelf life. Collection date will be December 21st.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES: The Advent Service of Penance and Reconciliation at St. Richard’s in Chichester will be this Sunday afternoon at 4.00pm; at Arundel Cathedral at 7.30pm on Tuesday evening; at Bognor Regis on Monday, 22nd December at 7.30pm.

RED BOXES: All those who have a Red missionary box at home are asked to bring it to Church next weekend so that it can be emptied at the end of the year, and the proceeds sent to Missio (formerly the A.P.F.). A new empty box will be returned as soon as possible after next weekend.

GIFTS COME WITHOUT A PRICE TAG

The commercial breaks on television have for some weeks shown families or groups of friends enjoying a Christmas meal with presents happily exchanged while food and drinks is joyfully shared. And then the whole image is spoilt when a price tag it is put on it. Buying and selling is very different from the giving and receiving of gifts – and it's pity when the line between the two becomes confused and blurred as it so often does at this time of year.

When we go shopping we enter into a commercial relationship with another individual (the retailer) that is immediate and governed by exact equivalence – “you get what you pay for.” When the transaction is completed, the relationship is ended. The giving and receiving of gifts, however, is something very different. It is intended to cement a relationship that already exists, bringing immediate joy to both the giver and receiver, and ensuring that the relationship continues into the future. It is an expression of the friendship or love that is present in the relationship and a statement of the desire for it continue. It should, therefore, have no price tag attached.

We are preparing to rejoice in the greatest gift of all time: God's gift to humankind when God, in the person of Jesus, entered our world as one like us. God's gift to us was unconditional; nothing anyone could have done would merit or deserve it. Every year Christmas reminds us of this most precious gift and reminds us that we can return God's love by endeavouring to live as a true and faithful child of God. It doesn't matter if the love we have for God is sometimes meagre, or even withheld. It doesn't matter if we don't feel that our faith is very strong or that we are not very holy. We are not trading with God and there is no price tag on our humble gifts, any more than there is on God's gift to us.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2015: The Diocesan Directory for next year is now available in the Porch. It is a unique reference for everything you need to know about the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton – its people, places, structures, organisations, and much else besides. It also has the full liturgical calendar for 2015. All this for just £4.50p.

STRAW FOR CRIBS: Next Sunday the straw for the parish Christmas Crib will be blessed at Mass. A pile from this summer's cut of hay (an excellent substitute for straw!) will be spread before the Altar where traditionally the Crib is placed. At the end of Mass anyone who would a small handful of the blessed straw/hay for their own crib at home is most welcome to take some – please bring a plastic bag with you. Using a little of the same hay that will be used for the Church Crib helps forge a link between Church and home.

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH: There is an invitation to a traditional Christmas Day lunch at Selsey Town Hall for anyone who might otherwise be alone on Christmas Day. There is a poster on the Notice Board and a leaflet to take home.

SELSEY FOLK CLUB: There will be a first “open” meeting of this new venture in our Parish Hall on Wednesday, 21st January from 7.30pm. It intended to be a regular social event for the parish, for Selsey Town and for people from beyond: all will be welcome to come along to sing, to play, or just to listen.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Max Foreshew, Tricia Green, Christina Hackett, Nell Hassett, Billy Jones; Dave Mortby, Peggy Owens, Samantha Phillips, Ken Wass, Theresa Watson and all in the parish who are sick.

Please speak to Fr. John if you would like the parish to pray for you, or for someone in your family.

Collections:	6 th /7 th December	Offertory Collection	£346.27p
		Christmas Flower Collection	£148.00p