

Saint Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
Rye, East Sussex
The Arundel & Brighton Diocesan Trust (a Fairtrade Diocese)
is a Registered Charity: 252878
Staffed by The Order Friars Minor Conventual,
“The Greyfriars”
since AD 1910

The Parish

Franciscan Friary, Watchbell Street
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Parish web site: <https://stanthonyrye.com>
 Diocese of Arundel & Brighton:
<http://www.dabnet.org/>

The Franciscans (The Greyfriars)

The Greyfriars: www.thegreyfriars.org
St. Anthony of Padua, Rye:
www.thegreyfriars.org/rye-east-sussex
The Secular Franciscan Order in GB: <http://ofsgb.org>
Saint Clare Fraternity, Poor Clare Convent, Hollington,
 meets on the 1st Sunday of the month.
 Pat Lee, minister
 e-mail: sueandpatlee7@tiscali.co.uk
Rye St. Antony School: <https://www.ryestantony.co.uk/>

Fr. Matthew Chadwick, OFM Conv., Parish Priest
29 DECEMBER 2019 ~ FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

“I have called My Son out of Egypt.”

Times of Mass This Week

28 Dec. Saturday	For Broken Families	6:00 PM FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY
29 Dec. Sunday	For the Parishioners	8:00 AM FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY
29 Dec. Sunday	For the lonely & the homeless	10:45 AM FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY
30 Dec. Monday	+ Harry Knaapen, father of a friar	9:00 AM Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas
31 Dec. Tuesday	Derek & Marie Allen & Family (FMA)	9:00 AM Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas
1 Jan. Wednesday	+ Batty Flynn (FMA)	9:00 AM Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
2 Jan. Thursday	+ May Celeste (FMA)	9:00 AM St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen, Doctors
3 Jan. Friday	+ Iris Evans (FMA)	9:00 AM The Most Holy Name of Jesus
4 Jan. Saturday	+ Kieron Worthington (FMA)	{PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN TIME.}
4 Jan. Saturday	For the Parishioners	9:00 AM Bl. Thomas Plumtree, Martyr
5 Jan. Sunday	+ Rose Doherty, req. Bill Doherty	6:00 PM SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY
5 Jan. Sunday	+ Dorothy Van Heuven, req. Dolores Don	8:00 AM SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY
		10:45 AM SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY

 Collection for 22 December: £364.22 Christmas: £959.26 Candles: £184.75 THANK YOU!

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PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING PERSONS: John Lovell (David’s & Mags’ brother-in-law, seriously ill), John Freeman (now in 7 Oaks), husband of Anne, Bob Bligh, John Kilroy (now at home), Edward Wroe (Angela Tyson’s brother), Marcella Duckworth, Veronica Pragnell, Ann Hamilton, Dominique Chapuis, Susan Clarke (Bernie’s wife), Kathleen Sherwood (niece of Sheila Miller & Audrey Hatter, now in Hastings), Reg & Monica Flint, Richard Horner (now home), Richard Carey, Luisa Schetter, Christopher Wilberforce, James, (Fr. Brian’s father), my nephew, Nathaniel, Kennedy (Fr. Matt’s friend, infant w/brain tumor, and Mass intentions this week.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED, ESPECIALLY: Geoff Brown, members of our parish, our families, our relatives, our friends, our acquaintances, and Mass intentions this week.

 **SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION GROUP WILL NOT MEET ON MONDAY, 30 DECEMBER 2019**

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SAY AT LEAST ONE PRAYER DAILY FOR THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR PARISH CONSECRATION!

Even though the consecration prayer has been said, we need to continue our devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary for the fruits of this act.

I saw the Mother of God, unspeakably beautiful. She said to me, "My daughter, what I demand from you is **prayer, prayer, and once again prayer**, for the world and especially for your country" (St. Faustina, Diary 325)

Fr. Jobe will come to tell us about the Militia Immaculatae (MI) sometime after the beginning of new year. People will understand the individual consecration better after Fr. Jobe's explanation. Then we can decide whether to do the individual consecrations at Mass, as a group or in a separate ceremony.

Next Parish Meeting: Monday, 20 January 2020 at 2:30 PM in the Friary. EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS AND IDEAS ABOUT OUR PARISH!

Wisdom from our new Saint, John Henry Cardinal Newman

Without self-knowledge you have no root in yourselves personally; you may endure for a time, but under affliction or persecution your faith will not last.

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Twelve Days of Christmas

On the cusp of Christmas, songs galore play through our radios and memories. Among my favourites remains **The Twelve Days of Christmas**. Did you know that this old ditty is really a **Catholic Code Catechism Song**, dating back to the centuries when the Catholic faith was proscribed and persecuted in England? Catholics in England and its territorial possessions (including the future USA) were prohibited by law from practicing their Faith either in public or private. Catholic Martyrs galore date from those heinous days in the 16th and 17th centuries. [*Nota Bene*: The English Parliament finally emancipated Catholics in England and their colonies in 1829.]

This song at first seems like a nonsense verse set to rhyme and music just a silly list of 12 Christmas gifts, the estimated total price of which today would be \$34,558.65. Actually, however, *The Twelve Days of Christmas* was written with a most serious religious purpose to serve as a mini-catechism, teaching young Catholics the basics of their faith. In short it was a mnemonic memory aid to be used during a period of persecution. Since the song sounded like giddy balderdash in musical rhyme, young Catholics could sing it aloud in public without fear of imprisonment. The authorities would not know that it was a religious hymn with coded meaning. They were oblivious to the fact that the song's 12 gifts denoted fundamental teachings of the Catholic Faith. [COMMENT: See how tricky God is with a sense of humour.]

The **true love** mentioned in the song is not an earthly suitor, but **God** Himself. The **me**, who receives the presents, refers to **every baptized person**. The **partridge** in a pear tree is **Jesus Christ**, the Son of God who died on a tree/Cross. In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge, an image which reminds us of Christ's sadness over the fate of Jerusalem: *Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered thee under my wings, as a hen does its chicks (Matt. 23:37).*

The list of the 12 coded symbols has generated no small debate among scholars regarding the proper interpretation to be given in the correlation between gift and religious signification. The most common set of meanings follows:

- 1 Partridge in a Pear Tree = Jesus Christ
- 2 Turtle Doves = the Old and New Testaments
- 3 French Hens = the three theological virtues, Faith, Hope, and Charity

- 4 Calling or *Colly* Birds = the four Gospels and/or the four Evangelists
- 5 Golden Rings = the Pentateuch (first five books of the Old Testament)
- 6 Geese-a-Laying = the six days of Creation
- 7 Swans-a-Swimming = the seven Sacraments of the Catholic Church
- 8 Maids-a-Milking = the eight Beatitudes
- 9 Ladies Dancing = the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit (*Galatians 5:22-23*)
- 10 Lords-a-Leaping = the Ten Commandments
- 11 Pipers Piping = the eleven faithful Apostles
- 12 Drummers Drumming = the Articles of Faith in the *Apostles' Creed*.

Having a wee bit of fun as I ruminated about the dozen days on this Christmas Eve, I came up with the following Franciscan version of the song:

*On the First Day of Christmas, the Good Lord gave to me: **Franciscan Fraternity!***
*On the Second Day of Christmas, the Good Lord gave to me: **Two Laws of Love!***
*On the Third Day of Christmas, the Good Lord gave to me: **Three Grand Vows!***
*On the Fourth Day of Christmas, the Good Lord gave to me: **Four Gospel Books!***
*On the Fifth Day of Christmas, the Good Lord gave to me: **Five Cups of Tea!***
*On the Sixth Day of Christmas, the Good Lord gave to me: **Six Days Creation!***
*On the Seventh Day of Christmas, the Good Lord gave to me: **Seven Joys of Mary!***
*On the Eighth Day of Christmas, the Good Lord gave to me: **An Octave of Blessing!***
*On the Ninth Day of Christmas, the Good Lord gave to me: **Nine New Vocations!***
*On the Tenth Day of Christmas, the Good Lord gave to me: **Ten Poor Clares Praying!***
*On the Eleventh Day of Christmas, the Good Lord gave to me: **Eleven Friars Singing!***
*On the Twelfth Day of Christmas, the Good Lord gave to me: **Twelve Stars Seraphic!***

Undoubtedly, many of you could do a better job with the versification, and surely all of you could come up with your own list of twelve symbolic gifts for our New-born Saviour this Christmastide with a grand total worth far more to our Good Lord than a measly \$34,558.65. May the infinite value of our lives be a gift highly pleasing to God as we celebrate the Nativity.



Veneration of the Holy Family was formally begun in the 17th century by Saint [François de Laval](#), the first bishop of [New France](#), who founded a [Confraternity](#).

The primary purpose of this feast is to present the Holy Family as a model for Christian families.

A pious practice among Catholics is to write "J.M.J." at the top of letters and personal notes as a reference to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as the Holy Family.^[8]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_Family

Holy Family depiction at Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Dill, East Timor

The Holy Family brings about a New Creation which reverses the sin brought about by the First Family. In the case of Adam and Eve, their disobedience causes the first murder, which is Cain killing his brother Abel and every other sin. Every murder involves someone killing his brother or sister in the Family of God. But the Holy Family will show a way out of this mess. The obedience of Mary (*Behold the Handmaid of the Lord...*), the obedience of Joseph (*and Joseph got up and taking the Child and His Mother...*) and the obedience of Jesus (and He went down to Nazareth and was obedient to them), will reverse the effects of the disobedience of Adam and Eve. Now the followers of Jesus will not only avoid killing their brothers and sisters, but will even love their enemies. As St. John Henry Newman said, "***We should ever conduct ourselves towards our enemy as if he were one day to be our friend.***" **Jesus, Mary and Joseph, fill us with the love you have for each other!!!**