

IN TOUCH

Parish Website: www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk

8th /9th^d April 2017

Palm Sunday (A)

No: 1090

Fr Paul writes:

Today we begin our celebration of Holy Week, when we are invited to walk alongside Jesus during the last days of his life. The Church's calendar follows the chronology of the synoptic gospel writers, Matthew, Mark and Luke, who themselves probably followed an early liturgical tradition. (You will notice that John's arrangement is different : the Last Supper is not a Passover meal in his gospel, but takes place the evening before, so that the moment when Pilate condemns him to death falls at the time when the Passover lambs were being slaughtered in the Temple on Passover Eve, thus showing that Jesus replaces these as the true sacrifice which brings us freedom.) In the Synoptic gospels Jesus' entry into Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives (in Jewish tradition, the place where the Messiah was expected to appear) leads directly on to Jesus' entry into the Temple. His action here (the "cleansing" of the Temple) represents God's judgement on the Jewish leadership, the Temple being the centre of authority for the Jewish world, not only in religious affairs, but also political, financial and juridical. It was, as it were, Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament, the Bank of England and The Old Bailey, all at once. This prophetic act is the culmination of Jesus' entire ministry, his defence of the poor and excluded against the leaders of the country, Pharisees and Sadducees, whose structures had excluded the great majority of the poor. His death was a direct consequence of this action. The Temple itself symbolised by its very design this exclusion : concentric courts from which more were successively excluded – Gentiles, women, laymen, priests. At the centre stood the Holy of Holies, held to be God's own dwelling place, to which the High Priest alone was admitted, and then but once a year, on the Day of Atonement. Jesus, by his life and death, ended this exclusion from the presence of God, and the gospels represent this by the tearing of the veil which covered the entrance of the Holy of Holies, at the moment of Jesus' death, signifying our access through Jesus to the presence of God.

The other week, on March 24th, the Church around the world remembered the death of a modern martyr, Archbishop Oscar Romero, who died murdered by the authorities in El Salvador in 1980. Like Jesus, he died because he championed the cause of the poor against those who exploited them. A recent visitor to this country, Sr Martha Zechmeister, comments, "Oscar Romero taught me that nobody can seriously seek God without struggling for a more just world. *To do justice for the poor and oppressed, this is truly to know God.* Christians are those people who follow Jesus, and who do what he did. They risk their own lives by taking sides alongside the vulnerable, those in danger and those excluded. "A Church that does not join the poor in order to speak out on behalf of the poor and against the injustices committed against them, is not the true Church of Jesus Christ...." As we celebrate Holy Week let us pray that we may truly become the Church for the poor, standing beside them.

(Please see the full text of the reflection by Sr Martha Zechmeister on the parish website.)

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

Anniversaries – Please pray for the souls of Bert Powell, Basil Genders, John Biles, Nora Ann Richey-Brown, George Botting, George Sharman, Pat Seal, Joan Rich, David Moore, Paula Bateman, Marisol Burrige, Helene Stoppani, Fr Alban Brooks, Peta Orr. 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

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

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 this 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.

Fr Paul will be away from 24th to 29th April. We will try to pick up messages. Please use only the email parish@worth.org.uk

St Francis Ramblers invite you to join them on their walk on Good Friday 14 April. Also, we will attend the 3pm Good Friday service at Worth Abbey, so please remove boots before entering the Church, to spare the carpet. Meet Three Bridges station (walkers' train due in at 10.13am). Distance 8.5 miles with lunch stop (at The Cowdray Arms, RH17 6QD), finishing at Three Bridges. Please call Paul on 07847 28 26 26 for more details.

The next parish walk is on Sunday April 23rd. It starts in the pretty village of Hartfield. Meet at the Anchor Inn car park at 11.15 am (Church St, Hartfield TN7 4AG). The walk is a 4.5 mile gentle ramble through fields in their full Spring splendour. There are just a couple of slight gradients with wonderful views of the Sussex countryside. Please let us know if you would like to join us for the walk and/or lunch, Trish (TrishiaSOL@aol.com) and Christina (cfitzs3287@aol.com)

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.

Kir Horner writes: **Refugees Welcome Crawley** is collecting wrapped shoeboxes to send out to Syrian children. Several containers of aid have been sent since the war started. We can help this initiative by wrapping shoe boxes in colourful paper such as gift wrap. Both the lid and the box itself should be wrapped separately, so that one can open and close the box. Additionally or alternatively, new and "like new" items for children that would fit into a shoebox can be donated. Examples of appropriate things are toiletries like toothpaste, flannel, or soap. Toys like balls, small teddies or soft toys, bubbles, bracelet, cards, games, or cars (no war toys please). Biscuits, sweets or crisps, but not chocolate and food must be vegetarian with nothing containing gelatine. Stationery like notebook, pencils or crayons. Clothes like hats, gloves, socks, or booties. All items should be unused and small enough to fit in a shoebox. Money can also be donated via <https://www.gofundme.com/shoeboxes> crawley. Please leave any wrapped and empty shoe boxes, wrapped and filled shoe boxes, or loose small items at St. Benedicts by Easter Sunday. You can also bring them to the Clarke's Monday Lenten Lunches. Any of these items would be greatly appreciated. If wrapped and filled boxes are donated, kindly affix a label to the lid specifying the type of child for which the box is intended, such as "baby," "boy 2 to 5 years," or "girl 6 to 10 years." Thank you.

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

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 fcarbone@wellspringbrighton.org.uk

Refugees Welcome-Crawley: A local young woman 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

Austen Ivereigh will visit the parish on Saturday, 7th October, to speak about Pope Francis and his spirituality and theology, looking especially at *Evangelii Gaudium* and *Laudato Si*. The talk will be in the morning and we will end with lunch. (Austen, a former pupil of the school, is the author of a best-selling biography of Pope Francis.)

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.

Parish contacts: parish@worth.org.uk

Night time emergencies only : 07956 782634

Parish Priest: Fr Paul Fleetwood : 01342 710313 (Mob 07764 260216)

Safeguarding: Rachel Davies 07801 696354

Car Share: Jill Carter 07836 316525

In Touch: worthintouch@hotmail.co.uk

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 week's readings:

Monday : Isa 42:1-7; John 12:1-11

Tuesday : Isa 49: 1-6; John 13: 21-33, 36-38

Wednesday : Isa 50 : 4-9a; Matt 26: 14-25

Easter Triduum

Maundy Thursday : Ex.12:1-8.11-14; 1Co 11:23-26; John 13:1-15

Good Friday : Is.52:13-53:12; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42

Easter Vigil : Gen 1:1-2:2; Gen 22: 1-18; Exod 14:15-15:1; Isa 54:5-14; Isa 55:1-11; Bar 3: 9-15, 32-4:4; Ezek 36: 16-17a, 18-28; Rom 6:3-11; Matt 28:1-10

Easter Sunday : Acts 10:34a,37-43; Col 3:1-4; John 20: 1-9

We wish our readers a happy and holy celebration of Holy Week and Easter.

Please pray for Erica Ballard, our generous and dedicated editor, who is recovering from an operation.