

“Let us open our eyes to the light that comes from God and our ears to the voice from heaven that every day calls out this charge: If you hear his voice today, do not harden your hearts”

(St Benedict)

Edited by Maria Stribbling



Tip for the weekend – 28th / 29th April

This week is five years since the Rana Plaza factory collapsed in Bangladesh, killing 1,138 people and injuring 2,500. It has prompted additional scrutiny on factory conditions in garment factories around the world and highlighted the real costs of cheap clothes.

An organisation called Fashion Revolution is campaigning for greater transparency among fashion retailers about the factory conditions that their garments are made in. They are also encouraging people to mend their clothes and to be more thoughtful about purchases.

See www.fashionrevolution.org

DIVINE RENOVATION

At the Parish AGM on Sunday April 22nd we were very privileged to welcome Hannah Vaughan-Spruce from the organisation *Divine Renovation* to talk to us.

Hannah explained that *Divine Renovation* is based on the experiences of St Benedict Parish in Halifax, Nova Scotia and their priest, Fr James Mallon, and described in his book (see below). Its purpose is, in keeping with the urgings of a succession of Popes, and our own Bishop Richard, to help parishes to focus outwardly and develop their evangelizing and missionary vocation. She presented startlingly depressing statistics showing how our Church is in decline and voiced the current view of many, including Pope Francis, that things will continue to deteriorate if we continue doing things the way we have always done them.

Hannah described central features of the *Divine Renovation* process. These included 3 key principles ((1) the absolute primacy of evangelization (2) best leadership principles (3) experience of the Holy Spirit); and the Game Plan strategy used by St Benedict Parish “to form disciples who joyfully live out the mission of Jesus Christ” (creating a culture of an “invitational church” which invites people to events or activities they will enjoy and which will nourish them spiritually, including Alpha, the Alpha Team, Connect Groups, Discipleship Groups, Ministry and Worship). Hannah explained that this is not a template to be imposed identically on parishes, but a set of principles which can guide the development of individual parishes according to their unique situations. In our Parish this would mean Fr Paul and a team working on a Vision of what we want Worth Parish to be like in 10 years’ time, and developing a “road map” and strategy for achieving this.

In the UK, *Divine Renovation* is currently helping 5 Parishes become more missionary, and this involves coaching, online resources, and national events.

Hannah’s talk was fascinating, inspiring, and full of hope for us about what can be achieved by doing things differently. Exciting times can lie ahead!

Do read the book by Fr James Mallon *Divine Renovation – From a Maintenance to a Mission Parish*, and visit the websites www.divinerenovationuk.org and www.youtube.com/watch?v=C18V0128-2U

(Our thanks to Josie Davies for the above article).

Anniversaries:

Please pray for the souls of – Edwin Ryan, Barbara Geary, Althea Harris, Coral Botting, Matthew Dawson, Veira Flanagan, Margaret Albert, 'Pop' Yaldren, Joan Moody, James Mackey.
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 recovering from surgery.
Please pray Jack McCurdy (father of Maria Stribbling), who is in hospital with a broken back.

Parish News

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.

Donations:

As you are aware no more clothing is required at this moment in time for the Gatwick Detainees, however, if you have any spare **travel bags or rucksacks**, these would be greatly appreciated

Second Collection This weekend:

This weekend there will be a second collection for The Education of Future Priests (Giftaid)

Concerts:

D'Arcy Trinkwon, the Abbey Organist, is giving three concerts in Arundel Cathedral on Fridays **11th May, 1st and 15th June**: all start at 7.30pm.
Full details in the Narthex or at www.arundelcathedralorg/www.darcytrinkwon.com

Cheques:

Please be aware when writing cheques for any payments, that cheques are made payable to **Worth Abbey Parish**.
Thank you

AGM Report:

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

Save the Date:

Sunday 13th May: This year the **First Holy Communion** candidates will be receiving this Sacrament at a Mass Service which will be held at **11:00am** in the Abbey. This is a change from previous years, where the children received the Sacrament during the Concelebrated Sunday morning 9:30 Mass. All parishioners, family, friends are very welcome to attend.

Saturday 23rd June. *Ben Rogers will be giving a talk after mass in the Unity Room.* He is a human rights activist and writer. As East Asia Team Leader at Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW), he specialises in Burma, Indonesia, Malaysia, North Korea and China. In addition to his work with CSW, he is also co-founder and Chair of a new advocacy organisation called Hong Kong Watch, co-founder and Deputy Chair of the Conservative Party Human Rights Commission and Senior Fellow at the Religious Freedom Institute. Please come along, all are welcome.

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 christinafitzsims@icloud.com 07721010577

CAFOD:

Thank you for your support to our Lent Fast Day appeal. Donations to CAFOD until 12 May will be doubled by the UK Government. We have planned a £5 million programme to combat malnutrition. To donate please go to cafod.org.uk/lent

Family Fun Day to Celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi:

Sunday 3 June at St John's Seminary, Wonerish, Guildford GU5 0QX from 1pm including activities, Blessed Sacrament procession with Bishop Richard and ending with tea. To assist with catering please confirm attendance with Katherine Bergin on katherine.bergin@dabnet.org

Diocesan Grandparents Pilgrimage:

Wednesday 13 June from 10.45am at the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation, Park Lane, West Grinstead RH13 8LT. The day will include Adoration and Reconciliation and Mass with Bishop Richard. Hot drinks available but bring own packed lunch. **Booking Essential** with Rosie Read on 01293 651161 or rosie.read@dabnet.org.

Dialogue and Unity Day 2018:

Saturday 29 September from 10am-4pm at the Christian Education Centre, 4 Southgate Drive, Crawley RH10 6RP on Christian Unity and the Renewal of the Church. Keynote speakers to be confirmed. You can book by email ruth.gerun@dabnet.org

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.

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

Diocesan Newsletter:

You are all more than welcome to sign up to the A & B News, which is an online Diocesan newsletter. Details can be found on our website.

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: fcarbone@wellspringbrighton.org.uk

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.

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

INSPIRE 2018 – Youth Ministry Leadership Conference:

Tickets are still available for the Diocesan youth ministry leadership day being held on **May 12th** at Redhill. It's open to anyone who is interested in youth and young adult ministry, including parents and Confirmation leaders, and tickets are just £10. It's happening at St Joseph's Church, Redhill, from 10am to 3.30pm, and there is a very impressive line-up of speakers. To book: Email YMBookings@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 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 9th May and 30th May.

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: **Sixth** Sunday of Easter

1st Reading - Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

2nd Reading - 1 John 4:7-10

Gospel: John 15:9-17

You are my friends if I do what I command you

Daily Readings

Monday - Acts 14:5-18 John 14:21-26

Tuesday - Acts 14:19-28 Matt 13:54-58

Wednesday - Acts 15:1-6 John 15:1-8

Thursday - 1 Cor 15:1-8 John 14:6-14

Friday - Acts 7:55-60 Matt 10:17-20

Saturday - Acts 16:1-10 John 15:18-21

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

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.

