

“The Lord waits for us daily to translate into action, as we should, his holy teachings”

(Rule of St Benedict)



Tips for the weekend – 18th / 19th November

The Traidcraft stall are giving out free shopping bags with purchases.

These have been made by the Worth Stitches especially for the Worth Traidcraft stall. The bags are part of a scheme to recycle spare fabric and reduce the use of plastic bags.

See www.Morsbags.com for more information.

Come and purchase and receive your free shopping bag.

Today has been declared by Pope Francis to be the first *World Day of the Poor*.

He writes asking that parishes and other Christian communities “*make every effort to create moments of encounter and friendship, solidarity and concrete assistance*” with the poor.

What is truly important then is not simply giving, but creating a relationship.

He alludes several times to his own patron, St Francis: “*Precisely because he kept his gaze fixed on Christ, Francis was able to see and serve him in the poor*”. He continues, “*If we want to help change history and promote real development, we need to hear the cry of the poor and commit ourselves to ending their marginalisation*”.

This is to do with meeting real people and letting ourselves be changed by the experience. As Pope Francis has often declared elsewhere, to meet the poor is to meet Jesus: “*We may think of the poor simply as the beneficiaries of our occasional volunteer work, or of impromptu acts of generosity that appease our conscience. However good and useful such acts may be for making us sensitive to people’s needs and the injustices that are often their cause, they ought to lead to a true encounter with the poor and a sharing that becomes a way of life....This way of life gives rise to joy and peace of Soul, because we touch with our own hands the flesh of Christ. If we truly wish to encounter Christ, we have to touch his body in the Eucharist*”.

Pope Francis here affirms that the poor have a privileged place within the Body of Christ, and can bring us to Jesus in a special way. The Body of Christ, broken in the sacred liturgy, can be seen, through charity and sharing, in the faces and persons of the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters.

He quotes words of St John Chrysostom, the great preacher to the royal court of Byzantium, and the scourge of their conscience: *“If you want to honour the body of Christ, do not scorn it when it is naked; do not honour the Eucharistic Christ with silk vestments, and then, leaving the church, neglect the other Christ suffering from cold and nakedness”.*

Do please pray for our own conversion, and do read the complete document which Pope Francis wrote for today, which is available on the parish website. Please also look for ways to become involved which we suggest in the paragraph below about volunteering and the page on the website.

Prayer

Loving God, open our ears to hear you in the cry of those living in poverty.

Open our eyes to see you in the lives of the oppressed.

Open our hearts to meet you in others and to respond with mercy and compassion.

Pour out on us your grace, so that we may grow as your faithful people, always seeking your kingdom of Truth, Justice and Peace.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen

Anniversaries - Please pray for the souls of – Brian Haynes, Philipa Edwards, Victoria Sheppard, Myrtle Buckland, Geoffrey Teal, Carolyn Pickering, Alec Ricketts, Anne Kibble, Janet McCleery, Oriel Fahey, Alicia Eborne, Ian Moore, John Belford, Joe Morice, D F Rigby, Revd Alex MacClean, Clarice Lloyd, Maud Enscoe **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen.**

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Sunday 3rd December - Christmas Music from Handel's Messiah in the Abbey Church @ 7.30pm, in aid of Worth Irundu Friendship. Jenny will be selling her wonderful jams and chutney's after the mass and at the concert, all in aid of Irundu.

Irundu Mass: We would like to say a massive thank you, to you all, for your wonderful donations. We raised £400 from the concert, with a further £70 donations to Irundu. Also a great big thank you to Michael Oakley, Mandy Horton and all the musicians.

An evening of Advent reflection: On 17th December, we are pleased to offer a meditative moment of prayer and quiet to help you prepare for Christmas. We will begin with the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel at 5.30pm. This will be followed by Monastic Vespers to which everyone is most welcome. After Vespers there will be mince pies and mulled wine in the Narthex. At 7.30pm D'Arcy Trinkwon will perform Olivier Messiaen's "La Nativite du Seigneur" (The birth of the Lord)

Volunteering: The Gatwick Visitors Group, which visits immigration detainees held at the airport; Refugees Welcome Crawley, who befriend and help refugee families who live locally; the Crawley SVP Group, who assist families in need in the Crawley area; Life, which supports a house in Crawley and another in Haywards Heath, for single mothers; helping prepare and serve meals in the Friary Hall in Crawley on Sundays at lunch time. Please look at the web site, on the volunteering page, or get in touch with the office for more information.

Garden Space: Does anyone have space in their garden for a group of families, directed by gardeners from Refugees Welcome Crawley, to cultivate plants and vegetables? Please get in touch with the office.

'Waiting in Wonder' Retreat: 'Waiting in Wonder' is a retreat for young adults (aged 18-35) being held 1st-3rd December at Worth Abbey, near Crawley. It is an opportunity to enter more deeply into the themes of Advent in preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas, offering the chance of encounter with Christ in prayer through the Benedictine monastic tradition, talks from the monks and members of the Wellspring Community, space for reflection, participation in the rhythm of prayer with the monastic community (The Divine Office), Lectio Divina, walks in the beautiful Sussex countryside, and time for building community and friendships (plus mulled wine and mince pies!)

The cost is £62 for students/unwaged, £102 waged, and includes meals and accommodation. To book, or for more info, please email Katrina at TOC@worthabbey.net

2nd Collection this weekend: There will be a second collection this weekend for Arundel Cathedral Maintenance fund.

Traidcraft Stall: Our Traidcraft stall will be open every Sunday until Christmas, for Christmas cards and gifts. For any special orders for cards etc., please contact Beryl - berylmcnulty@btinternet.com

Christmas tree Lights: Beryl Crowhust invites us to bring decorations for the Christmas tree in St Leonards, Turners Hill, on Friday, December 1st, from 10 am. Lights need to be battery powered.

A date for your diary: On 13th January, the "RISE Theatre" will give a performance of their highly acclaimed play "Romero". This will take place in the PAC at 7pm. There will be refreshments beforehand and the play will last about 1 hour. Cost for tickets is £10 per adult and £5 for children. To reserve a ticket, please contact the office.



PEG EVENT 2018

Saturday 27 January 2018 - our great New Year event! Luxury coach to Greenwich to explore the Cutty Sark, Queen's House and Maritime Museum, the famous Greenwich indoor market, wonderful street food, guided tour of almshouses and more! Tickets £35
Contact Sara Barclay-Hudson (01444 461236) sbh0369@yahoo.com

OTHER EVENTS

Calling landlords with properties in Crawley and Mid Sussex: Can you help resettle a refugee family? You can find information about the scheme and renting a property to Syrian refugee families on the West Sussex County Council website here: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/campaigns/syrian-refugee-crisis/>

Crawley's 70th Birthday: Crawley Borough Council – 70th Birthday Celebrations. All welcome, please join us on Saturday 25th November, from 1pm-6pm.

Annual Justice & Peace Assembly: Saturday 27th January. "Hope Overcoming Fear". The church in the modern world. Speakers Jack Valero – co founder of Catholic Voices and Dr Anthony Towey of St Mary's University. To book, contact Ruth Gerun on 01283 651164 (see our noticeboard)

Catholic Singles: This is an organisation which helps single Catholics of all ages (over 18 years) meet other single Catholics, either one to one or through social events. For further information visit www.catholicssingles.org.uk or tel. 0161 941 3498

Marriage Preparation Day of Reflection: We will be meeting with Bishop Richard on **Saturday, 25th November** at DABCEC from 9.45-4.00, to look at how we can support engaged couples in their faith journey. There will be opportunities for input and some sharing of good practice. For more information and to book contact Katherine Bergin on 01293 651152 or email katherine.bergin@dabnet.org

SAVE THE DATE MUSIC EVENTS

Tuesday 12th December - Joint Carol Concert for the Circle Club and the local Nursing Homes (Worth Schola and Ardingly College Schola) in the Abbey Church@ 11.30am

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) then Compline.

Sunday prayers for Healing - Once a month, there is a half hour service of prayers for healing in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, after 0930 Sunday mass. All Welcome. The next dates are 3rd Dec, 7th Jan, and 4th Feb.

Christian Meditation Group - Blessed Sacrament Chapel 7.45pm for 8pm start to 8.45pm followed by Compline. Next dates will be 29th Nov, 13 Dec, Contact Gabrielle 01342 326118/Caterina 01243 554001.

Vigil for Vocations - (1st Friday) 9.00pm to midnight in the Abbey Church. Next date 3rd November.

Children's Liturgy - (1st Saturday) Next date 2nd December (Our Lady of the Rosary).

Bereavement Support - Marian & Clare are available to meet you either at St Benedict's or to visit you at home. Contact the team via the Parish Office or email - clare.harper@hotmail.com or marian.imhasly@gmail.com.

Mothers Prayer Group - in Balcombe every Tuesday 12pm. Call Marie 07860 845658. All faiths and none are most welcome.

Parish Priest: Fr Paul Fleetwood

Mobile: 07764 260216

Parish Office Email: parish@worth.org.uk **Parish Office Tel:** 01342 710313 **Parish Website:**
www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk **Secretary:** Maria Stribbling (Hours: 9.30am-1.30pm)

Night time emergencies only: 07956 782634

Safeguarding: Rachel Davies (07801 696354) and Maria Stribbling (01342 710313)

Car Share: Jill Carter: 07836 316525

In Touch: If you would like anything to appear in 'In Touch', please email: worthintouch@hotmail.co.uk (by Thursday 10am)

If you are unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, or if you have any prayer intentions, please let Fr Paul know.

Next Sunday's Readings: Christ The King 1st Reading – Ezek 34:11-12 2nd Reading - 1 Cor 15:20-26,28

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left.

'Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink;

I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me."

'Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me."

'And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

Daily Readings

Monday – 1 Macc 1:10-15,41-43,54-57,62-63 Luke 18:35-43

Tuesday – 2 Macc 6:18-31 Luke 19:1-10

Wednesday – 2 Macc 7:1,20-31 Luke 19:11-28

Thursday – 1 Macc 2:15-29 Luke 9:41-44

Friday – 1 Macc 4:36-37,52-59 Luke 19:45-48

Saturday – 1 Macc 6:1-13 Luke 20:27-40

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