

Edited by Maria Stribbling

**“What, dear brothers and sisters, is more delightful than the voice of the Lord calling to us”  
( St Benedict )**



## Tips for the weekend – 16<sup>th</sup> / 17<sup>th</sup> December

Fed up of Junk Mail?

Email the company and ask them to stop using your details for Direct Marketing Purposes  
(This exact wording is important)

They are obliged by law to take you off their database

In January we receive a visit from a theatre company called Rise Theatre. This is truly a privilege for us, for their play, *Romero*, is a most powerful and moving piece of theatre. This is because the actors are highly professional, and carry us through the story of Archbishop Romero of El Salvador with great intensity; but it is also because of the story itself.

Oscar Romero was chosen as Archbishop in 1977, at a time of great social upheaval in El Salvador, a tiny state in Central America, with a rich Catholic heritage. The country was ruled, and owned, by twelve families, while the rest of the population lived in misery, oppressed by the ruling families. The poor began to protest their way of life and the injustice which they suffered, and they were supported increasingly by their priests. Romero was elected at this moment because he was expected to put an end to this – an academic, and a “safe pair of hands”. The play tells how, witnessing the suffering of his people, he was gradually converted to become the prophet and champion of the poor, and how he was assassinated at the orders of the military on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 1980, while celebrating mass. This was a tragic and also a highly symbolic moment: having shared in Jesus’ prophetic ministry during his life, he then shared in his death. *This cup is the new covenant in my blood which will be poured out for you.*

Romero was recognised immediately by his people as a martyr and a saint, and was beatified by Pope Francis in May, 2015. His life and death show us clearly what it means to be a prophet – *To do justice for the poor and oppressed, this is truly to know God*, he said. He became “the voice of the voiceless”, and a model and inspiration for the prophetic vocation of the Church. He declared, *A Church that does not join the poor in order to speak out on behalf of the poor and against the injustices committed against them is not the true Church of Jesus Christ.*

This year marks the centenary of his death, and this production is part of the celebrations around his anniversary.

Do please put the date in your diary – Saturday, January, 13<sup>th</sup>, and get in touch with the office or the Rise website to order your tickets. (See details below.)

And please think and pray about how we, as a parish, may draw inspiration for ourselves from his example. You might also like to look at the excellent resources provided by the CAFOD website. (They have taken him as their patron).

**Anniversaries – Please pray for the souls of** - Eric Frankton, Fr Jerome Tomlins, Mike Wheeler, Mary Lovell, Ernest Constable, Fr Alan Downs, Josephine McLoughlin, Alec White, John Hall, Joanna Mackey, Jack Mantelow, Stanley Pitt, Joy Argent, Veronica Lamarche, Ambrose Rigby, Eve Dodwell, John Edward Clarke, Faith Shine, Mrs Duncan, Hugh Vredenburgh, Revd George Church, Paul Rubridge, Donald Nicolson, Muriel Price, Mrs W G Wallis, Albert Laithwaite, Henry Hyslop, Emmie Walford, Basil Hull, Vivian Trowbridge, Alistair Stone, Josette Previtt, Joseph Loftus, Tom Harrison, Reginald Ball, Ken Cooper, Julia Herrick, Abdul, David Gesden, Philip Curran, Philip McNulty, Paul Bonner, Max Morris, Geoffrey Seager-Berry, Adolphe Morice, Lilian Cottrell, Jimmy Law, Margaret Harrison, Leo Leroux, Nazarine Chaplin, Marie Rogue, Patricia Langridge, May Lane

**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*

**An evening of Advent reflection:** On 17<sup>th</sup> 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:** 13<sup>th</sup> 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, 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:sbh0369@yahoo.com)

**Christmas Cards:** At this time of year there is the laudable custom of exchanging cards. Long may it last. Many cards are left on the table in the Narthex by the ladies toilets. Do please check and collect any cards addressed to you. It often happens that cards stay there until Easter when they are swept into a bin. This year the "bin man" may come early, so please remove your cards.

**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.

**Christmas Eve Confessions:** These will be held from 10.30pm until 11pm

### **Christmas Mass Times:**

#### **Worth Abbey**

**Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Dec** – 9.30am concelebrated mass. 10.30pm Carols and organ music for 11pm midnight mass, which will be followed by refreshments in the Narthex.

**Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Dec** – 10am concelebrated Christmas day mass. 6pm Pontifical Vespers of Christmas

#### **St Dunstan's, West Hoathly**

**Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Dec** - 11.30am Parish Mass.

**Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Dec** -10am Christmas Parish Mass.

**Children's Liturgy:** Next date 6<sup>th</sup> January (Epiphany). **All children invited to come as Kings, Queens, Shepherds or Sheep**

**Adoration:** Eucharistic Adoration will be held at St Dunstan's Chapel, West Hoathly every Sunday from 5pm-7pm. All are welcome. This prayer is being offered for our Evangelisation programme.

**Next Parish Walk:** Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January after Mass. A walk from Staplefield followed by lunch at the Victory Inn. Please let us know if you would like to join us for the walk and/or the lunch. [trishiasol@aol.com](mailto:trishiasol@aol.com), [cfitzs3287@aol.com](mailto:cfitzs3287@aol.com)

**Monastic Desert:** The Monks will be "in the desert" from Monday to Wednesday and therefore out of communication, except for emergencies. We will pray for you. Please pray for us.

**Total Raised:** You will all be delighted to know that a grand total of **£1391** has been made through Jam and Chutney sales all in aid of Irundu. Very many thanks to all those who contributed so generously to the cause.

### *Can you help?*

**Lunch for the homeless:** If you would like to help, lunches are held in The Friary Hall from 11.30am. Please contact Ash on 07833252551 or email [ashel@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ashel@hotmail.co.uk) to let him know if you would like to help. Next lunch dates for 2018 – Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January, Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March, Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May, Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept, Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Nov

**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. Please drop them in the box in the Narthex. Thank you for all your help with collecting these, this past year.



*This will be our last In Touch of the year.  
We will be back 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> January.  
We would like to thank you all for your support throughout 2017.  
We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and hopes of a  
Wonderful and Fulfilling 2018.*

### **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 18<sup>th</sup>, Horsham, Saturday Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>, Wonersh (50 places left), Thursday Feb 8<sup>th</sup>, Epsom (30 places left), Thursday Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>, Worthing, Saturday Mar 10<sup>th</sup>, Bexhill.

Booking is essential as space is limited. To book your group in, just send Jack Regan an Email- [Jack.Regan@dabnet.org](mailto:Jack.Regan@dabnet.org)

**Annual Justice & Peace Assembly:** Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> 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: [wtof2018@dabnet.org](mailto:wtof2018@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 7<sup>th</sup> Jan, and 4<sup>th</sup> Feb.

**Christian Meditation Group** - Blessed Sacrament Chapel 7.45pm for 8pm start to 8.45pm followed by Compline. Next dates will be 10<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January, 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> February, 14<sup>th</sup> March, Contact Gabrielle 01342 326118/Caterina 01243 554001.

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

**Children's Liturgy** - (1st Saturday) Next date 6<sup>th</sup> January (Epiphany). **All children invited to come as Kings, Queens, Shepherds or Sheep**

**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](mailto:clare.harper@hotmail.com) or [marian.imhasly@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:parish@worth.org.uk) **Parish Office Tel:** 01342 710313 **Parish Website:** [www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk](http://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](mailto: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 of Advent (Year B)

1st Reading – 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16                      2nd Reading – Romans 16:25-27

### **Gospel: Luke 1:26-38**

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man name Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, "Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you."

She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, "Mary, do not be afraid, you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David, he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end."

Mary said to the angel, "But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?" "The Holy Spirit will come upon you" the angel answered "and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called the Son of God. Know this too, your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son and she whom people called barren, is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God." "I am the handmaid of the Lord," said Mary "let what you have said be done to me." And the angel left her.

#### Daily Readings

Monday – Jeremiah 23:5-8 Matthew 1:18-24

Tuesday – Judges 13:2-7, 24-25 Luke 1:5-25

Wednesday – Isaiah 7:10-14 Luke 1:26-38

Thursday – Song of Songs 2:8-14 Luke 1:39-45

Friday – 1 Samuel 1:24-28 Luke 1:46-56

Saturday – Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24 Luke 1:57-66

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