

IN TOUCH

Parish Website: www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk

1st/2nd April 2017

Sunday 5 of Lent (A)

No: 1089

If people curse you, do not curse them back but bless them instead (Rule of St Benedict 4: 32)

Fr Paul writes:

The other Sunday we held the parish AGM, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those of you who generously found the time to support this occasion. I take this as a way of saying that the parish is important to you, and I am grateful for that gesture.

We opened with talks from Aidan Cantwell and Anna Pincus, who both spoke about different aspects of the refugee crisis. Aidan began by showing a film made by the UNHCR. It presented statistics about the international situation, accompanied by images which were as disturbing as the figures. We heard that over 65 million people were displaced in 2015, more than the population of France. This amounts to nearly 1% of the world's population. Most are in the Middle East and Africa, and 90% live in a poor country. Most refugees in the world, those who have crossed an international border, come from Syria, Afghanistan and Somalia, all countries with a long history of extreme violence. The majority of these are women and children, and among them there are about 100,000 unaccompanied children. (Do please find a link to the film on the parish web site.) Aidan then spoke about the part the diocese is playing in helping to resettle Syrian families. (Most of these are in towns along the south coast, but there are several families living in towns local to us.) Anna spoke about Immigration detention and the role of the Gatwick Visitors' Group, who try to support them. She explained how detainees are kept in conditions like those of a prison, but, because detention is indefinite, it is therefore much worse than a prison sentence. Not knowing how long it will last leads to real mental illness, and sometimes detainees are released directly into mental hospitals. (Do please take this opportunity to write to your MP to draw their attention to this. You might remind them that those who are detained by Police because they are suspected of a terrorist offence may only be held for fourteen days, yet those detained by immigration, without committing any offence, may be held indefinitely.) Anna then spoke about the work of Refugees Welcome Crawley, serving local refugee families. In all these organisations we can play our part of service.

We then heard a presentation by Christina Fitzsimons and Paddy Hall and Theresa Hobson Frohock about the CAFOD initiative, Livesimply.

Christina writes : CAFOD set up the Live Simply initiative a few years ago and it has gained impetus from Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si*, which calls on us all to care for our common home.

Live Simply has three main strands: Live Simply, Live Sustainably, Live in solidarity with the Poor. It is a call to faith in action. The first strand – Live Simply – invites us to a better appreciation of what we have and to be educated and responsible consumers, thinking about our buying choices and avoiding waste and harm to others through our choices. The second strand – Live Sustainably – invites us to look at how we care for the environment and how we might do more to preserve it. The third strand – live in solidarity with the poor – is a call to help those in need as much as possible. The scheme starts by asking the parish to record what it already does under these headings. It then asks for new initiatives to supplement what the parish is already doing. (Here we remembered that we are already involved in many activities which fall into these strands – working with refugees, those in detention and those living locally, and supporting our friendship parish in Irundu, the lunches in the Friary, Crawley, and the Interfaith Forum.)

I would like to thank Christina, Paddy and Theresa very much for the work which they are doing for us. It is my vision for the parish that we should become a Christian community which is truly at the service of our society, and most especially of those who are in greatest need. My hope is that by adopting the Livesimply initiative we will find a sharper focus for our pastoral work, and one which will unite all our various activities. I believe that this is the kind of Church which Pope Francis wants. In his great encyclical, *Laudato Si*, he shows how work for ecology and work for the poor are always closely linked. He writes : *The gravest effects of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poor...A true ecological approach always becomes a social approach...so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.* (#48 & 49) Elsewhere he writes : *The poor are the privileged recipients of the Gospel...there is an inseparable bond between our faith and the poor.* (*Evangelii Gaudium*, #48.)

The poor and excluded can help us understand the Gospel better !

Please help to end indefinite detention. Visit the Refugee Tales website (refugeetales.org) – see the link via the parish website. Please write to your MP (www.parliament.uk/get-involved/contact-your-mp), or, better, go to see him/her. Invite him or her to the meeting organised by the Refugee Tales group on July 5th to learn more about the issues. Or help to publicise their work.

You could also volunteer with Refugees Welcome Crawley – email Anna Pincus at rwanna@gmail.com Or simply come to support them at their AGM for a meal with their Syrian friends at 7 pm on Tuesday, 18th April, at the URC in Pound Hill, Worth Park Avenue, RH10 3DF.

Thursday 6th April, Mass at 5.30pm

Please remember in your prayers – Terry Fallon, RIP; John Surtees, RIP; Angus MacDonald, RIP; Wilfred Ng, RIP, and their families; Terry Smith and his wife Peggy; Barry Devlin, and Mary, RIP, his wife; Nick Hely-Hutchinson; Tim Wheeler; Queenie Hopcroft; Emily Martin; Paul Frohock.

Prayers for new Christians: Bishop Richard asks for our prayers “..as we prepare to welcome new Christians amongst us (this Easter), those who make a new journey in the light of the Gospel.” At the beginning of Lent, Bishop Richard welcomed 48 people preparing for Christian Baptism and another 95 people, already baptised, who will be received fully into the Catholic Church in parishes this Easter.

Westminster Terror Attack: Please pray for those killed or injured in the terrorist attack in London on Wednesday 22nd March at Westminster and for their families.

Anniversaries – Please pray for the souls of Bert Rayson; Rev Guy Bowden; Ann Thomas; Terry Black; Andrew Martin; Peter Lazarus; Marjorie Burrows; Germaine Garnaoud; Julian Dare (Worth School Teacher); Mr Malton; Alan Twigg; Paddy McGrath; Ellen Morice; Paula Rawlins; Tom Neve; Andrew O’Brien; John Ferguson; Irene Cooper; Fleur BurrIDGE. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen.

Irundu Appeal: Our friendship parish in Irundu is suffering from hunger. Poor rains mean poor crops, and no money to buy seeds for planting. The severe drought has, mercifully, ended. Now is the time to plant to ensure food for the future. We can provide the seeds. It costs £6.40 to buy seeds for one family. With your help we can prevent starvation. Please give generously - pick up a flyer or use our gift aid envelope. Cynthia Haynes is going to Irundu next month. She will take our donation with her and ensure it is well spent.

OUTREACH PERU: Sr Charo, a result of Fr Paul’s youth group ministry in Parroquia San Benito, Lima, visits Worth Abbey from 9th April to 9th May. First time in Europe, first time in England, English rudimentary: if anyone would like to accompany/host/take her out, please contact Fr Alex (dalex@worth.org.uk 01342 710 328)

EVENTS FOR LENT

Silent Adoration on Fridays in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.
1-5 pm; 7-9 pm. ('Holy Hour' 7-8 pm)

'Holy Hour' followed by Stations of the Cross at 8 pm, every Friday in Lent
in the Abbey Church. The service ends before Compline at 9 pm

Discussion Group in St Benedict’s on Wednesday evenings at 7.15pm (new time)
Last meeting 5th April.

CAFOD Lenten Soup Lunches from 12.30 pm on Mondays during Lent,
Cinderhill House, Cinderhill, Sharpthorne, RH17 7BD.

Palm Sunday

Saturday 8th April, 5 pm Mass with procession
Sunday 9th April, Procession and Mass 9.30 am, starting in the Piazza.

Maundy Thursday, 13th April – Mass of The Lord's Supper, 8.30 pm

Good Friday, 14th April – The Passion of The Lord Liturgy, 3 pm

Easter Saturday, 15th April –No Vigil Mass at 5 pm
Easter Vigil Mass of the Lord's Resurrection in the Holy Night 9 pm

Easter Sunday, 16th April – Mass 10.30 am, Abbey Church
Mass at St Dunstan's, 11.30 am

Confession/Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available in Holy Week:

Maundy Thursday from 8 pm;
Good Friday, from 2.30 pm, and after the liturgy;
Holy Saturday from 8.30 pm; Easter Sunday morning, from 10 am.

“We find the path to life when we are truly open to the light that comes from Christ. It is in him we find our dignity and the new possibilities that lead us to life.” (Bishop Richard)

PARISH DIARY DATES

In Touch: In Touch will be on holiday, following the Palm Sunday weekend edition, returning the weekend of 29th/30th April. The parish would welcome your thoughts (parish@worth.org.uk) on whether you would like to receive In Touch via email, rather than printed copy. Emails are cost-effective (saving on paper and print) and may help reduce our carbon footprint.

HCPT Coffee Morning update: The final total raised was £1,020.00. Thank you to all involved.

Counters: Each week the Parish has to count and bank the weekly collections as well as sundry other items (e.g. second collections, Irundu tins). If you can help, please contact John Cooper cooperjohn888@gmail.com for details.

Traidcraft: Last opportunity this weekend to purchase our Traidcraft Easter eggs! The stall will be open after 5pm Mass on Saturday, 1st April and 9.30am Mass on Sunday, 2nd April.

DIY Skills needed! A small group, in association with SVP in Crawley, doing occasional decorating and DIY jobs for people that the SVP are supporting in Crawley. No need to be an expert – just willingness to help. Contact Christina cfitzs3287@aol.com or Theresa tree@waitrose.com or Paddy paddy901@googlemail.com.

OTHER EVENTS:

Holy Week Liturgies at the Cathedral with Bishop Richard: Begins with the Mass of Chrism, 6pm on Wednesday, 12th April with blessing of oils and renewal of priestly promises. All welcome. www.abdiocese.org.uk

The Wellspring Community: On the Solemnity of the Annunciation, 25th March, 6 members renewed their community promises. The community has 10 members in their 20s and 30s, most of whom are single, discerning Christ's call, but also including a family, Ben and Katy, who have two young children. www.wellspringbrighton.org.uk

Easter Triduum Retreat for Young Adults: 13th-16th April. Worth Abbey and The Wellspring Community invite young adults (ages 18-35) to celebrate the Easter Triduum in prayer, community and reflection with a retreat at Worth. You are also invited to take part in a "Cross Walk" from Arundel on 9th April, walking across the South Downs and arriving at Worth for the beginning of the retreat. Contact fcarbhone@wellspringbrighton.org.uk

Refugees Welcome-Crawley: A local young women who is expecting a baby has been given accommodation for herself and her six year old child at very short notice and it is unfurnished. If you know anyone who has curtains, rugs, a chest of drawers, a TV, please contact Cathy Merry: merrycat1@gmail.com

Crawley InterFaith Network Speaker Evening: Thursday, 27th April, *The Beliefs of East Asian Faiths*, Satish K Sharma: General Secretary, National Council of Hindu Temples (UK) The Orchard, 1-2 Gleneagles Court, Brighton Road, Crawley, RH10 6AD Contact Iyad Daoud 01293 883372; contact@crawleyinterfaith.net

SAVE THE DATE:

National Justice & Peace AGM & Open Networking Day at CAFOD, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JB. 13th May 10.30am–4.00pm. Email: admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk; Tel: 0207 901 4864

Horsham Amnesty Presentation of "Asylum Monologues" at the Hawth studio, Crawley on 20th June, 7.30pm. Based on interviews with three asylum seekers, it tells their stories, in their own words, as if the three were in conversation. Presentation about 50 minutes, followed by representatives from a number of local groups, each explaining the work they do with asylum seekers and refugees. Box Office 01293 553636 www.amnesty.org.uk; www.refugeeweek.org.uk

REGULAR EVENTS IN THE PARISH

Adoration: Friday evenings 7.00- 8.00pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Reflection, music and silence. **Confessions (Sacrament of Reconciliation)** Sundays 9.10-9.30am before Mass. **Marian Prayer Group** - 2nd/4th Monday NEW TIME 7.30pm, Lady Chapel. **Lectio Divina** - Tuesdays 8.20pm, for 30 mins, 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 dates 5th & 26th April. 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 6th May. **Sunday Prayers for Healing** - Half hour Service in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel once a month after 9.30am Sunday Mass. Next date 7th May. **Next Bereavement Session TBC**, St Benedict's from 10am.

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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 Fr Paul.

Next Sunday's readings:

Matt 21:1-11 (Procession)

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately. This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd^{*} spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!' When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

or John 12:12-16 (Procession)

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,

'Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord - the King of Israel!'

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: 'Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.

Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!'

His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

First reading – Isa 50: 4-7;

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards.

I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced;

therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

Second reading – Phil 2: 6-11

who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name

that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel – Matt 26:14-27:66

Monday, 3rd: Dan 13: 41-62; John 8: 1-11

Tuesday, 4th: Num 21: 4-9; John 8: 21-30

Wednesday, 5th: Dan 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; John 8: 31-42

Thursday, 6th: Gen 17: 3-9; John 8: 51-59

Friday, 7th: Jer 20: 10-13; John 10, 31-42

Saturday 8th: Ezek 37: 21-28; John 11: 45-56