

IN TOUCH

Parish Website: www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk

4th/5th March 2017

Sunday 1 of Lent (A)

No: 1085

Your way of acting should be different from the world's way: the love of Christ must come before all else (Rule of St Benedict 4: 20-21)

Fr Paul writes:

Last week we began our celebration of Lent, with the distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday. We use ashes because they are a sign of our wish to repent – to undergo a change of heart. *Repent, and believe the Good News (or Gospel)* is the prayer which we hear as we are marked with the ashes. (Ashes are a traditional symbol of repentance in the Bible. It always comes with sackcloth, a detail which we have set aside nowadays. Perhaps this is a mercy !)

The word "Lent" refers to the lengthening of the days as we move into spring, and one emphasis in Lent is that of personal renewal, so that we may enjoy more fully the celebration of Easter, and the fruit of the Resurrection, the new life which Jesus offers us.

In other European languages the word refers to "forty" – an allusion to the forty days which Jesus spent in the desert after His baptism, in fasting and prayer, meditating on His vocation to be Son of God, and the ministry which lay ahead of Him.

In the early Church, Lent became the final moment of preparation for those who would be baptised at the Easter Vigil, when they would descend into a font of water dug into the ground, to be submerged and rise up at the other side, so symbolising their wish to die and rise with Jesus. The custom developed for the entire Church to accompany the Catechumens in their last, and most intense, stage of instruction and prayer before their entry into the Christian community.

So Lent offers us many themes for meditation. It is a specially good moment to receive the grace of the sacrament of Reconciliation, which is offered every Sunday before the 9.30 mass, and which will be available before and after the liturgy of the Passion on Good Friday. (*Be reconciled to God*, Paul begs us in his reading.) We can also think with gratitude about our adoption as sons and daughters of God, and what can help us deepen the relationship of love and trust into which God our Father invites us. We can meditate on our own baptism, and what it means to be called to share in Jesus' ministry – as prophet, priest and king: how can we bring the presence of God and the message of His love and His Kingdom into a world which often seems to be hostile to the Gospel ?

In the Gospel on Wednesday we are reminded of the three traditional practices, prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Today we are accustomed to give up some treat during Lent, and it is good to remember the CAFOD fast day this Friday, (in aid of communities in Zambia this year) and the Lenten lunches sponsored by the parish each Monday at the home of the Clarkes, Cinder Hill, near West Hoathly. Perhaps we might also consider giving up some time – to visit someone in need, to spend time in prayer, or to take part in the discussion group looking at the Passion Narratives in the four gospels. (Please see below for details of all these.) We might also remember Isaiah's words about the true fast – *to break unjust fetters, to let the oppressed go free, to share your bread with the hungry, and shelter the homeless poor.* (58.6ff)

Thursday 9th March, Mass at 5.10pm

Please remember in your prayers – Wilfred Ng RIP and his family, Emily Martin, Tim Wheeler, Queenie Hopcroft, John Surtees, Jo and Terry Fallon, Paul Frohock, and Nick Hely-Hutchinson

Thank you "Pat MacDonald wishes to express sincere thanks to everyone who sent loving messages, cards and especially prayers at the time of my bereavement which my family and I found truly uplifting. Angus will be so missed. Thank you"

Anniversaries – Please pray for the souls of Jim Ryan, Simon Newnham, John Walford, Merryel Barnwell,

Mother Mary Garson - Founder Benedictine Sisters of Grace & Compassion, Tony Corio, Stan Geal, Daniel Harrison, Rev Canon Richard Incedon, Nancy Wilson Stuart. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them; may they rest in peace. Amen.

Used stamps and rinsed plastic milk container tops collected for charity via Rachel Davies.

Circle Club/Day Centre: Volunteer Drivers needed to join the rota. If you can help occasionally or regularly, please get in touch with Madelaine Nash (madelainenash@btinternet.com). Drivers will undergo DBS checks and need to confirm with their insurers that they will be volunteer driving. An allowance of 20p per mile is available.

Irundu News: Fr Stephen writes that he has now bought the equipment needed for the Car Mechanics Workshop. Our thanks to all who contributed to our recent appeal for this project. Our thanks also to Sara and Mandy, who organised a very successful and enjoyable supper at Java and Jazz in Forest Row, and to John Gallagher who generously donated part of the proceeds to Irundu. Including the raffle we raised over £250. Irundu is suffering from drought, so please pray for our friendship parish.

Worth Irundu Friendship Committee are looking for new volunteer members. Please contact Fr Paul.

Refugees Welcome Crawley AGM and shared meal Tuesday 18th April, 7pm in the United Reform Church Pound Hill.

EVENTS FOR LENT

Discussion Group in St Benedict's on Wednesday evenings, starting this week, 8th March, at 7.30pm.
We will study the Passion narratives together as a preparation for Holy Week.

Stations of the Cross will be celebrated each Friday in Lent at 8pm in the Abbey Church, beginning on 10th March until Friday, 7th April. The service ends before Compline at 9pm

Adoration at Worth Abbey Starting this Lent, you are invited to take part in silent adoration each Friday in the Blessed Sacrament chapel. Please contact Fr Rod for more details

Friday, March 10th is CAFOD's Lent Fast Day.

CAFOD's focus for this Lent Fast Day is an initiative in Zambia, Southern Africa, where CAFOD is empowering farmers to switch from inefficient farming of land crops to productive fish farming. Please take a CAFOD Lent Fast Day envelope away with you today and use the envelope as a reminder to pray and fast on Friday, 10th March for this important initiative. Please return your envelope with your donation to CAFOD next weekend. Alternatively you can donate for Lent Fast Day or give regularly online via cafod.org.uk/lent. If you prefer spontaneity, please text FAST17 £5 to 70070 to donate £5. Concurrent to this CAFOD Lent Fast Day initiative, Hal and Rory Clarke will once again generously open their home on Monday lunchtimes throughout Lent to benefit CAFOD. This year all funds raised will be directed to CAFOD's refugee support initiative. These delicious soup lunches begin at 12.30pm on Mondays during Lent. The format is relaxed and everyone is welcome. No need to book in advance, simply arrive, sample the delicious soup of the week, meet and enjoy conversation with other parishioners, be amazed that in "loaves and fishes" fashion Hal and Rory are always able to feed the masses, and then put whatever donation you wish in the "can." Additionally, CAFOD postcards upon which you can write a message of hope and support to a refugee will be available at the lunches if you missed doing this when the Lampedusa Cross visited the Abbey. From 12.30pm on Mondays during Lent, beginning 6th March and concluding 10th April at Cinderhill House, Cinderhill, Sharpthorne, RH17 7BD.

"Fasting makes sense if it really chips away at our security and, as a consequence, benefits someone else, if it helps us cultivate the style of the good Samaritan, who bent down to his brother in need and took care of him." Pope Francis

PARISH DIARY DATES

Prayers for Healing. Once a month, there is a half hour Service of Prayers for Healing in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel after 9.30am Sunday Mass. All welcome! Next dates: 5th March, no April, and 7th May.

THIS SUNDAY, 5th March, 7.30pm in the Abbey Church - Worth Abbey Choral Society and The Kidbrooke Park Singers: *Joseph Haydn*, Missa Sancti Nicolai. With orchestral pieces by Susato, Hoffmeister, Bach and Coates. In aid of Outreach Peru. Conductor Michael Oakley.

SAVE THE DATE Sunday 12th March: Organ Recital, D'Arcy Trinkwon in the Abbey Church at 7.30 pm

www.darcytrinkwon.com

H.C.P.T. Coffee Morning, Bring & Buy and Raffle to raise funds to send a child to Lourdes this Easter. Stonecote, Birch Grove, Horsted Keynes, the home of Angela Bellord. Weds 8th March at 10.30am. Tel 01825 740269.

Parish Walk, Sunday 12th March. Meet 11.15am at the car park on Lower Road (off Hartfield Rd), Forest Row, RH18 5HE. Easy 5-mile walk. Lunch 1.45pm at Brambletye Hotel, Forest Row RH18 5EZ. For more details, contact Trish (TrishiaSOL@aol.com) or Christina (cfitzs3287@aol.com)

PPC elections Rachel Davies, Paddy Hall, Christina Fitzsimons, Ana Griffiths, Martin Harewood, D'Arcy Trinkwon Theresa Hobson-Frohock, Christopher Killick, Marian Killick, Sophia Vaughan and Michael Weston-Burt are standing for PPC membership at the elections on 11th/12th March. Parishioners will be asked to vote before or after Mass and invited to choose from these candidates to fill the eight elected PPC positions. We will put their photographs on the Parish website. If you do not know them, please look out for them in the Narthex or at St Dunstan's on Sunday mornings or on Saturday evenings.

Parish AGM after 9.30am Mass on Sunday 19th March

DIY Skills needed! We are setting up a small group, in association with SVP in Crawley, to do occasional decorating and DIY jobs for people that the SVP are supporting in Crawley. If you would like to be involved please contact Christina (cfitzs3287@aol.com) or Theresa (tree@waitrose.com) or Paddy (paddy901@googlemail.com). We need you! We already have one job waiting for us. The aim is for it to be sociable as well as worthwhile. No need to be an expert - we just need people willing to help.

OTHER EVENTS:

Catholic Singles helps single Catholics of all ages (over 18 years) meet other single Catholics, either one to one or through social events. Visit www.catholicsingles.org.uk or tel. 0161 941 3498

ENCOUNTER EVENING FOR 15-30s with Brother Angelo from the Franciscan Friars of The Renewal. 10th March, 7.30pm at St Wilfrid's School (RH11 8PG). Search 'ENCOUNTER Crawley' on Facebook.

St Cuthman's Residential Retreat: Mon 13th-Weds 15th March: *Finding Forgiveness*. Led by Dr Stephanie Thornton. Visit www.stcuthmans.org/events/

Chilworth Abbey Study Day with Fr John Seddon OSB, Sat, 18th March, 9am-4pm www.chilworthbenedictines.com

Renewal of Promises by the Wellspring Community: Saturday 25th March (Feast of the Annunciation) at the 9am Mass, in the presence of Bishop Richard Moth and the Worth Monastic Community

Interested in Social Action? Saturday 25th March 10am-1pm at DABCEC. Help set up a Network for Social Action in the Diocese. For more information contact aidan.cantwell@dabnet.org.

Easter Retreat for Young Adults – Popular and powerful Easter Retreat for young adults 13th-16th April, offering young adults the chance to journey together through the key events marked by the Easter Triduum. toc@worthabbey.net

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 5th April **Christian Meditation Group in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel** 7.45-8.45pm followed by Compline. Next date 29th March. Contact:

Gabrielle Joyce: 01342 326118/Caterina Brown: 01243 554001. **Vigil for Vocations** (1st Friday) 9.00pm to midnight in the Abbey Church. Next date 7th April. **Children's Liturgy** (1st Saturday) Next date 1st April. **Sunday Prayers for Healing** - Half hour Service in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel once a month after 9.30am Sunday Mass. Next dates 5th March, 7th May.

Next Bereavement Session 28th March, St Benedict's from 10am.

Parish contacts: parish@worth.org.uk

Parish Priest: Fr Paul Fleetwood

Parish Secretary: Mandy Horton

Safeguarding: Rachel Davies 07801 696354

In Touch: worthintouch@hotmail.co.uk

Night time emergencies only 07956 782634

01342 710313 (Mob 07764 260216)

01342 710313

Car Share: Jill Carter 07836 316525

Parish website: worthabbeyparish.co.uk

If you are unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact Mandy.

Next Sunday's Readings

First reading – Genesis 12:1-4

Now the Lord said to Abraham, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. (NRSV)

Second reading – 2 Timothy 1: 8-10

Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. (NRSV)

Gospel - Matt 17: 1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.' (NRSV)

Monday, 6th: Lev 19:1-2, 11-18; Matt 25: 31-46

Tuesday, 7th: Isaiah 55: 10-11; Matt 6: 7-15

Wednesday, 8th: Jonah 3: 1-10; Luke 11:29-32

Thursday, 9th: Esth C: 12, 14-16, 23-25; Matt 7: 7-12

Friday, 10th: Ezek 18: 21-28; Matt 5: 20-26

Saturday 11th: Deut 26: 16-19; Matt 5: 43-48

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