

IN TOUCH

Parish Website: www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk

29th/30th April 2017

Sunday 3 of Easter (A)

No: 1091

Place your hope in God alone (Rule of St Benedict 4: 32)

Fr Paul writes:

For your meditation, we offer these lines from a homily for Easter Saturday. The author imagines the dialogue between Jesus and Adam, whom he meets in the underworld, to raise him up to the new life of the Resurrection. This is the triumphant conclusion of the Incarnation, the affirmation of our dignity as God's Creation, made in His image. With Adam, every baptised Christian is drawn by Jesus into communion with the Father.

Jesus has gone to search for our first parent, as for a lost sheep. Greatly desiring to visit those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death, he has gone to free from sorrow the captives Adam and Eve, he who is both God and the son of Eve. The Lord approached them bearing the cross, the weapon that had won him the victory. At the sight of him Adam, the first man he had created, struck his breast in terror and cried out to everyone: "My Lord be with you all." Christ answered him: "And with your spirit." He took him by the hand and raised him up, saying: "Awake, O sleeper, and rise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

I am your God, who for your sake have become your son. Out of love for you and for your descendants I now by my own authority command all who are held in bondage to come forth, all who are in darkness to be enlightened, all who are sleeping to arise. I order you, O sleeper, to awake. I did not create you to be held a prisoner in hell. Rise from the dead, for I am the life of the dead. Rise up, work of my hands, you who were created in my image. Rise, let us leave this place, for you are in me and I am in you; together we form only one person and we cannot be separated. For your sake I, your God, became your son; I, the Lord, took the form of a slave; I, whose home is above the heavens, descended to the earth and beneath the earth. For your sake, for the sake of man, I became like a man without help, free among the dead. For the sake of you, who left a garden, I was betrayed to the Jews in a garden, and I was crucified in a garden.

See on my face the spittle I received in order to restore to you the life I once breathed into you. See there the marks of the blows I received in order to refashion your warped nature in my image. On my back see the marks of the scourging I endured to remove the burden of sin that weighs upon your back. See my hands, nailed firmly to a tree, for you who once wickedly stretched out your hand to a tree.

I slept on the cross and a sword pierced my side for you who slept in paradise and brought forth Eve from your side. My side has healed the pain in yours. My sleep will rouse you from your sleep in hell. The sword that pierced me has sheathed the sword that was turned against you.

Rise, let us leave this place. The enemy led you out of the earthly paradise. I will not restore you to that paradise, but I will enthrone you in heaven. I forbade you the tree that was only a symbol of life, but see, I who am life itself am now one with you. I appointed cherubim to guard you as slaves are guarded, but now I make them worship you as God. The throne formed by cherubim awaits you, its bearers swift and eager. The bridal chamber is adorned, the banquet is ready, the eternal dwelling places are prepared, the treasure houses of all good things lie open. The kingdom of heaven has been prepared for you from all eternity.

Please see the parish web site for the full text of this ancient homily, where you will also find Pope Francis' Easter message. He too writes of the compassion of Jesus, searching for those in greatest need : *In every age, the Risen Shepherd tirelessly seeks us, his brothers and sisters, wandering in the deserts of this world. With the marks of the passion – the wounds of his merciful love – he draws us to follow him on his way, the way of life. Today too, he places upon his shoulders so many of our brothers and sisters crushed by evil in all its varied forms.*

Please also see the web site to see pictures and an account of the AGM of Refugees Welcome Crawley, which was attended by several members of the parish. One Syrian refugee gave us a very moving account of his enforced flight from Aleppo and his long and dangerous journey to the UK, his months in the Jungle in Calais being the worst moments of all. The shoe boxes for Syrian refugee children were handed over. Many thanks to those who so generously prepared and filled them. If you would like to get involved in the work of the group, please get in touch with Anna Pincus – rwcanna@gmail.com You might reflect during Eastertide on the story of the Road to Emmaus, when the Stranger is welcomed, and recognised as Jesus.

Many thanks for your very generous contributions to the various collections made over the Easter Triduum : the collection for Irundu raised £2,700, and major donors added another £4,500; the collection for the Holy Places was £579, and for Aid to the Church In Need, £440. Thank you all very much for contributing so generously to these very worthy causes.

Thursday 4th May, All Martyrs of England & Wales, Mass at 6.45pm

Second Collection next weekend for The Education of Future Priests (World Day of Prayer for Vocations)

Please remember in your prayers – Dr Salvo Xerri, RIP, a parishioner at the 5pm Mass and big Lourdes team worker for A&B, who died on Easter Sunday. Funeral in the Abbey Church on Friday 12th May at 2pm.

Anniversaries - Please pray for the souls of Mildred Young; Fr Anthony Porterfield; Abbot Dominic Gaisford; Elizabeth de Saventhem; Nicholas Burridge; John Willson; Dom Kevin Seasoltz Collegeville, USA; Jim Rochford; Don Cooper; John Nott; Jean Eicher; Nina Pokultinis; Simon Hulme; Edwin Ryan; Barbara Geary; Althea Harris; Coral Botting; Matthew Dawson; Veira Flanagan; Margaret Albert; 'Pop' Yaldren; Joan Moody; James Mackey; Judith Whelpton; Linsey Smith. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen.

Vacancy for Parish Secretary: CV and covering letter, marked "Application for Parish Secretary" by post please to Fr Paul Fleetwood, OSB, Parish Priest, Worth Abbey Parish, Paddockhurst Road, Turners Hill, West Sussex RH10 4SB Job Description on the parish website www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk or email your request to parish@worth.org.uk Closing date 19th May.

Gift Aid Envelopes: If you have not received your Gift Aid envelopes for 2017/18 please contact Paddy Hall at the Parish Office to arrange collection.

PARISH DIARY DATES

Junior Church is back! No need to book -just come along. Classes in the Unity Room and Choir Vestry.

OTHER EVENTS:

In 2018, Pope Francis will meet Bishops and others to talk about Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment. They will discuss how the Catholic Church can accompany young people in their faith and help them to hear God's call. If you are aged between 13-29 years old, the Catholic Church in England and Wales would like to hear your thoughts on life, faith and connection with the Catholic Church: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/parish-youth-poll or search for 'Catholic Mega Youth Poll.'

INSPIRE @ Worth Abbey - Retreat for Year 7-9s, **May 12th-14th**. Email toc@worthabbey.net or for info, contact the Diocesan Youth Officer Jack.Regan@dabnet.org Booking closes 5th May.

An Invitation to Support and Celebrate Faith in Action: Following the successful Social Action gathering event on 25th March, we have a vision of how we want to work to strengthen the network of Diocesan Social Action activities. To get involved, please contact Aidan Cantwell (Social Action Adviser) 01293 651154/aidan.cantwell@dabnet.org

Sponsored Bike Ride – Les Whittaker, 6th June-13th July: 1500 mile route from the Memorial for Unborn Children, East Grinstead to Fatima, Portugal, to celebrate and support the Message of Fatima in its Centenary and in memory of the 8.7 million unborn babies killed since the passing of the 1967 Abortion Bill. For info or to sponsor Les, visit justgiving.com/crowdfunding/fatima100.

Brightlights Festival - annual live music event for Catholic young adults (ages 16-30) June 23rd-26th in the beautiful grounds of Alton Castle in Staffordshire. Visit brightlights.org.uk, call 0300 075 0115 or find on social media T/FB/IG

Refugees Welcome-Crawley AGM report: Thank you to everyone who played a part in this year's incredible achievements. We will continue to show over the next year that our town is inclusive, open, welcoming, and to be appreciative of the opportunities refugees give us to learn about ourselves, invigorate our culture and to demonstrate the hospitality to strangers that we wish to define us.

Crawley InterFaith Network Speaker Evening: 18th May 7-9pm 'Commonalities between the Abrahamic Religions', Michael Harris : Eastbourne Faiths Forum / World Congress of Faiths, The Orchard, 1-2 Gleneagles Court, Brighton Road, Crawley, RH10 6AD. Contact Iyad Daoud contact@crawleyinterfaith.net Tel: 01293 883372

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, explaining the work they do with asylum seekers & refugees. Box Office 01293 553636. Info at www.amnesty.org.uk

Annual National Justice & Peace Conference: 21st-23rd July at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire on 'A Sabbath for the Earth and the Poor: The Challenge of Pope Francis. Contact: admin@justice-and-peace.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 3rd May **Christian Meditation Group in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel** 7.45-8.45pm followed by Compline. Next dates 10th & 31st May, 14th & 28th June, 12th & 26th July . Contact: Gabrielle Joyce: 01342 326118/Caterina Brown: 01243 554001. **Vigil for Vocations** (1st Friday) 9.00pm to midnight in the Abbey Church. Next date 5th May. **Children's Liturgy** (1st Saturday) Next date 6th May, 5pm. **Sunday Prayers for Healing** Once a month, there is a half hour Service of Prayers for Healing in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel after 930 Sunday Mass. All welcome! Next dates 7th May, NO June, 2nd July. **Bereavement Session:** Next dates Tuesday 2nd May, Tuesday 6th June. St Benedicts 10-11.30am. Clare and Marian invite you to drop in for support, a chat, a cuppa and cake. For anyone who is unable to attend in person - if you would like us to include your bereaved or deceased loved ones in our prayers at the beginning of our session please email the Parish Office with details.

Parish contacts: parish@worth.org.uk

Parish Priest: Fr Paul Fleetwood

Safeguarding: Rachel Davies 07801 696354

In Touch: worthintouch@hotmail.co.uk

Night time emergencies only 07956 782634

01342 710313 (Mob 07764 260216)

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:

First reading – Acts 2: 14, 36-41

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.'

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. (NRSV)

Second reading – 1 Pet 2: 20-25

If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.'

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls. (NRSV)

Gospel – John 10: 1-10

'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. (NRSV)

Monday, 1st: Acts 6: 8-15; John 6: 22-29 or Matt 13:54-58

Tuesday, 2nd : Acts 7: 51-8:1; John 6: 30-35

Wednesday, 3rd: 1 Cor 15: 1-8, 95; John 14: 6-14

Thursday, 4th: Acts 7: 55-60; Matt 10: 17-20 (Acts 8: 26-40; John 6: 44-51)

Friday, 5th: Acts 9: 1-20; John 6: 52-59

Saturday 6th: Acts 9: 31-42; John 6: 60-69

