

# IN TOUCH

Parish Website: <http://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk>

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28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Sunday 4 in Ordinary Time (A)

No: 1080

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## More will be expected of a man to whom more has been entrusted (Rule of St Benedict 2: 30)

### Fr Paul writes:

On Friday all around the world people observed Holocaust Memorial Day. It commemorates in particular the moment when Soviet troops liberated Auschwitz, on January 27th. The Council of Christians and Jews write : *Holocaust Memorial Day is intended to provide an opportunity for reflection on issues raised by all atrocities, especially those events officially designated as genocides. The mass murder of millions of people of different ethnic, cultural, religious and political groups in more than one genocide provided the darkest side of twentieth century human history. While the remit of the day is wide-reaching, its focus remains the Holocaust. Although many others perished as a result of Nazi actions, Holocaust Memorial Day provides an opportunity to especially reflect on the fate of European Jewry, for whom Hitler and others held a particular hatred.*

*Christians have also been among the perpetrators of genocide, as well as among the bystanders, and indeed the victims. Holocaust Memorial Day can give us cause to remember the reality that evil is still powerful in our world. It can strengthen our resolve to protect every community from discrimination, intimidation and violence.*

Just over fifty years ago the Second Vatican Council published its document about relations between Catholics and those of other faiths – *Nostra Aetate*, in 1965. Here the Council Fathers declared very clearly that the Christian tradition builds directly on that of Judaism, and that we are forever indebted to, and intimately related to, the Jewish people and their religious tradition : *The Church, therefore, cannot forget that she received the revelation of the Old Testament through the people with whom God in His inexpressible mercy concluded the Ancient Covenant. Nor can she forget that she draws sustenance from the root of that well-cultivated olive tree onto which have been grafted the wild shoots, the Gentiles. Indeed, the Church believes that by His cross Christ, Our Peace, reconciled Jews and Gentiles, making both one in Himself.*(n.4) They rejected any form of persecution of Jews (which has, tragically, marked the history of our relations over preceding centuries) and encouraged all Catholics to cultivate understanding and respect : *Since the spiritual patrimony common to Christians and Jews is thus so great, this sacred synod wants to foster and recommend that mutual understanding and respect which is the fruit, above all, of biblical and theological studies as well as of fraternal dialogues.* Since the publication of this document there have been many more writings which encourage us to acknowledge our indebtedness to Judaism, and to recognise our close links with Jews. Of particular importance is the document *Reflections On Catholic-Jewish Relations* which was produced by the Vatican Commission to mark the fiftieth anniversary of *Nostra Aetate*. Perhaps the most significant pronouncement of this document is the insistence that, *The covenant that God has offered Israel is irrevocable. "God is not man, that he should lie". The permanent elective fidelity of God expressed in earlier covenants is never repudiated. The New Covenant does not revoke the earlier covenants, but it brings them to fulfilment. Through the Christ event Christians have understood that all that had gone before was to be interpreted anew.* (n.27)

Please do study these documents, all available on our parish web site, and do pray for Jews around the world, many of whom live in fear of persecution once more.

God of all human experience, when one life is lost, it is as if the whole world is destroyed.

Help us to be alert to the injustices of history and of our present.

Where life is abused, unwelcomed, excluded or destroyed equip us to challenge and bring change.

God of all human hope, when one life is saved, the entire world is saved.

Help us to fight for life beyond injustice, genocide and even death itself.

Though we ask how we can go on after our hearts have been broken,

may we find strength and joy in the future unknown.

We ask these prayers in the name of the one who challenges and calls us, Jesus Christ our Lord. (from CTBI)

During the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis invited us all to experience and to proclaim God's mercy. We continue to respond to this call by reflecting on our response to the current migration crisis:

### **Martin Powys-Lybbe writes:**

There are estimated to be 60 million refugees worldwide, people driven from their homes by natural disasters, persecution or war. The causes of their flight may be beyond us, the province of their own regimes, diplomacy, the UN; but the human suffering of individuals is something we can alleviate. Because they want to return to their homes the vast majority, 80%, are in neighbouring countries such as Lebanon, Jordan, Kenya, but we can still ease their situation there through donating to charities such as our own CAFOD that are active in those countries.

Nearer to home are the 25000 unaccompanied children in Europe. It is hard for us to imagine the desperation of a family that is prepared to send abroad a child on its own. They are in a terrible condition both physically (malnourishment making them the more vulnerable to infections) and mentally, from their traumas both at home (many have witnessed the violent death of a family member) and on their travels. They are the prey of smugglers, traffickers and indifference.

10,000 of these children, previously registered at the Calais camp, have disappeared since its destruction. It is feared that most of them have become victims of human traffickers, sold into prostitution or slavery, or their organs used for transplants.

Through the Dublin Agreement and the Dubbs Amendment our government is pledged to give asylum to about 2000 of these unaccompanied children, but they have taken so far only a few hundred. Part of the problem is that local councils are often reluctant to take their quota, and seldom equipped to give them the compassion, counselling and training that they desperately need. How can we influence our local councils?

### **At 8.00 p.m. on Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> we are holding a service at Worth Abbey to show solidarity with refugees.**

It is not a Mass, it is focused on refugees, and all are invited. You will be asked at the end to write a card of hope which will be forwarded to an individual refugee, and you will be asked to donate to our own local refugee support group, led by Anna Pincus.

Parish contacts: <a href="mailto:parish@worth.org.uk">parish@worth.org.uk</a>	Night time emergencies only 07956 782634
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Parish Secretary: Mandy Horton	01342 710313
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*If you are unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact Mandy*

### **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, Mass 5pm (Presentation of The Lord)**

**Please remember in your prayers** – Queenie Hopcroft, John Surtees, Jo and Terry Fallon, Paul Frohock, Pat and Angus MacDonald and Nick Hely-Hutchinson.

**Anniversaries** – Please pray for the souls of Heather Levett; Bill Mitchell; William Hyde Hills; William Brown; Mike Brayshaw; Maurice Johnson; Mrs Rutherford; Alice Yaldren; Joseph Curran; John Hull; Ernest Walker; Rosemary Jansen; Violet Ferguson; Dom Hugh O’Neill; Dom Oliver Brayden; Michael Godfrey; Elizabeth Fresne. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen.

**Worth Choral Society.** Rehearsals in progress for the next concert on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March. If you would like to sing Haydn’s St Nicholas Mass, please come along to rehearsals on Thursdays @ 7pm in the PAC.

**Day of Reflection for Eucharistic Ministers** with Bishop Richard. Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February 11am-4pm. Arundel Cathedral and Cathedral Centre. Booking essential. Contact [ruth.gerun@dabnet.org](mailto:ruth.gerun@dabnet.org)/01293 651164

*The parish is most grateful for the service which the Eucharistic Ministers give us. May I ask you to try to attend this excellent day with Bishop Richard in Arundel ? Many thanks. Fr Paul*

**Volunteer Opportunities** Friendship Parish in Irundu; Gatwick Visitors’ Group, Refugees Welcome-Crawley, Parish TRAI DCRAFT stall, Meals for the Homeless with the Interfaith Forum. Contact the Parish Office for more information.

**Worth Irundu Friendship Committee:** We are looking for new volunteers for the committee. Please contact Fr Paul.

### **Refugees Welcome-Crawley**

- The AGM for Refugees Welcome is on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April @ 7pm** in the United Reform Church Pound Hill Crawley. This is our chance to join in a shared meal after the meeting and there will be personal testimony from volunteers and local refugees.
- train to become a befriender or English teacher for refugees in Crawley. Email Anna Pincus: [rwcanna@gmail.com](mailto:rwcanna@gmail.com)
- join a community sewing project (no sewing experience needed) to celebrate Crawley's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday  
Email [isobel1998@live.co.uk](mailto:isobel1998@live.co.uk)

- make tea or facilitate play for Syrian children whose families attend English language teaching drop-in classes.

Email [Henrietta.Newell@btinternet.com](mailto:Henrietta.Newell@btinternet.com)

- aged 16 to 25? Join a group offering social opportunities such as gardening, art, bowling, to young refugees.

Email David: [rwcanina@gmail.com](mailto:rwcanina@gmail.com)

**Stamps for Alzheimers Association.** Please deposit any used stamps in the Notice Board Box in the Narthex.

Rachel (Davies) also collects rinsed plastic milk container tops for charity.

**Food Bank.** Please leave any donations of non-perishable food at the collection point at St Benedict's. Thank you.

## PARISH DIARY DATES

**Parish Evangelisation Team.** Please contact Fr Paul for details.

**A&B Prayer & Reflection Programme for Lent:** Booklets available from DABCEC [bookshop@dabnet.org](mailto:bookshop@dabnet.org)

**Parish Walk,** THIS Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> January, 11.15am from the car park behind The Bent Arms in Lindfield. Approx 4.5 miles. Do come for lunch at 1.45pm if you are unable to make the walk. Contact Trisha [TrishiaSOL@aol.com](mailto:TrishiaSOL@aol.com) or Christina [cfitzs3287@aol.com](mailto:cfitzs3287@aol.com)

## OTHER EVENTS:

**Medjugorje** 3<sup>rd</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> June. A Pilgrimage with a Benedictine flavour and Fr Alex as Chaplain. Contact Geraldine 07766008844/[g.tighe@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:g.tighe@hotmail.co.uk) or Mervyn 01342716021/[mervynthomas@uwclub.net](mailto:mervynthomas@uwclub.net)

**A&B Lourdes Pilgrimage** 26<sup>th</sup> July-4<sup>th</sup> August. Helpers and Redshirts: Apply online at [www.ablourdes.org/contact](http://www.ablourdes.org/contact)

**Quiet Day** *In the Footsteps of St Ignatius* Wednesday, 1st February 10am-4pm at Storrington Priory RH20 4LN led by members of the Chemin Neuf Community. Light lunch provided. Contact [ccn.storrington.desk@gmail.com](mailto:ccn.storrington.desk@gmail.com)

**Defending the Catholic Faith without Shouting:** Diocesan Formation Day. Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February at DABCEC with Austen Ivereigh, Papal Biographer, Coordinator/Co-Founder of Catholic Voices and a contributing editor for Crux. 9am-2pm. Please bring a packed lunch. Email: [communications@dabnet.org](mailto:communications@dabnet.org)

**Evening of Reflection with Bishop Richard** (11-18s) Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February, 6.30-9.30pm. St Paul's Catholic College, Burgess Hill. Email [Jack.Regan@dabnet.org](mailto:Jack.Regan@dabnet.org).

**Crawley Interfaith Speaker Evening** Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 7-9pm. "Britishness Today"-Henry Smith: Cons. MP for Crawley, Crawley Library, Southgate Avenue, RH10 6HG. Contact Iyad Daoud [contact@crawleyinterfaith.net](mailto:contact@crawleyinterfaith.net)

**Bishops Conference Resource** for those terminally ill and their loved ones. Visit [www.artofdyingwell.org](http://www.artofdyingwell.org)

**Daily Prayer Session** to help you pray whenever you have time. Visit [www.pray-as-you-go.org/home](http://www.pray-as-you-go.org/home)

**Universalis** -visit [www.universalis.com](http://www.universalis.com) for Psalms and Readings for each hour of today, everyday.

## REGULAR EVENTS IN THE PARISH

**Adoration: Friday evenings 7.00- 8.00pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.** A time of reflection, music and silence.

**Confessions (Sacrament of Reconciliation)** Sundays 9.10-9.30am before Mass. **Marian Prayer Group** - 2nd/4th Monday 7.45pm, Lady Chapel. **Lectio Divina** - Tuesdays 8.20pm, half an hour, in Parlour 3 (entry from the Narthex). Followed by Compline. **Mass with Prayers for Healing** (1st Wednesday) 7.15pm Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Next date 1<sup>st</sup> February. **Christian Meditation Group** in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. 7.45-8.45pm followed by Compline. Next dates: 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Contact: Gabrielle Joyce: 01342 326118/Caterina Brown: 01243 554001.

**Vigil for Vocations** (1st Friday) 9.00pm to midnight in the Abbey Church. Next dates 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

**Children's Liturgy** (1st Saturday) Next date 4<sup>th</sup> February. **Sunday Prayers for Healing** - Half hour Service in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel once a month after 9.30am Sunday Mass. Next date 5<sup>th</sup> February. **Next Bereavement Session** 28<sup>th</sup> February. St Benedict's 10am.

## Next Sunday's readings:

### **First reading - Isaiah 58: 7-10**

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?  
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you,  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rearguard.  
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday. (NRSV)

### **Second reading - 1 Corinthians 2: 1-5**

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. (NRSV)

### **Gospel - Matt 5: 13-16**

You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. (NRSV)

Monday, 30<sup>th</sup>: Hebrews 11: 32-40, Mark 5: 1-20

Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup>: Hebrews 12: 1-4 Mark 5: 21-43

Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup>: Hebrews 12: 4-7, 11-15 Mark 6: 1-6

Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mal 3:1-4 or Heb 2: 14-18 Luke 2: 22-40

Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup>: Hebrews 13: 1-8; Mark 6: 14-29

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> Hebrews 13:15-17, 20-21 Mark 6: 30-34

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