

## The Parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St Wilfrid

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

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Parish website: [www.stwilfridselsey.co.uk](http://www.stwilfridselsey.co.uk)

PARISH PRIEST: Father John Healy



### 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> March 2016

#### Mass Times

Saturday	5.30pm	Intentions of the People of the Parish	
Sunday	10.00am	Michael Brooker RIP	
Monday		Weekday of Lent	
	10.00am		
Tuesday		Weekday of Lent	No Mass
Wednesday		Weekday of Lent	No Mass
Thursday		Weekday of Lent	No Mass
Friday		Weekday of Lent	
	10.00am		
Saturday		Weekday of Lent	No Morning Mass

#### 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

	5.30pm		
Sunday	10.00am	Intentions of the People of the Parish	

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 4.45 to 5.15pm.

*[4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent - page 168 in the Parish Mass Book]*

PLEASE PRAY FOR Jillian Barrett who lived in Denshare Road: she died last Sunday in St. Richard's Hospital after a short illness and a life-long disability. Pray, too, for her son and two daughters and all their relatives and friends. Her funeral will be a Chichester Crematorium at 4.15pm on Wednesday afternoon. May she rest in peace!

COFFEE WEEKEND: There will coffee and other refreshments in the Hall after Mass this weekend: all will be welcome - an opportunity for good conversation with fellow parishioners.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: This Sunday afternoon, beginning at 4.00pm, there is another opportunity to follow the Way of the Cross using the beautiful stained glass windows in the Church. There will also be public Stations of the Cross on the sixth Sunday of Lent and on Good Friday.

DEANERY MEETING: The priests of the Deanery will be holding their monthly meeting in the Presbytery on Tuesday morning: it will be the first meeting in the Presbytery after extensive work to replace what needed replacing; to renew what was no longer working; the redecorate the entire house. We owe a great deal of gratitude to those who have supervised the various contractors and who have done much of the work themselves. Fr. John has been "gently" moving in as the work in different area has been completed. It will be a few more days before he will be cooking, sleeping and working in his new home!

OPEN PARISH MEETING: The springtime Open Meeting of the Parish will be on Friday, beginning at 7.30pm in the Presbytery. The main items on the agenda will a presentation of the parish accounts for 2015 and the proposed budget for 2016. All will be welcome.

## SPIRITUAL DESERTS

Deserts are usually barren and inhospitable places, to be avoided if at all possible. Deserts, though, feature prominently in the Readings during Lent: we hear of Abraham travelling across deserts; Moses pasturing his sheep in the desert; the People of Israel journeying through the desert to the Promised Land; and Lent always begins with Jesus' temptations in the desert.

While deserts may not be able to provide for and satisfy our physical needs in an adequate way, they seem very good places to nourish our spiritual needs. All the familiar stories about people spending time in the desert have in common that it was while in the desert that they most experienced the nearness of God: Abraham made a Covenant with God; Moses received his call to lead the people out of slavery in Egypt; the former slaves from Egypt were formed into God's own People as they crossed the desert; Jesus came to see clearly the mission entrusted to him by the Father during his forty days in the wilderness.

All through the centuries, Christians have felt "called to the desert" to live either the life of a hermit or to live in community with other likeminded people. Associated with the desert are silence, space, light, freedom from all the distractions of daily life – no wonder people often experience the nearness of God in the way they don't elsewhere. And if it has not been possible actually to relocate to a real desert, people have created "desert-like" spaces in their own surroundings. They have made their own silence so they can hear more clearly the gentle voice of God; they have made space around themselves into which God can enter; they have walked and prayed under the light of the sun by day and the moon and stars by nights; they have put aside for a while all the preoccupations and distractions of daily life. All these are things that, with a little planning and effort, any of us ought to be able to do, especially during this time of Lent.

**SPONSORED SWIM:** A huge "thank-you" goes to all swam in the sponsored swim last Sunday, to those who cheered them on at the poolside, to those who sponsored them and, of course, to those who organised the event. Sponsorship money is still being collected and counted but already hundreds of pounds have been contributed to the Building Maintenance Fund. The total will be published shortly.

**AN ENCOUNTER EVENING FOR YOUNG ADULTS:** There will be an evening of "prayer, praise, adoration and fellowship" for 18 - 30s at Our Lady of Sorrows, Bognor Regis on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> March beginning at 7.00pm. Jack Regan - the diocesan Youth Ministry Adviser - will speak briefly about the evening at the end of Mass next Saturday.

**SELSEY COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS:** There will an "open meeting" on **Monday**, 21<sup>st</sup> March at 7.00pm at the Selsey Venture Club for anyone who might be able to help with this important local service. It is an organisation able to send trained volunteers to be the "first on the scene" when there is an emergency. However, it requires help at all levels - from Trustees to First-Aiders - if it is to continue providing a valuable service to the local community.

**MINISTERS DURING HOLY WEEK:** If you are able to help as a Reader or a Minister of Holy Communion during the Holy Week Services, please contact Stella Crist - 603221 - to let her know.

**FUNERAL SERVICES:** The Funeral Mass for John Topp will be on Friday at 12.00noon in St. Mary's, Preston Park in Brighton. The Funeral Mass for Peter Kench will be on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> March at 12.00noon in St. Wilfrid's. May they rest in peace!

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** Beryl Ayres, Jacqui Brooker, Julian Davenport, Matt Davis, Max Foreshow, Nell Hassett, Margaret Kortens, Grace Ledger, Sean Mangan, Samantha Phillips, Sheilagh Roberts 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:	27 <sup>th</sup> /28 <sup>th</sup> February	Offertory Collection	£319.46p
		Church Maintenance Fund	£62.09p