

Lent

Our celebration began with the imposition of ashes, an ancient Biblical symbol of our wish to repent. We heard the words, “Repent and believe the Good News”, words spoken by Jesus to his first disciples as he began his ministry. To repent means, literally, to have a change of heart, or will, in the Biblical sense. In truth, this is God’s deepest wish for us. In the readings which we heard on Wednesday, the prophet Joel and St Paul assure us that God Himself is longing for us to be reconciled with Him. It is the paradox of His love for us and His humility that, while He is the one who has been offended by our sinfulness, and we are the guilty ones, it is He who constantly begs us to return and receive His forgiveness.

The season of Lent lasts for forty days. (This omits the Sundays, when we can relax for a moment!) This time span is a symbol of our joining Jesus in the desert, which we remember in our Gospel reading this weekend. Jesus has just been baptised and has received the Holy Spirit, the life and love of God his Father, and has been acclaimed as the Son whom the Father loves.

As he enters the desert we are shown in a pictorial way Jesus’ meditation on his vocation to be the Son of God. Perhaps these three encounters with the devil represent temptations to avoid the human condition which he came to share, as it were to “short circuit” the vocation which the Father gives him to accompany the poor among humanity and to share their lot. He is invited to avoid hunger – *Turn this stone into a loaf* – and to take power – *I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms*. It is God’s design for Jesus that he should walk alongside the people of God and suffer as the prophet of the poor, sharing their life and their death, and so to raise us up in the Resurrection.

So the Church offers us these forty days of Lent as a moment in which we may meditate on our own vocation as children of God. The desert expresses any way in which we can immerse ourselves more deeply in God’s vocation to us, shedding whatever distracts us from this.

Please visit the CAFOD website (see the link on the parish website) to learn about the Fast Day next week, and to find prayers and meditations to help us.

Anniversaries

Please pray for the Souls of – Stan Geal, Daniel Harrison, Rev Canon Richard Incedon, Terry Smith, John Surtees, Nancy Wilson Stuart, Kitty Cahill, John Burge, Terry Fallon, Bishop David Cashman, Julie Vincent, Mary Jarvis and Mary Devlin.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen.



Prayers

Please pray for Marty Vaughan who is suffering from ill health.

Please pray for Clare Crossman who died on 17th February. Please pray for her husband Ian and all their family.

Please pray for Shelagh Wall who died on Wednesday 6th March. Please pray for her brother Michael and all her family.

Please pray for Rosa Jones. This weekend Rosa goes to the Cathedral for the rite of election and will be received into full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter vigil.

Dementia prayer week – 12th-19th March. Please pray for those affected.

Parish News



Concerts



10th March – 7.30pm in the Abbey. D'Arcy Trinkwon Organ Recital.

17th March – 7.30pm in the Abbey. Choral Society & Orchestra Concert in aid of Outreach Peru.

24th March – 7.30pm in the Abbey. Sequence of music and readings for Lent. This will be a liturgical celebration and will be followed by the opportunity of private confession.

Plate Collection

Gift Aided - **£702.26**

Non Gift Aided - **£242.63**

There will be a Second Collection next weekend in aid of CAFOD.

Holidays

Fr Paul is now away on holiday until **23rd March**.

Therefore there will be no In Touch on weekends of 16th/17th and 23rd/24th March.

If you have any urgent announcements during these dates, please do get in touch with the office.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will take place each Friday in Lent in the Abbey church at 8 pm., beginning on March 15th. (Please meet in the Lady Chapel)

Materials for Lent Groups

There are materials available online for lent groups. Please let us know in the parish office if you would like a list. Thank you.

Eucharistic Healing Services in the Abbey

An opportunity to come together to pray for the healing of those we know in need, for our families and for ourselves.

Wed 13th March 7.15 -9pm Eucharistic Adoration with Prayers for Healing

Sun 14th April 2- 4-30pm Mass followed by Prayers for Healing

Reconciliation Service

There will be a Reconciliation service in the Abbey on **Monday 15th April**. This will start at 7.30pm.

CAFOD Family Fast Day

CAFOD's family fast day this Lent is an opportunity to support our brothers and sisters around the world. Drought, floods and storms are having a devastating impact on our global family. Like Mahinur from Bangladesh. She makes a living from fishing but a drought last year killed all the fish, and she's struggling to support her disabled husband and son.

On Friday 15th March, can you eat a simple meal in solidarity and give what you save to help people like Mahinur? Through CAFOD's global church network – one of the largest aid networks in the world – your support can reach to the end of the earth.

Please collect your Fast Day envelope from church this week and give whatever you can.

Please also consider joining the Clarke's Lenten coffee mornings on Mondays in Lent, in aid of CAFOD.

Kir Horner, CAFOD volunteer

Coffee Morning

There will be a coffee morning held, to help raise £850.00 to send a child in need to Lourdes this Easter with HCPT.

Wednesday, 20th March at Stonecote, Birch Grove, Horsted Keynes, RH17 7BT.

All are welcome. Please contact Angela Bellord 01825740269

Lent Coffee Mornings

Hal and Rory Clarke will be holding coffee mornings each Monday in Lent from 10.30am to 12noon,

at Cinderhill House, Horsted Keynes, Haywards Heath, RH17 7BD

The first one will be on **Monday 11th March**

through to Monday 15th April.

Everyone is welcome and any voluntary donations to CAFOD.

Message from Haywards Heath Foodbank

Haywards Heath Foodbank would like to say a big 'Thank You' to all our Worth Abbey Parish supporters.

In 2018 you helped us provide food and sundry items to 1645 people, an increase of 29% on the previous year. From the 618 vouchers received (↑49%) we were able to determine that 37% were single people and 63% families of varying sizes.

The main reasons for needing help included 'delay in receiving benefits' and 'low income'.

Thankfully during the year our Food stock donations from all sources increased by 47% to 12.7 tons.

Since we opened 7 years ago 72 tons of non-perishable food has been donated to and from us. THANK YOU

Lunches for Homeless People

Your help and support on the day would be very much appreciated in The Friary Hall, Crawley.

Dates for the lunch will be **24th March, 26th May, 28th July, 22nd Sept and 24th Nov.**

If you can come along please contact Ashwin Soni on 07833 252551 or Email - ashel@hotmail.co.uk

GDWG Clothing

The detainee centre has advised us that they are struggling to get some clothes that are sorely needed. If you have any of the below items that you would like to donate, these can be handed in to our parish office (or left in the porch).

T-shirts – S, M, L

Trainers – 7-11 UK size

Jeans – 32", 34", 36" waist

Jumpers – S, M, L

Jogging bottoms – S, M, L

Shirts – S, M

Sweatshirts/hoodies – S, M, L

Warm jackets – all sizes

Warm hats

Socks – preferable new only; otherwise in good condition

Travel bags/rucksacks – not too small

Thank you so much

TRAIDCRAFT

Many thanks to everyone who supported us during Fairtrade Fortnight, even though our stocks were somewhat depleted.

We are pleased to tell you that, after a very difficult few months, Traidcraft are gradually building up their stocks again. We have taken delivery of some of our old favourites - Double Chocolate Chunk Cookies, Fruit and Oaty Cookies and Half Coated Chocolate Shortbread Fingers.

We also have a very good selection of Easter Eggs, which include The Real Easter Eggs, milk and dark chocolate, with a 24 page Easter Story/Activity Book, and Divine Easter Eggs. We are ready to take your orders and look forward to seeing you at our Traidcraft stall.

Do please remember that, for every Fairtrade product you buy, you are helping to improve the lives of the workers in impoverished countries, and by purchasing goodies from our stall you will also be enabling Traidcraft to continue their work and hopefully, later this year, celebrate 40 years of trading.

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 - Now Meeting 1st / 3rd Wednesday at 7:30pm, Lady Chapel.

Eucharistic Healing Services - Mass will be celebrated, followed by prayers for healing - all welcome.

Contact Fr Rod 01342 710308 for further details. Next dates, **Wed 13th March** 7.15pm, **Sun 14th April** 2pm.

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 date will be **7th April** and **5th May**.

Christian Meditation Group - Blessed Sacrament Chapel 7.45pm for 8pm start to 8.45pm followed by Compline. Contact Caterina 01243 554001. Next dates **13th and 27th March**.

Vigil for Vocations - (1st Friday) 9.00pm to midnight in the Abbey Church. **Next date 5th April**.

Children's Mass - 1st Saturday of each month at 5pm. **Next date will be 6th April**.

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.

"Idleness is the enemy of the soul; and therefore the brethren ought to be employed in manual labour at certain times, at others, in devout reading"

(St Benedict)

Next Sunday's Readings: **Second Sunday of Lent (yr. C)**

1st Reading - Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

2nd Reading - Philippians 3:17-4:1 or Philippians 3:20-4:1

Gospel: Luke 9:28-36

The transfiguration

Daily Readings

Monday - Lev 19:1-2, 11-18 Matt 25:31-46

Tuesday - Isa 55:10-11 Matt 6:7-15 or 2 Cor 4:1-2, 5-7 Luke 22:24-30 or 1 Thess 2:2-8 Matt 16:13-19

Wednesday - Jonah 3:1-10 Luke 11:29-32

Thursday - Esth C:12, 14-16, 23-25 Matt 7:7-12

Friday - Ezek 18:21-28 Matt 5:20-26

Saturday - Deut 26:16-19 Matt 5:43-48

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: 9.15am-1.15pm Mon-Fri)

Night time emergencies only: 07494 484979

Any cheques to be made payable to - Worth Abbey Parish

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

In Touch: If you would like anything to appear in 'In Touch', please contact Maria Stribbling at parish@worth.org.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.