

# IN TOUCH

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

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3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Pentecost Sunday (A)

No: 1096

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**Listen readily to holy reading, and devote yourself often to prayer** (Rule of St Benedict 4: 55-56)

**Fr Paul writes:**

Today's feast of Pentecost is our celebration of the birth of the Church. The coming of the Holy Spirit brings together people from every country under heaven. St Luke, in his account in Acts cp 2, draws on the traditions of the Jewish feast of Pentecost (known in Hebrew as *Shavuot* or *Weeks* – ie a week of weeks, or 49 days; while the word *Pentecost* means 50; signifying fifty days after Passover.) This year the Jewish feast of Pentecost is celebrated a few days before our own. While in origin it is a harvest festival, in later tradition it was interpreted as a commemoration of the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai. The rabbis told how all the nations in the world were gathered at Sinai to hear God proclaiming the Law. (Luke draws the symbols of wind and fire from the appearance of the storm God on the mountain - *the rush of a violent wind, and tongues, as of fire.*) Each one heard in his own language, but only the Jews accepted it. In Luke's account in Acts cp 2, this is reversed, for all accept the Holy Spirit, and many join the community of believers. This "miracle of tongues", of mutual understanding, is highly significant for Luke, for it foreshadows the progress of the Church, under the inspiration of the Spirit, among the Gentile nations of the world, the mission, as Jesus had commanded, *to the ends of the earth*. It is the reversal of the confusion of Babel, brought about by sin, and the division of humankind, and the formation of a single, undivided community, united in a strong sense of its mission to take the Good News of Jesus to all lands. Today we are all encouraged to accept our vocation to become bearers of the Good News, chosen and empowered by God at our baptism, and to form a Church which looks outwards to those who are not members. Please pray that we may fulfil the promise of today's feast and allow the Spirit to use us as He wishes.

**Report from Cynthia on Visit to Irundu 24<sup>th</sup> April to 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017:**

Heartfelt thanks from Fr Stephen and all our friends in Irundu for your very generous response to the appeal for money for seeds. 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 Cassava 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 the distribution was finished in less than 3 weeks. The rain is still falling, the land prepared and the seeds are sown so hopefully all is set set for a good harvest.

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 in case they weren't handed in. Cassava 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 in October. The cassava 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 will ensure a better future. It was a short but very fruitful trip thanks to all who supported our appeal.

**The St Matia Mulumba Health Centre III** - this is going well and we are still delivering lots of babies – average of 91 per month. Average attendance per month since 1st July is 1434. Sadly some people who are unwell are unable to attend because they simply have no money and we really cannot start treating for free because the health centre will not survive. David, the in-charge, works well and very hard at the moment as the other clinic officer, Sharon, is on sick leave until 31st May following an emergency operation. Charles, the administrator, is just about coping and his records are mainly bordering on accurate!

**Friendship House/Visits** – The new Housekeeper, Resty, is slowly getting the hang of her job but regrettably not such a good cook as Christine!

**Vocational School** – Tailoring remains the most popular course with 14 students. Equipping the car mechanics workshop is nearing completion and as soon as the school is registered the students who have expressed an interest in taking a course will be able to start.

**Benches** –I took out a further amount of £371 which brings our total tin collection to £11202. Very many thanks to those who give so generously week in week out. We have now provided 370 school benches providing seating and a writing surface for 2220 students. Thanks to Paul and Helle who are still very kindly organising the scheme they started some 10 years ago even though they have moved out of the parish.

**Jenny's Jams and Chutneys** – Jenny's Christmas sale made a fantastic total of £1217 which will be used to pay the ancillary costs of patients going for surgery ie transport, bed charge, etc. This means we can take advantage of visiting surgeons to our referral hospital in Kamuli who operate for free. Many women are in urgent need of VVF surgery and also some children with cleft palate and club foot need ops. One youngster in particular has his eyes literally out on stalks, all his fingers are joined together as are his toes so he will be taken to a specialist hospital in Mbali to see what, if anything, can be done. Very many thanks are due to Jenny for a stupendous effort and to all who supported her sales  
(Cynthia Haynes)

*"When we look at Africa, we see much more than its great natural richness.*

*We see its joie de vivre, and above all, we see grounds for hope in Africa's rich intellectual, cultural and religious heritage.*

*But we cannot fail to see the fratricidal wars decimating peoples and destroying these natural and cultural resources. Let us join with our brothers and sisters of this great continent, and pray together that Christians in Africa, in imitation of the Merciful Jesus, may give prophetic witness to reconciliation, justice, and peace."* (Pope Francis)

**Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> June, Mass at 5.30 pm**

**Second Collection** next weekend for The Missionary Endeavour of the Diocese

**Please remember in your prayers** – John Cooper, RIP (and widow Jane); Yolanda Harton, RIP, and her son Laurie; those injured or killed in the Manchester bomb blast and their families and all victims of violence across the world.

**Anniversaries** - Please pray for the souls of Joe Brown; Cmdr Aubrey David; Margaret Bishop; Hugh Pointer. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen.

**Annual Gift Aid Letters:** It has been necessary to recalculate donations for those of you who pay by Standing Order with a payment date falling before 6<sup>th</sup> April as your donation will need to be included in the previous tax year (2016/17) New letters have been printed and will be available for collection at the Parish Office. Apologies to those of you who have used your letter in your tax return. Paddy Hall.

**LIVE SIMPLY:** Are you fed up with receiving Junk Mail? By registering with the Mail Preference Service [www.mpsonline.org.uk](http://www.mpsonline.org.uk) you will be able to choose what you do/do not wish to receive. By doing this, you will also be reducing waste paper, saving trees and improving our environment. **Food Bank** – over the last few weeks your donations to the food bank have filled three quarters of a wheelie bin. SVP came to collect the food and toiletries last week to distribute to the families they support in and around Crawley. Thank you for your kindness.

#### **PARISH DIARY DATES**

**Bereavement Support:** The Bereavement Team are making changes to the advertised service. The drop-in session due to take place on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June will now be cancelled. **Going forward if you would like to access this service, Marian and Clare are available to meet you either at St Benedict's or to visit you at home.** Please contact the team by telephone via the Parish Office or email Marian and Clare directly [clare\\_harper@hotmail.com](mailto:clare_harper@hotmail.com); [marian.imhasly@gmail.com](mailto:marian.imhasly@gmail.com)

**First Holy Communion Mass, 11<sup>th</sup> June.** Please pray for the candidates and their families. Ashley Abbott, Alec Lytle, Tamia Carter, Samuel Harper, Ruby Carter, Berton Sheldon, Sebastian Sheldon, Elsie Tibble, Rose Watson.

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

**Confirmation Mass:** 25<sup>th</sup> June. Please pray for the candidates, their families and sponsors.

**SS Peter and Paul:** Vigil Mass on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 7.30pm

**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.** A variety of roles available, related to welcoming and hospitality. Spend a couple of hours on a Saturday morning from 10.30 am (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.

**CAFOD 'Just One World' General Election Action:**

Inspired by Pope Francis to foster "...a deep desire to change this world, to transmit values, to leave this earth somehow better than we found it..." please exercise your right to vote in the forthcoming General Election

You can email your parliamentary candidate asking them to commit to tackle poverty, climate change and build a fairer future for all: [www.e-activist.com/page/8526/action/1](http://www.e-activist.com/page/8526/action/1)

Church Action on Poverty invites us to listen and share voices of those left behind due to poverty:  
[www.voicesfromthemargins.org.uk](http://www.voicesfromthemargins.org.uk)

The Catholic Bishops Conference for England and Wales: [www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/Election-Message](http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/Election-Message)

*Lord grant us wisdom to act always with integrity, seeking the protection and flourishing of all, and building a society based on justice and peace" (Bishops of England & Wales)*

**OTHER EVENTS:**

**A&B weekly eNewsletter** To subscribe, please email [communications@dabnet.org](mailto:communications@dabnet.org). You can unsubscribe at any time.

**Open Gardens, Crawley Down Village & Friends of St Catherine's Hospice** : 4<sup>th</sup> June. 1-5pm. A number of gardens in the village are opening their gates to the public for **one day only**. Tickets £5 from 12.30 outside the village shops.

**St Catherine's Hospice 20 Mile Midnight Walk.** 10<sup>th</sup> June. Charlotte Jennings and Benjamin (Chapman year 11) are taking part in memory of Charlotte's father, Benjamin's grandfather, to give others the chance to receive the same care and support. To sponsor, please visit [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Charlotte--jennings](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Charlotte--jennings)

**Day for Life, 18<sup>th</sup> June.** *Day for Life* is the day in the Church's year dedicated to raising awareness about the meaning and value of human life at every stage and in every condition. The Church teaches that life is to be nurtured from conception to natural death. [www.dayforlife.org](http://www.dayforlife.org)

**Understanding CAFOD: Just One World Afternoon** Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July at English Martyrs' Church Hall, Horley RH6 8AR, 2:30- 4:30pm. Contact Martin or Jo: A&B CAFOD Volunteer Centre 01483 898866/ [arundelandbrighton@cafod.org.uk](mailto:arundelandbrighton@cafod.org.uk)

**Faiths in Sussex Summer Conference:** "Celebrating: Sacred Poems, Music and Dance". 1st July, 1-5 pm Langley Green Community Centre, Stagelands, Langley Green, Crawley, RH11 7PG. Contact [iyadhdaoud@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:iyadhdaoud@yahoo.co.uk)

**Annual National Justice & Peace Conference:** *A Sabbath for the Earth and the Poor: The Challenge of Pope Francis.* 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> July, Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. Contact [admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk](mailto: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, 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 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 7<sup>th</sup> July.

**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! (No service in June) Next date 2<sup>nd</sup> July. **Bereavement Support:** Rather than a regular drop in at St Benedict's, the Bereavement Team is offering a flexible new service. 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)

**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: The Most Holy Trinity**

**First reading – Exod 34: 4-6, 8-9**

So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the former ones; and he rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the Lord had commanded him, and took in his hand the two tablets of stone. The Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name, 'The Lord.' The Lord passed before him, and proclaimed, 'The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, And Moses quickly bowed his head towards the earth, and worshipped. He said, 'If now I have found favour in your sight, O Lord, I pray, let the Lord go with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance.' (NRSV)

**Second reading – 2 Cor 13: 11-13**

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. (NRSV)

**Gospel – John 3: 16-18**

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. (NRSV)

Monday, 5<sup>th</sup>: Tob 1: 3; 2: 1-8; Mark 12: 1-12

Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup>: Tob 2: 9-14; Mark 12: 13-17

Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup>: Tob 3: 1-11, 16-17; Mark 12: 18-27

Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup>: Tob 6: 10-11; 7: 1, 9-12; 8: 4-9; Mark 12: 28-34

Friday, 9<sup>th</sup>: Tob 11: 5-17; Mark 12: 35-37

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>: Tob 12: 1, 5-15; 20; Mark 12: 38-44