

# IN TOUCH

Parish Website: [www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk](http://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk)

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20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> May 2017

Sunday 6 of Easter (A)

No: 1094

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**As soon as wrongful thoughts come to your heart, dash them against Christ and disclose them to your spiritual father (Rule of St Benedict 4: 50)**

**Fr Paul writes:**

In Catholic tradition, the month of May is dedicated specially to devotion to Mary. The 13<sup>th</sup> May is the day when the Church remembers the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima, and this year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the apparitions. Pope Francis made a pilgrimage to Fatima this year, and we offer below some words which he spoke at the mass that day, for the canonization of Francisco and Jacinta, two of the three visionaries (who were children at the time of the visions). In a way which we now recognise as characteristic of Pope Francis, he picks out especially those in greatest need in his prayer – the sick, prisoners, the poor...and asks for a Church which is *missionary and welcoming ...poor in means and rich in love*.

“So beautiful a Lady”, as the seers of Fatima said to one another as they returned home on that blessed day of 13 May a hundred years ago...

Dear pilgrims, we have a Mother, we have a Mother! Clinging to her like children, we live in the hope that rests on Jesus. As we heard in the second reading, “those who receive the abundance of the grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ” (*Rom 5:17*). When Jesus ascended to heaven, he brought to the Heavenly Father our humanity, which he assumed in the womb of the Virgin Mary and will never forsake. Like an anchor, let us fix our hope on that humanity, seated in heaven at the right hand of the Father (cf. *Eph 2:6*). May this hope guide our lives! It is a hope that sustains us always, to our dying breath.

Confirmed in this hope, we have gathered here to give thanks for the countless graces bestowed over these past hundred years. All of them passed beneath the mantle of light that Our Lady has spread over the four corners of the earth, beginning with this land of Portugal, so rich in hope. We can take as our examples Saint Francisco and Saint Jacinta, whom the Virgin Mary introduced into the immense ocean of God’s light and taught to adore him. That was the source of their strength in overcoming opposition and suffering. God’s presence became constant in their lives, as is evident from their insistent prayers for sinners and their desire to remain ever near “the hidden Jesus” in the tabernacle.

In her Memoirs (III, 6), Sister Lucia quotes Jacinta who had just been granted a vision: “Do you not see all those streets, all those paths and fields full of people crying out for food, yet have nothing to eat? And the Holy Father in a church, praying before the Immaculate Heart of Mary? And all those people praying with him?” Thank you, brothers and sisters, for being here with me! I could not fail to come here to venerate the Virgin Mary and to entrust to her all her sons and daughters. Under her mantle they are not lost; from her embrace will come the hope and the peace that they require, and that I implore for all my brothers and sisters in baptism and in our human family, especially the sick and the disabled, prisoners and the unemployed, the poor and the abandoned. Dear brothers and sisters, let us pray to God with the hope that others will hear us; and let us speak to others with the certainty that God will help us.

Indeed, God created us to be a source of hope for others, a true and attainable hope, in accordance with each person’s state of life. In “asking” and “demanding” of each of us the fulfilment of the duties of our proper state (*Letters of Sister Lucia*, 28 February 1943), God effects a general mobilization against the indifference that chills the heart and worsens our myopia. We do not want to be a stillborn hope! Life can survive only because of the generosity of other lives. “Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit” (*Jn 12:24*).

The Lord, who always goes before us, said this and did this. Whenever we experience the cross, he has already experienced it before us. We do not mount the cross to find Jesus. Instead it was he who, in his self-abasement,

descended even to the cross, in order to find us, to dispel the darkness of evil within us, and to bring us back to the light.

With Mary's protection, may we be for our world sentinels of the dawn, contemplating the true face of Jesus the Saviour, resplendent at Easter. Thus may we rediscover the young and beautiful face of the Church, which shines forth when she is missionary, welcoming, free, faithful, poor in means and rich in love.

#### **Irundu Report from Cynthia:**

Heartfelt thanks from Fr Stephen and all our friends in Irundu for your very generous response to the appeal for money for seeds which amounted to £6,237.00. People outside the parish also contributed very generously and the amount I took out was sufficient to help the 3,214 families having none or one meal per day according to the census. The challenge was to buy and distribute 1 kg of Maize seeds and half a sack of Casava sticks for each of them. It was something of a logistical nightmare but we cracked it and the distribution started before I left; I spoke to Fr Stephen today and 1220 households had been given seeds in the first week so it will take roughly 3 weeks to complete the task. The rain was still falling so once they have prepared their land they will be able to plant.

We had to hire the two leaders of the census to go to the villages to give out vouchers, a policeman at the entrance to check the vouchers, two people to split the sacks of cassava, an armed policeman to guard the stock at night. In addition one of the priests was always present to sign off vouchers incase they weren't handed in. Casava was being transported by huge lorries which came up each night carrying about 180 sacks; the maize came in one lorry load. In 3 months each household will have 1/3rd acre of maize which they can harvest, feed the families and sell what is over as well as keep some seeds ready to plant for the next season – there are two seasons a year for maize. The casava will take a year to grow but can be dried and stored for use in times of a shortage. Gosh, it's a hard life and sadly we were aware that some people were dying of starvation but it was a good decision to give seeds rather than food because whilst the food would be gone in a week a decent harvest would ensure a better future. It was a short but very fruitful trip thanks to all who supported our appeal.

#### **Message from Fr Stephen in Irundu:**

Dear Friends of Worth Abbey - Warm greetings from Irundu ! On behalf of the people of Irundu and on my own behalf, I would like to say thank you so much for your generous contribution towards our struggling people because of the prolonged drought. You have filled our baskets so that life can continue. May the good Lord reward you more abundantly. Thanks for identifying yourselves with us in such a manner. We have worked hard with Cynthia to see to it that those who really deserve this help will get it, as she will confirm to you. Pray for us this year. We do expect to get a deacon by the name of Emma Baganzi. Pray for him. Yours. Fr Stephen Mudoola

#### **The Worth-Irundu Friendship Prayer**

God our Father,  
Our refuge in adversity,  
Our strength in weakness,  
Our comfort in sorrow,  
Be merciful to your people.  
Keep the churches of Worth and Irundu  
in your special care.  
Increase our faith,  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And help us to keep learning from each other,  
Offering to each other  
And receiving from each other.  
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord,  
Amen.

**Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> May**, Mass at 5.30 pm

**Second Collection** next weekend for The Catholic Communications Network

**Baptism:** Lana Perry will be baptised here this Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> May. Please pray for Lana, her family and godparents.

**Please remember in your prayers** – Mike Goodridge for recovery of health and Ursula Stockton for recovery following an operation.

**Anniversaries** - Please pray for the souls of Dick Wheeler, Jacque Dickenson, Abbot Victor Farwell, Kathleen Maddock, Patricia Napier-Munn, Brian Fenn, Tina Bryant (infant), Eloise Powell (infant), Jo Wetz, Gareth Belcher. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen.

**Vacancy for Parish Secretary: Closing date 26<sup>th</sup> May.** CV and covering letter by post please, marked "Application for Parish Secretary" to Fr Paul Fleetwood, OSB, Parish Priest, Worth Abbey Parish, Paddockhurst Road, Turners Hill, West Sussex RH10 4SB. Job Description available at [www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk](http://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk) or email [parish@worth.org.uk](mailto:parish@worth.org.uk)

#### PARISH DIARY DATES

**First Holy Communion 2017/18:** Classes begin Sept 2017, for children who will turn 8 years old by May 2018 and older. For details or to register, please contact Rachel Davies on 07801-696354 before the end of July.

**Volunteers needed to support our First Holy Communion candidates and their families.** There are a variety of roles related to welcoming and hospitality. It would mean giving up a couple of hours on a Saturday morning from 10.30 (dates to be confirmed) to set up, welcome and provide refreshments. We would also love to hear from you if you are interested in joining the catechists. Please contact Fr Paul.

**Summer Concert in the Abbey Church** Parishioners and friends are invited to the Summer Concert by Worth students, taking place in the Abbey Church on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm. Students are keen to showcase the pieces they have been working on this year and the standard of musicianship will be high. The programme, which is expected to last about an hour and ten minutes, will include orchestral favourites as well as a lighter repertoire from the Concert Band and the school's stylish sax ensemble, plus fabulous solo viola playing from a student who has a place at the Royal Academy of Music for this September. Entrance is free for all. Refreshments will be served in the Narthex after the concert.

**Meditative Walk** during Refugee Week, around the grounds of Worth Abbey, with prayer, and with the Lampedusa Cross. Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> June, beginning at 3 pm, from the Narthex, followed by Mass at 5 pm, with prayers for refugees, and then supper. Please let us know if you can come. Everyone welcome to all or part of this.

#### OTHER EVENTS:

**CAFOD 'Just One World' General Election Action:** Let us be inspired by the words of Pope Francis and call for a better future for our global family: "Love makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world." Please email your parliamentary candidates and ask them to commit to tackle poverty, climate change and to build a fairer future for all. Visit [www.e-activist.com/page/8526/action/1](http://www.e-activist.com/page/8526/action/1)

**Crawley InterFaith Network:** Visit to the London England Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ and Latter Day Saints, West Park Road, Newchapel, Surrey, RH7 6HW. Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 12-2 pm. To register (essential) contact: Mrs Najma Osman [najma.zaynah@gmail.com](mailto:najma.zaynah@gmail.com) CIFN website: [www.crawleyinterfaith.net](http://www.crawleyinterfaith.net)

**Archbishop of Canterbury's Global Prayer initiative: Thy Kingdom Come** - *Plan, prepare, pray and act.* The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, in collaboration with leaders of each of the Christian Communities in this country, is encouraging Christians of all denominations to #Pledge2Pray as one, for the world to know Jesus Christ. As part of global prayer movement *Thy Kingdom Come*, each of the Christian Churches in Crawley are pledged to providing opportunities of prayer and service in the days between The Feast of the Ascension, 25<sup>th</sup> May and Pentecost Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> June. Pledge to pray at [www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global); [thykingdomcome@lambethpalace.co.uk](mailto:thykingdomcome@lambethpalace.co.uk)

**Meals for the Homeless in the Friary Hall.** Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, meeting at 11.30 am. Please contact Ashwin Soni if you can help [ashel@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ashel@hotmail.co.uk)

**Pentecost Songs of Praise:** Pentecost Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> June, 3.00 pm at The Friary Church, Crawley, RH10 1HR, followed by refreshments in the Friary Hall.

**Hate Crime Team**, a charity supporting people who experience hate crimes, are looking for volunteers from different community groups, including BME communities. Contact Iyad Daoud Tel: 01293 883372

**Sponsored Bike Ride** 6<sup>th</sup> June-13<sup>th</sup> July – Les Whittaker is undertaking a 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 Act. If you wish to sponsor Les, please visit [justgiving.com/crowdfunding/fatima100](http://justgiving.com/crowdfunding/fatima100).

## SAVE THE DATE:

**Walking with God:** A residential weekend of Inspiration and Sharing for All Abilities and Ages at Worth Abbey. Friday evening 9<sup>th</sup> June - lunchtime Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June. Contact Emily Westlake [emcat76@hotmail.com](mailto:emcat76@hotmail.com); Tel: 07947103781  
"Act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God" Micah 6:8.

**Horsham Amnesty:** Presentation of "Asylum Monologues" at the Hawth studio, Crawley on 20<sup>th</sup> 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. Box Office 01293 553636. Info at [www.amnesty.org.uk](http://www.amnesty.org.uk)

**Understanding CAFOD Just One World Afternoon** - find out about CAFOD's work overseas and how we are trying to end poverty. Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July at English Martyrs' Church Hall, Horley RH6 8AR, 2:30- 4:30pm. Cakes and tea provided. Please let us know if you would like to come (for catering purposes) [arundelandbrighton@cafod.org.uk](mailto:arundelandbrighton@cafod.org.uk) or call Martin or Jo at the Arundel and Brighton CAFOD Volunteer Centre 01483 898866.

**Annual National Justice & Peace Conference:** 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk)

**Evening of Reflection with Bishop Richard:** St John's Church, Horsham, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 7-9pm. Booking essential. In 2016 and 2017, Bishop Richard invited Confirmation candidates to join him at Evenings of Reflection held around the Diocese. In 2017, more than 350 people attended, and had the chance to meet with Bishop Richard and to be led in the practice of Lectio Divina. Bishop Richard will be doing the same thing in 2018. Contact [Jack.Regan@dabnet.org](mailto:Jack.Regan@dabnet.org)

## 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, 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 7<sup>th</sup> June

**Christian Meditation Group in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel** 7.45pm (for prompt start at 8pm) to 8.45pm followed by Compline. Next dates 31<sup>st</sup> May, 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> June, 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> June. **Children's Liturgy** (1st Saturday) Next date 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 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 NO June, 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

**Bereavement Support:** The Bereavement Team is offering a flexible new service. Rather than a regular drop in at St Benedict's, Clare and Marian invite you to contact them by email or through the parish office and they will arrange a time and place that suits to meet. Please email [clare\\_harper@hotmail.com](mailto:clare_harper@hotmail.com); [marian.imhasly@gmail.com](mailto:marian.imhasly@gmail.com)

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Parish contacts: [parish@worth.org.uk](mailto:parish@worth.org.uk)

Parish Priest: Fr Paul Fleetwood

Safeguarding: Rachel Davies 07801 696354

In Touch: [worthintouch@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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](http://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 1: 1-11

**Second reading** – Eph 1: 17-23

**Gospel** – Matt 28: 16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.' (NRSV)

Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup>: Acts 16: 11-15; John 15: 26 – 16: 4

Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup>: Acts 16: 22-34; John 16: 5-11

Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup>: Acts 17: 15,22 -18: 1; John 16: 12-15 (Ecc 4: 11-18; 1 Cor 1: 18-25; John 19: 25-27)

Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup>: 1 Cor 2: 10-14; Matt 7: 21-29 or Sir 39: 6-10; Matt 5: 13-16

Friday, 26<sup>th</sup>: Acts 18: 9-18; John 16: 20-23

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>: 1 Thess 2: 2-6; Matt 9: 35-37 or Luke 10: 1-9

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