

Edited by Maria Stribbling

“Hour by hour keep careful watch over all you do, aware that God’s gaze is upon you, wherever you may be”

(St Benedict)



Tips for the weekend – 20th /21st January

CAFOD has just launched an appeal to support entrepreneurs setting up small businesses in Senegal, Kenya and Bangladesh. CAFOD will organise training and bulk buying and will put the entrepreneurs in touch with local sources of support. By building their own businesses, families can feed their children and have enough money to pay for education. Donations will be matched by UK Government aid.

See www.traidcraft.org.uk/hidden

RISE THEATRE – “Romero, Heartbeat of El Salvador”

If you were fortunate to attend the above at Worth School Performing Arts Centre, last Saturday evening, there is probably no need to continue reading this article!

A spellbound audience were entertained to a most informative spectacle of the life of Blessed Oscar Romero. As a twentieth century martyr for the poor, he sided with his country’s farmers and villagers, who were oppressed, terrorised and brutally murdered by a vicious military regime. He became a light for those in darkness after his own personal struggles to oppose the barbaric rulers of that era. Proof that we do not see the poor unless we walk beside them. Romero came from poverty, overcame his poverty on his priestly journey and then returned to poverty when he lived and walked with the poor in love. A man of vision to see, faith to believe and courage to do.

The highly professional cast brought to life the social trials of the time and their much faceted talents ensured that the entire audience was spellbound throughout the play. Pope Francis’ vision of a “church that is poor and for the poor” was epitomised surely in the life of Blessed Oscar Romero, who was killed by a single bullet from an assassin on March 24th 1980, as he prepared the gifts of bread and wine at the offertory in the chapel of the Hospital of Divine Providence.

“Love must win out, it is the only thing that can”.

We wish Rise Theatre a successful 2018 and thank them for an unforgettable evening.

Our thanks to Jerry Loney for this excellent article. And thanks also to all who attended. The evening raised over £300 for our Friendship Parish in Irundu, Uganda.

Those who were able to come will remember how Mgr Romero frequently repeated the words “Violence can never bring peace”. This weekend we are invited to contribute to a collection for Pax Christi, the Catholic organisation dedicated to education for peace making. In his letter for Peace Sunday their President, Bishop Malcolm McMahon, reminds us, “We are all invited to reflect on our role to be peacemakers and peace seekers...We are all artisans for peace. Pax Christi members and supporters are such artisans”.

Anniversaries – Please pray for the souls of – Joseph Clarke, Fred Enscoe, Sir Martin Wilkinson, Dom Peter Beazley, Josephine Wright, Irene Mitchell, Michael Stimpson, Paul Rubridge,
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen.

Prayers: Please pray for “Tigs” Wheeler and Martin Harewood recovering in hospital.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

18th January – 25th January 2018, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This week we are asked to pray for Christian Unity, and on Sunday we have a service in the Abbey Church involving all the Churches in the villages of our parish.

The organisers write: Praying for the unity of the Church involves a recognition not only of the brokenness of Christian relationships but also how injustice in the world at large rends asunder Christian communities and impedes our participation in God’s mission. History too plays a part, casting a shadow over how we live our lives together in community.

Generous God
Your overflowing love gave birth to creation; your redeeming love journeyed
Through lands of forsakenness
So that the tomb might be empty,
And our life with you unending.
Teach us your logic –
That to give is to receive,
To empty ourselves is to be filled,
That as we point away from ourselves
We might discover anew our unity in Christ.
Amen.

(The material this year comes from the Caribbean)

Christian Unity Celebration: On Sunday, 21st January, at 3pm. There will be a celebration in the Abbey church, followed by refreshments in the Narthex. **Please bring a contribution if you can.** Everyone is welcome, all the Churches in the local villages. The team from Crawley Down will offer “messy church” in the Unity Room, (see below) for any child who would like this.



Inter-church Messy Church Special for the week of Christian Unity.

As mentioned above, in the Unity Room, 3.00 - 5.00 pm 21st January
Crafts, songs and Bible story for the whole family.

We will join the adult congregation for the end of their service in the abbey church and for a shared tea towards the end of the time.
Children must bring an adult with them.



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 £29

Contact Sara Barclay-Hudson (01444 461236) sbh0369@yahoo.com

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 01293 651164 (see our noticeboard). **Please bring your own lunch, tea and coffee will be available throughout the day.**

Day of Reflection for Readers: Saturday 3rd February from 11am to 4pm. This will be led by Bishop Richard and will be held at St Bernadette’s Church, Tilgate Way, Crawley. Please book with Ruth Gerun on 01293 651164 or email ruth.gerun@dabnet.org

International Marriage Week: Saturday 10th February from 1.30pm – 4.30 pm in the Abbey. A celebration of married life for couples and all who seek to see marriage flourish. There will be the opportunity to hear from different organisations who support marriage, about ways couples can enrich their daily experience of living the sacrament. This will be followed by mass at 3pm with Bishop Richard, with tea at 4pm. Any married couple would be very welcome, regardless of the longevity of the marriage! Please book with Katherine Bergin on 01293 651152 or email katherine.bergin@dabnet.org

DABCEC BOOKSHOP: Please be advised that as of 21st December, the Dabcec bookshop has ceased trading to the general public. We apologise for any inconvenience

Viviers Retreat, France: October 2018. 'Retreats beyond Dover' are organising a retreat called '*Encountering Our Muslim Neighbours*' at the Maison Diocésaine, Viviers in the Ardèche from the 13th-23rd October 2018. The input will be given by Fr Martin from Worth. The theme is very topical. For more information please refer to www.retreats-beyonddover.com.

Abbey Bookshop: Bargain books and cards on sale on the long table at the end of the Narthex. Please pay into the safe in the Bookshop.

OTHER EVENTS

Crawley Interfaith Network: Thursday 25th January from 7pm-9pm. "Who is Baha'u'llah?" Simon Ward, a Bahai since 2001, former metropolitan police inspector (Served: Uniform, CID, counter terrorism), Volunteer NHS Chaplain. Talk followed by a Q&A session. All welcome. Free admission. Refreshments. Venue: Longley Room, The Orchard, 1-2 Gleneagles Court, Brighton Road, Crawley, RH10 6AD. For further details please contact: Iyad Daoud, email: iyadhdaoud@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 01293 883372

Lunch for Homeless People: Sunday 28 January (11.30am start). Please note we shall serve the normal lunch on Sunday 28 January at the Friary. Your help and support on the day would be very much appreciated. **Do please let Ash Soni know if you are able to come along.** ashel@hotmail.co.uk.

CAFOD Breakfast: Saturday 3rd February from 10.30am- midday (10am start) in The Friary, Crawley. Their head of International Development and their Head of Humanitarian Work, will be sharing and updating on CAFOD's work. Croissants and hot drinks will be served. All are welcome to this free event. For more information from the local CAFOD office, call 01483 898866.

Churches Refugee Network (CRN) Conference: Monday 5th February 10am-4pm at The Sarah Fell Room, Friends House, 173 – 177 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ. This day conference is for all those working with Refugees, Asylum seekers, and Migrants. Lunch will be provided. To book contact Romina Infantino at info@ctbi.org.uk

CAFOD: What is your New Year resolution? Why not help to make a difference in the fight against poverty and injustice by volunteering for CAFOD? CAFOD, The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, are currently looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help them in their work. There are many ways to get involved such as in local schools, the parish or with fundraising, campaigning and more. If you feel you would like more information or feel that you could help CAFOD, then please contact Martin on 01483 898866 or email arundelandbrighton@cafod.org.uk

Adoremus: The Eucharist: Saturday 10th February from 9am – 1pm at St John the Evangelist in Horsham. In order to give flavour of Adoremus – (Relating to the National Pilgrimage and Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool and the World meeting of families in Dublin) the diocese is hosting 3 morning sessions focusing upon the Eucharist within a family setting. Join Bishop Richard for a series of talks and workshops revolving around the theme of the Eucharist, with particular focus on its relevance to us within our family lives. All are welcome, whether you hope to go to the events or just want to find out more about the topic. Please book via email rosie.read@dabnet.org

It Takes Two: Tuesday 6th March 7.30pm – 10pm (doors open at 6.45pm) at The Charis Centre, Crawley, RH11 7EL. Juggling work, family life, finances and a host of other issues mean that building a vibrant and lasting relationship can sometimes be challenging. "It Takes Two" is an event for anyone who wants to invest a little more in their relationship. Whether your marriage is in good shape or things are difficult right now, whether you've been married for many years or you've just got together, this event will help make a difference in your relationship. To book call 02920 810800 or check out the website cff.org.uk/ittakestwo

World Meeting of Families: Bishop Richard invites families to join him on a pilgrimage to Dublin for the World meeting of speakers will lead sessions for adults and there are age appropriate activities for children and young people. This is followed by a concert style "Festival of Families" on the Saturday and the event concludes with Sunday Mass concelebrated by Pope Francis. For further details please contact: wmo2018@dabnet.org. Put World Meeting of Families in your diary and start planning to join us in Dublin, Ireland, from 21 to 26 August 2018. Come on your own, in a group or with your family!

The Prayer of the Faithful, or Universal Prayer is that valuable part of the Mass which provides an opportunity for the community to pray for the needs of the world, for the Church, for those in need and for issues of local significance. They assist the community in praying for those things that only God can give and commit us to action in daily life. Those who compose and read the Prayer of the Faithful aim to help others to look beyond the concerns of the local community to become a powerful sign of our communion with all other communities and with the Universal Church. The priest presiding at the Mass that week offers guidance about themes for prayers and/or particular intentions to be included. The prayers need to be short, clear and precise and as wide-ranging as possible in order that they can be easily understood as an invitation to the assembly to respond to them. We would welcome new readers to be part of this rewarding ministry. You will be part of a team on a rota to read every few weeks. If you would like to know more about what is involved you can contact Fr Paulor Mary Field mary.field2@btinternet.com

Residential Retreats: Monday 30th April (2pm) - Tuesday 1st May (2pm) at |St Cuthman's. 'Listening with the Ear of the Heart' Retreat led by Bishop Richard Moth. The retreat will focus on teaching and practical experience of Lectio Divina. To book call 01403 741220 or email: stcuthmans@dabnet.org

REGULAR EVENTS IN THE PARISH

Mass Times - Saturday: 9.00 am (Concelebrated) and 5.00 pm (First Mass of Sunday),

Sunday: 9.30 am, with an 11.30am mass at St Dunstan's in West Hoathly.

Daily Mass: 8.00 am and 5.30 pm (Concelebrated), Holy Days of Obligation: Vigil Mass: 7.30 pm;

Feast Day: 8.00 am and 5.30 pm

Adoration - Friday evenings 7.00- 8.00pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Reflection, music and silence.

Sunday Adoration – In St Dunstan's Chapel, West Hoathly, every Sunday from 5pm-7pm to support the parish evangelisation programme. Please feel free to come for as long as you wish.

Confessions (Sacrament of Reconciliation) - Sundays 9.10-9.30am before Mass.

Marian Prayer Group - 2nd/4th Monday, 7.30pm, Lady Chapel.

Prayers for Healing – 1st Wednesday of every month at 7.15pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, a mass with prayers for healing.

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 4th Feb and 4th March.

Christian Meditation Group - Blessed Sacrament Chapel 7.45pm for 8pm start to 8.45pm followed by Compline. Next dates will be 31st January, 14th and 28th February, 14th March, Contact Gabrielle 01342 326118/Caterina 01243 554001.

Vigil for Vocations - (1st Friday) 9.00pm to midnight in the Abbey Church. Next date 2nd February.

Children's Mass - 1st Saturday of each month at 5pm. Next date 3rd February.

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 12 noon. 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: Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading – Deuteronomy 18:15-20

2nd Reading – 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

Jesus and his disciples went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came, he went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then, there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit and it shouted, "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God". But Jesus said sharply, "Be quiet! Come out of him!" And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him.

The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. "Here is a teaching that is new" they said "and with authority behind it, he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him".

And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

Daily Readings

Monday – 2 Samuel 15:13-14, 30, 16:5-13 Mark 5:1-20

Thursday – 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12 Mark 6:7-13

Tuesday – 2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3 Mark 5:21-43

Friday – Mal 3:1-4 or Heb 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40

Wednesday – 2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17 Mark 6:1-6

Saturday – 1Kgs 3:4-13 Mark 6:30-34

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