

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



Tips for the weekend – 9th / 10th December

Secret Santa (also known as Kris Kringle).

Instead of buying individual presents for ten or a dozen people, a ‘Secret Santa’ means you buy just one present. You can take more care over what you buy and it’s fun wondering “who bought for whom”. £10 is often considered a suitable value.

During the autumn of this year Bishop Richard has been visiting all the deaneries in the diocese to encourage us to help him plan for the future.

The immediate need is the projected reduction of priests in our diocese – almost 50% within the next ten years.

This will clearly involve the re-structuring of parishes. Some churches will probably close and some parishes will merge. It will not be an easy task for Bishop Richard, which is why he is asking for our advice and help.

Please pray for Bishop Richard as he undertakes this process of planning for the future, and please encourage everyone to be understanding.

While our own parish of Worth Abbey will not be directly affected by the above, Bishop Richard is also appealing to us to become a missionary Church, and this work belongs to each of us.

Mission – passing on the message of the Gospel that each of us is infinitely loved by God – belongs to every Christian by virtue of our baptism. All of us share in Jesus’ role as prophet, priest and king. Bishop Richard has distributed to us a series of slides entitled *The Word Who Is Life*, which draw on the New Testament and some recent Church documents to remind us that mission is the essence of the Church’s work and nature. *The Church on earth is by her nature missionary...She has as her origin the mission of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.* (Catechism of the Catholic Church n.850).

Pope Francis also proclaims, *All of us are called to take part in this new missionary “going forth”.* (Evangelii Gaudium n.20) This is what several Popes in recent years have called the New Evangelisation – the evangelisation of the baptized. This is a particularly urgent task today, since many who were reared as Catholics and took part in programmes of preparation for sacraments no longer come to Church. (Two thirds of young people who were brought up in a faith in the U.K. opt not to bring their own children up in a faith.)

While the future of the Church depends on the Holy Spirit, God chooses to use us as his instruments in the world.

Please pray that we may always be open to the Spirit and generous in our response.

The Re-Lit programme is a beginning of our response in the parish, and the group has begun to respond to the Bishop’s questions.

Please see the website for these, and for the material which was sent us for our meditation and consideration.

Please also see the diocesan website for a short video which Bishop Richard made for us; and, most importantly, please pray for the success of this missionary project in the diocese

Anniversaries – Please pray for the souls of - Margery Hemming, Dom Michael Smith, Mary (Molly) Hansford, Brian Hemming, Sean Duggan, Tom Fieldwick, Liam Dunbar, Mrs Elizabeth Shrimpton, Molly Cox, Ralph Etherton, Anne O'Reilly (School Matron).

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

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Special Events for your Calendar

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.

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).

RISE Theatre group performance: 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.

Church Unity Celebration: Sunday, 21st January, at 3 pm. This will be in the Abbey church, followed by refreshments. Everyone is welcome, and all the Churches in the local villages. The team from Crawley Down will offer "messy church" in the Unity Room, for any child who would like this.



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 NOW £29
Contact Sara Barclay-Hudson (01444 461236) sbh0369@yahoo.com

Taidcraft 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

Jam/Chutney: A very big thank you to Jenny and her team for making and selling wonderful jams and chutneys. And thank you to all for your generous purchases. We made a great total so far of **£284**. All in aid of Irundu.

Gift Aid Envelope No. 65: We have received £10 in the white Gift Aid envelope number 65. Could you please let us know your name and address please, so that we may apply Gift aid. Thank you very much.

Junior Church: Please be aware that our final class of the year for Junior Church will be 17th December. Classes will resume on Sunday 7th January '18.

Handel's Messiah Concert: Thank you to all who came. We would like to say a massive thank you for your wonderful donations. We collected a total of **£806.65**. A huge thank you to Michael, the orchestra and the choir for a beautiful performance. All in aid of Irundu.

Vacancy: We currently have the vacancy for a Hospitality and catering deputy in The Open Cloister. Applicants are required to submit an application form and covering letter detailing their suitability for the role, to Victoria Barden vbarden@worth.org.uk by midday on the 18th December. If you are interested in the vacancy or know anyone outside of Worth who may be, please let me know and I can send you the full job description.

Catholic Schools: Bishop Richard asks us to respond to this, concerning Catholic Schools. Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to U-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> or search for "catholic education" in your search engine, to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

Adoration: Eucharistic Adoration will be held at St Dunstan's Chapel, West Hoathly, every Sunday from 5pm-7pm. All are welcome.

Can you help?

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.

Alzheimer Society: We are again collecting used stamps for the Alzheimer society. There is an envelope on the noticeboard in the Narthex for you to just drop these off. Thank you for all your help with collecting these, this past year.

PACT Christmas Gift Appeal: Please help us by donating a Christmas present for children with loved ones in prison. Christmas is hard for the families and a Christmas present means the world to these children. If you could please donate a gift (**unwrapped and new**) for £5-£10, for a child, and drop it off at the parish office we would be so grateful. Deadline for gifts is Sunday 10th December. Please see noticeboard in Narthex. Thank you

OTHER EVENTS

Evenings of Reflection for Confirmation candidates: Bishop Richard will once again be hosting a series of Evenings of Reflection for Confirmation candidates around the Diocese. The evenings centre on an experience of Lectio Divina, led by Bishop Richard, and have proved extremely popular in 2016 and 2017 with some great feedback being received. In fact, a stunning ninety percent of young people who returned evaluations last year, indicated that the evenings were something they would recommend to somebody else! All evenings run from 7pm to 9pm and available dates are: Thursday Jan 18th, Horsham, Saturday Feb 3rd, Womersley (50 places left), Thursday Feb 8th, Epsom (30 places left), Thursday Feb 22nd, Worthing, Saturday Mar 10th, Bexhill. Booking is essential as space is limited. To book your group in, just send Jack Regan an Email- Jack.Regan@dabnet.org

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)

World Meeting of Families: Bishop Richard invites families to join him on a pilgrimage to Dublin for the World meeting of families 21st – 26th August 2018. This event includes; a three day congress exploring themes from Amoris Laetitia. International 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: wmof2018@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, 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.

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 7th Jan, and 4th Feb.

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

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

Children's Liturgy - (1st Saturday) Next date 6th January (Epiphany)

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: Third Sunday of Advent (Year B)

1st Reading – Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11 2nd Reading – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, "I am not the Christ."

"Well then," they asked "are you Elijah?"

"I am not" he said

"Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No."

So they said to him "Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?"

So John said, "I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: make a straight way for the Lord."

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees and they put this further question to him. "Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ and not Elijah and not the prophet?" John replied, "I baptise with water, but there are stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap."

This happened at Bethany, on the far side of Jordan, where John was baptising.

Daily Readings

Monday – Isaiah 35:1-10 Luke 5:17-26

Thursday Isaiah 41:13-20 Matthew 11:11-15

Tuesday – Isaiah 40:1-11 Matthew 18:12-14

Friday – Isaiah 48:17-19 Matthew 11:16-19

Wednesday – Isaiah 40:25-31 Matthew 11:28-30

Saturday – Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11 Matthew 17:10-13