

“What, dear brothers and sisters, is more delightful than the voice of the Lord calling to us?”

(St Benedict)

Edited by Maria Stribbling



Tip for the weekend – 14th / 15th April

Two good news stories. Waitrose are phasing our disposable cups and inviting customers to bring their own cups in. Iceland Foods are taking out palm oil from all their own brand products. Customer pressure works.

Next Sunday we celebrate our parish AGM. I say *celebrate* deliberately! Many AGMs which we have to attend are rather dry business meetings, but our parish AGM is always about pastoral matters. In recent years we have had speakers telling us about the refugee crisis and some local responses, with suggestions about how we can help. (Please see below about Refugees Welcome Crawley.) The previous year we had a speaker who told us about the new document of Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*, about the Christian response to the urgent issues of ecology and sustainable development. (We continue to offer *LiveSimply* tips each week in *In Touch*.) This year are delighted to welcome a young woman called Hannah Vaughan-Spruce, who works for an organisation called *Divine Renovation*, which helps parishes to undertake their vocation as missionaries. (You might like to look at the book by Fr James Mallon, *Divine Renovation – From a Maintenance to a Mission Parish*, and the websites mentioned below.) Hannah will share her experience about helping parishes to transform their pastoral work to become more missionary.

It is very clear to us all why this is so important today. Our culture so frequently excludes and derides religious faith, and all of us know members of our families and friends who used to be practising Catholics and no longer are. A recent survey in the UK suggests that two thirds of young people who were brought up in a faith no longer practise and opt not to bring up their own children in a faith. So this missionary work is the responsibility of each one of us. Each of us is called to play a part in sharing the Good News. The gospel readings of Eastertide remind us how the first disciples were inspired by their meetings with the Risen Jesus to go out and share the love which they had received through him. Last week we heard Jesus say to his disciples, *As the Father sent me, so I send you*. Our own Bishop Richard has asked each parish to become a powerhouse of mission in his diocese, quoting the Catechism – *All Christ's faithful have the obligation and the right to strive so that the divine message of salvation may reach all people*. The **obligation and the right!** Does this make you feel nervous? It does me too! But Hannah will offer us guidance to help us find our way forward with confidence, knowing that this is the work of the Holy Spirit who will here with us.

Do please come next Sunday, straight after the 9.30 mass for coffee in the Unity Room. If you can stay for lunch, please let us know. (The meeting will last a little over an hour.) And do explore the websites below.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=C18V0128-2U www.divinerenovationuk.org
www.amazon.co.uk/divine-renovation-bringing-maintenance-mission/dp/1627850384

Anniversaries:

Please pray for the souls of – Evelyn Ticehurst, Bert Rayson, Rev Guy Bowden, Ann Thomas, Terry Black, Andrew Martin, Peter Lazarus, Marjorie Burrows, Germaine Garnaud, Julian Dare, Mr Malton, Alan Twigg, Paddy McGrath, Ellen Morice, Paula Rawlins, Tom Neve, Andrew O'Brien, John Ferguson, Irene Cooper, Fleur Burrige, Bert Powell, Basil Genders, John Biles, Nora Ann Richey-Brown, George Botting, George Sharman, Pat Seal, Joan Rich, David Moore, Paula Bateman, Marisol Burrige, Helene Stoppani, Fr Alban Brooks, Peta Orr, Salvo Xerri, Mildred Young, Fr Anthony Porterfield, Dominic Gaisford, Elizabeth de Saventhem, Nicholas Burrige, John Willson, Dom Kevin Seasoltz, Jim Rochford **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen.**



Prayers:

Please pray for Barry and Fran O'Sullivan who are both unwell.
Please pray for Philippa Schwarz, who is unwell.
Please pray for Mervyn Thomas who is undergoing surgery.

Message from Bishop Richard:

Dear Brothers and Sisters, May I take this opportunity to thank you for your engagement with the Consultation Process that has been taking place across the Deaneries during these last months. I have been very encouraged by the way in which people have reflected on the Mission of the Diocese and the way in which we can all be engaged in carrying it out in the years ahead. The responses, gathered at the second round of meetings, are a key element in the development of a Pastoral Plan for the Diocese.

Now that this round of meetings is complete, I shall work with a small team to write the Pastoral Plan. I shall be coming around the Deaneries again later in the year to present this Plan.

Please keep this endeavour in your prayers, that all in the Diocese will focus ever more deeply on the Word who is Life, who calls us to be His people and to be His witnesses in the world.

With every Blessing,
+Richard

*Gift Aid Envelopes are available
to collect in the Narthex*

Save the Date:

Sunday 22nd April. The Worth Abbey Parish AGM will take place straight after mass in the Unity Room with coffee to start. Lunch will be also be offered. Please let us know if you would like to stay for lunch (for catering).

Sunday 29th April. Mark Tibble has offered to lead a nature walk round the estate after Mass.

This has been postponed, but we will update you soon.

Parish Walk:

Sunday 29th April.
Meeting at The Victory,
Staplefield at 11.30
a.m.

The walk will start at the pub, going down into the woods at the back of Nymans, around the lake and then back up to the pub for 1.30 lunch. The walk is four miles long mainly dry but very muddy in a few places. Pretty walk with views, woodlands and a lake. Please e mail Trisha trishiasol@ao.com 07941865502 or Christina christinafitzsimons@icloud.com 07721010577

AGM Report:

This is now available online. Please let us know if you would like a paper copy.

CAFOD Lunches:

A big Thank to Hal and Rory Clarke who opened their home and organised lunches in aid of CAFOD. Thank you to all who came. A very generous total of **£500** was raised for this great cause.

A message from George Mullis, Donor Contact Manager at HCPT:

George would like to thank all those who were involved in fundraising. He says: "a very special child will come on Pilgrimage to Lourdes, at the invitation of Our Lady to share God's gifts of love, friendship and joy. The funds, as agreed have been allocated to Rev. David Turner's group in Haywards Heath. Our sincere thanks to all involved especially to Lindsay and Robert Eade who very kindly hosted the event this year. As we make our final preparations for the Easter Pilgrimage, we'll make every effort to make it as good as it can be."

Annual Refugee Tales Walk:

Refugee Tales is rooted in the work of the charity Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group which through a network of befrienders, supports people in immigration detention at Gatwick. Refugee Tales enables the accounts of those who have experienced detention in the UK to be heard. There is an annual walk where these tales are shared.

This year it is from **6 -11 July**, More details can be found

The Great adventure. Retreat for Year 7-9:

The Great Adventure is running at **Worth Abbey from the 18-20th May** for all those in year 7-9. Over the weekend we are going to be exploring the idea that the journey of discipleship is a great adventure that we are each called to through workshops, input, prayer, worship and a whole lot of fun! The price is £84 but bursaries are available. For more information please email: fcarbonate@wellspringbrighton.org.uk

Passover Seder:

David Simmons, an Orthodox Jew and a member of the West Hampstead synagogue community in London, has kindly offered to lead parishioners in a Passover Seder on **Saturday 26 May** after the 5pm mass. Our Lord's Last Supper with the disciples was a similar celebration and it is hoped that participation in this ancient Jewish ritual will allow us as Catholics to deepen our understanding of the Eucharist. We will share a kosher (vegetarian) meal with traditional foods as David leads us in the rituals, readings and songs associated with this important Jewish tradition. Prices TBC.

Cake Sale:

Chloe Roberts will be holding a cake sale after mass on **5th/ 6th May**. Chloe is trying to raise funds for her trip to Lourdes where she has very kindly volunteered as a helper.

To allow everyone to be involved in the Parish AGM, there will be no Mass at St Dunstan's, West Hoathly on 22nd April.

Thank you:

We would like to thank you very much for all your generous donations of clothing left for the Gatwick detainees. Please **do not** leave any more clothing, until further notice, as the Gatwick group have run out of Storage space.

Support:

Les Whittaker from East Grinstead Parish is cycling to Walsingham and back to raise money for the pro-life work undertaken by Good Counsel Network.

Les will also mark the 50th anniversary of the abortion act by praying 50 rosaries on his journey to Walsingham, 50 whilst there and 50 on the return journey.

If you would like to support this cause please see flyer on notice board, or view web page: justgiving.com/fundraising/rosarybikeride

The Feast of Pentecost Walk:

Sunday, 20th May: To mark the Feast of Pentecost, in an ecumenical style, there will be a walk from Worth Abbey to Crawley Down along the Red Road and Worth Way (i.e. all along footpaths, about one and a half hours). This is primarily a social occasion but will end with prayer and tea at the All Saints church in Crawley Down. Everyone is welcome. Meet at Worth in the carpark at 3 pm. Provision will be made for the return journey, but please check.

Volunteers Needed - Refugees Welcome – Crawley:

We are delighted to report that another Syrian refugee family will be arriving in Crawley in the next 6 - 8 weeks.

We are working in partnership with West Sussex County Council to prepare their new home and the first thing we need to do is to paint the walls! Paint, rollers and brushes will be provided but we really need your help in getting the paint on the walls in time for the new family!

Would you like to get together and 'adopt a room', starting with the painting?

The Resettlement Scheme will provide carpets and basic furniture (though some assembling of flat-pack items might also be needed!) - but the extra touches that make each room more homely like bedding, lamps or rugs would be very welcome and kitchen equipment in good condition may also be required.

If you can help or have any questions, please contact Cathy Merry on 07968 688380

Meeting our Muslim Neighbours – Retreat:

A ten-day retreat has been organised for **13-23 October**, in Viviers, South of France and will include not only talks and discussions, but excursions to the Trappist Abbey of Aiguebelle and to centres of Christian-Muslim dialogue in both Lyon and Marseille (Viviers is exactly halfway between these cities). The retreat will celebrate Christian-Muslim encounter in the context of Blessed Charles de Foucauld and the monks: Christian, Christophe Luc, Michel, Bruno, Célestin and Paul.

The retreat-giver will be Dom Martin McGee, of Worth Abbey, and accommodation will be in the large and well-appointed Diocesan Retreat House, formerly the Grand Séminaire where Blessed Charles de Foucauld was ordained priest on Sunday 9th June, 1901.

France is home to seven million Muslims. We hope and pray that our retreat in Viviers later this year will be a blessed time, when we respond to the call to meet our Muslim neighbours as sons and daughters of our father, Abraham.

Further details can be found at: www.retreats-beyonddover.com

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 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 6th May, 3rd June and 1st July.

Christian Meditation Group - Blessed Sacrament Chapel 7.45pm for 8pm start to 8.45pm followed by Compline. Contact Gabrielle 01342 326118/Caterina 01243 554001. Next dates are 11th and 25th April.

Vigil for Vocations - (1st Friday) 9.00pm to midnight in the Abbey Church. Next date 4th May

Children's Mass - 1st Saturday of each month at 5pm. Next date 5th May.

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.

Next Sunday's Readings: **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

1st Reading - Acts 4:8-12

2nd Reading - 1 John 3:1-2

Gospel: John 10:11-18
I am the good Shepherd

Daily Readings

Monday - Acts 6:8-15 John 6:22-29

Tuesday - Acts 7:51-8:1a John 6:30-35

Wednesday - Acts 8:1b-8 John 6:35-40

Thursday - Acts 8:26-40 John 6:44-51

Friday - Acts 9:1-20 John 6:52-59

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

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: 07494 484979 (NEW NUMBER)

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.