

The Pastoral Conversion of The Parish

This is a new document which asks us to look at our parishes in the light of evangelisation. This is the central concern of Pope Francis for the whole Church, and it runs through this document. They write : *The Holy Father, in this regard, recommends that: "If something should rightly disturb us and trouble our consciences, it is the fact that so many of our brothers and sisters are living without the strength, light and consolation born of friendship with Jesus Christ, without a community of faith to support them, without meaning and a goal in life.* So how can our parish respond to his call ? The authors point out that the nature of the parish must change, perhaps quite radically, responding to a culture which is very different to that of even twenty years ago. *The territorial configuration of the Parish, however, must confront a peculiar characteristic of our contemporary world, whereby increased mobility and the digital culture have expanded the confines of existence. On the one hand, people are less associated today with a definite and immutable geographical context, living instead in "a global and pluralist village"; on the other hand, the digital culture has inevitably altered the concept of space, together with people's language and behaviour, especially in younger generations.*

At Worth we are quite used to the idea that our parish has no geographical boundaries, as we welcome people from as far afield as Croydon and Brighton, and from Kent and Surrey. But how do we engage with "the digital culture" ? And how do we make the changes necessary to bring mission to the forefront of the identity of the parish ? The document speaks of *ecclesial membership...being part of a community by adoption.* They go on to say, *In this present age, marked at times by marginalisation and solitude, the Parish community is called to be a living sign of the proximity of Christ through fraternal bonds, ever attentive to new forms of poverty.*

At this time of Corona virus, loneliness must be an ever greater form of poverty for many, and the authors urge us to set this concern at the centre of our pastoral ministry : *the Parish, called to reach out to everyone, without exception, should remember that the poor and excluded must always have a privileged place in the heart of the Church.*

All of this raises many more questions than answers, but it is important to remember that this transformation of our parish is the responsibility of each one of us. I look forward to your ideas. Please see the document at <http://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/the-pastoral-conversion-of-the-parish-community-in-the-service-of-the-evangelising-mission-of-the-church/>

Meanwhile I send you all my very best wishes and my prayers.

Fr Paul

Please remember to register for mass on Saturday :

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScVfCMPk2mOTfD2n-bpwhp35aFZwzEdorxi5ADHDW3Mjr4vuw/viewform>

Or for Sunday : <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Oj0v->

[IICjkMslygOgqWgs68i2acPNwUtMaL65lqYVUk/viewform?edit_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Oj0v-IICjkMslygOgqWgs68i2acPNwUtMaL65lqYVUk/viewform?edit_requested=true)

Please note that, now that we are able to offer mass three times a week, very few people have taken advantage of the prayer times in the afternoons. Because we are obliged to supply two stewards on each occasion, we have decided that we will no longer open the church in the afternoons. But please do take advantage of the Quiet Garden for private prayer.

Could anyone help to count the collections taken at mass, please ? John Fitzpatrick writes : **We need to appeal for an additional two or three volunteers to assist in the counting and banking of mass collections.** The duties include :

Checking, counting and recording cash and cheques

Recording figures on a simple pre-prepared Excel spread sheet

Preparing paying in book and deposit cash at HSBC in East Grinstead

Email completed spread sheet to parish office

The counting duties are organised on a rota basis. This would mean approximately every six weeks.

The counting is done in the Parish Office. It involves about two to three hours work. Training will be provided. A basic knowledge of Excel would be helpful but not essential. Please contact John Fitzpatrick on 07768 504480. Thank you very much.

Please see the website for an invitation to prayer in Tilgate Park on Thursday, 6th August to mark the dropping of the first atomic bomb.

<http://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/75th-anniversary-of-hiroshima-thursday-6th-august-2020/>

For regular items, please see the website : for readings for the coming week, see Universalis <http://www.universalis.com/Europe.England.Arundel/mass.html>

For children and young people's prayer, see CAFOD's material :

<http://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/coronavirus-resources-for-children-young-people-and-their-families/>

For prayers and anniversaries see : <http://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/in-touch-newsletters/>