



## CATHOLIC PARISH GUILDFORD

### 4th Sunday Ordinary Time

The format of this week's email has changed a little to highlight the three key elements of Parish life which the Bishop has asked us to focus on: Prayer, Formation & Mission....of course not everything fits neatly into three key areas - but we have done our best (& then added Fabric & Finance & Other!) This week's reflection comes from Bishop Richard:

#### A CALL TO CONVERSION

During the course of this last week, we celebrated an important feast in the life of the Church – the Conversion of St Paul. He holds a special place in the Church's life. He is the last of the Apostles, one who recognised that he had been chosen out of time – so much later than the others, and through the experience of the Risen Christ on the road to Damascus. He is the Apostle to the Gentiles, the one who brought the Gospel message to the wider world of his own day. We might ask ourselves: without the ministry of St Paul, would we have received the Good News?

Paul shows tremendous vigour in his following of the Gospel. He is not frightened to 'tell it as it is' and he pays the price. He is often persecuted and, in the end, he gives his life for Christ.

With his feast day in mind, we might ask ourselves about the call to conversion that comes to each and every one of us. It is a conversion that calls us to live our lives in a particular way – the way of the Gospel, the way of the Beatitudes that we hear proclaimed in this Sunday's Gospel.

These texts that form the beginning of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, recorded in Matthew's Gospel, challenge us to take a close look at our

own lives. Living the Beatitudes means standing out from the crowd. The Christian should be noticed as one who upholds what is right, shows mercy and purity, who has a poverty of spirit and lives in gentleness, who is ready to embrace loss and who will be ready for persecution.

We may feel that we have a way to go before we achieve true conversion of heart, mind and life – but this is the way of the baptised and the more we embrace this way, the more we find freedom of heart in Christ and the life that He calls us to share in Him and with all around us.

With every blessing,

+ Richard

## THIS WEEK...

### PARISH AWARE ANTI-SLAVERY INITIATIVE.

Last chance to register for the talk.

#### **TALK from OLIVIA DARBY (WONDER FOUNDATION)**

As part of our Parish Aware programme, we are delighted to welcome Olivia Darby to talk to us about Modern Slavery on **Wednesday 1st February 2023, St Pius X Hall, 7.30pm (refreshments), 8pm start.** Please Register via the Parish Website or call the Office on 01483 562704.

Olivia is the Chief Programmes Officer for the Wonder Foundation, a charity which seeks to enable local women leaders in some of the most disadvantaged places in the world to lift their fellow women and girls out of poverty through the gift of education, a field of mission which, sadly, often means grappling with the terrible reality of female slavery, sex trade and trafficking. Olivia is a Catholic, and many of Wonder's partners are religious sisters. (She and Fr Tristan are godparents to the same child - hence a connection with our parish too!)

Read more about the [Wonder Foundation here.](#)

### YOUNG ADULTS

Please note that the next 'Prayer and Pub' meeting of the Young Adults group is next Thursday 2nd Feb at St Joseph's (in a change to previously advertised time). Also, save the date for the Retreat Day on Saturday 4th March at St Pius X: more details to follow next week!

## PRAYER

### MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Please Remember in your prayer..

**Patricia Nolan** ( Funeral on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January at Guildford Crematorium at 3pm )

**Ronald Cole** ( Funeral on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February at St Edwards at 12 Noon)

**Maria Fazzone** ( Funeral on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February at St Mary's at 11am)

**Jose Filiberto** ( Funeral on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February at St Joseph's at 10am )

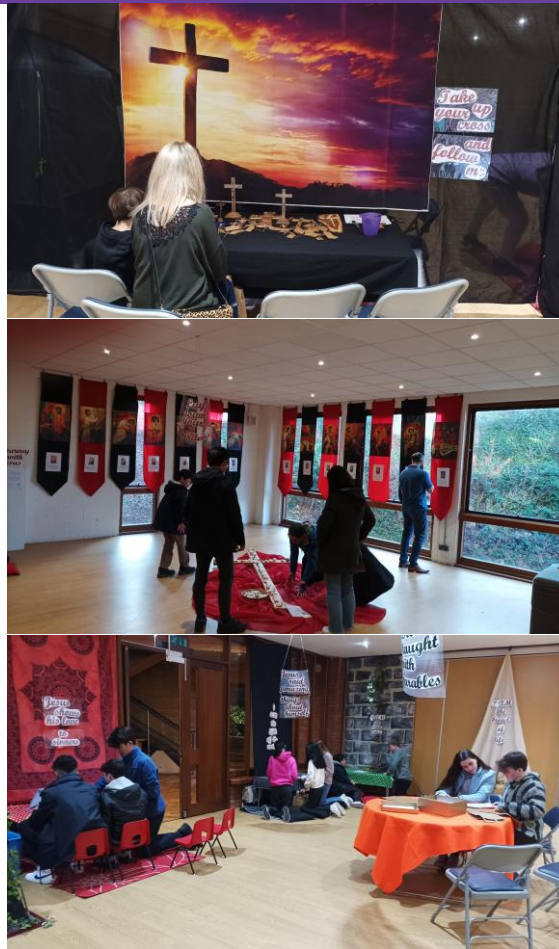
**Peter Bird** ( Funeral on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at St Joseph's at 12 Noon)

**Patrick Nolan** ( Funeral on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February at St Joseph's at 10am )

## CYF UPDATE

We had 150 families join us for the CYF Family Day. Thank you for your prayers. We split St Joseph's hall into three zones, each space having creative prayer stations focusing on either Jesus' life, death or resurrection. It was wonderful to see every family engage with the prayer stations, some staying for over 3 hours! These family days are a unique offering in the Diocese that help participants to experience our faith that may otherwise remain intellectual.





## FORMATION

### THE CHOSEN

Wondering about *The Chosen*

We're invited to step into the shoes of Jesus' disciples - we meet him with all their excitement, fear, confusion, humanity, and emotion. We'll watch the first season of this excellent new television show, with the chance for prayer and discussion afterwards.

We'll show each episode several times, and have added a Friday evening slot at St Mary's. We begin on 7th/ 8th/ 10th February. Full dates and sign up on these links:

**Tuesdays, 11am, St Joseph's Hall**

or **Wednesdays, 7.30pm, St Pius X Hall**

or **Fridays, 7.30pm, St Mary's Hall**

The show is free to watch, on its own [website](#)/ app or via [Netflix](#) or [Amazon Prime](#). You might prefer to watch the show at home and pray and chat about it with friends on zoom, so each week we will make the materials available on the website and in the newsletter.

### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - a date for the diary**

The Parish is hosting (at St Joseph's Church) this year the World Day of Prayer 3rd of March 2023.

We are calling all parishioners and people from Taiwan who would like to be part in the service to Text TAIWAN or call 07918180977. The Parish organisers would very much appreciate your help. Thank you.

### **WORLD YOUTH DAY PORTUGAL (31ST JULY - 7TH AUGUST)**

If you are aged 18-35, join the diocesan group heading to Lisbon for 2023's World Youth Day. Ask anyone who has been on a previous WYD and they will tell you the impact it can have; there's nothing quite like meeting with literally millions of other young Catholics from every continent to reignite your faith! It is also a chance to gather in unity at Mass with the Successor of St Peter, our holy Father Pope Francis, and so experience the Church at its most universal. Throughout the week ahead, there is catechesis, social events, prayer, and the chance to experience the culture of a great and historic Catholic city. Fr Tristan will be helping lead the group along with other priests and leaders from Arundel & Brighton, and to take part you can get in touch with Lizzie Wakeling – e-mail her at [lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk) for more information.

## **MISSION (OUTREACH)**

### **THURSDAY SOUP LUNCH**

All are warmly welcome to share lunch in the company of friends at St Pius X Hall, from 12-2pm every Thursday during February. No charge, but to help us understand numbers for catering, please sign up at [www.cpg.church/soup](http://www.cpg.church/soup)

### **LADIES AFTERNOON TEA**

**Change of date**

The new date for afternoon tea at Clandon Regis Golf Club will be Monday February 20th at 3.00pm. The cost will be £14.25 which includes service charge. Please let Anne Hoyer know by February 6th if you'd like to attend-07799051494

## FINANCE & FABRIC

### St Edwards Key Changeover

The programme to replace the St Edwards Sacristy and Hall outer door locks is underway. Existing or prospective keyholders who have not yet registered with the Parish office are asked to do so as soon as possible. Existing keys will not work after 3 February. (office@cpg.church or 01483562704 Option 1)

## DIOCESAN & OTHER EVENTS

### CAFOD

Join us and take on The Big Lent Walk challenge and walk 200km over Lent. You can walk where, when and how you want, alone or with friends and family. You could break the walk into bitesize chunks and cover 5km a day! Every pound you raise will help CAFOD be there for people globally facing poverty. Sign up now! W:

walk.cafod.org.uk W: [Catholic international development charity | CAFOD](http://Catholic international development charity | CAFOD)

### Worth Abbey

**Time Out individual self-guided retreats** 20–22 January, 6–9 February, 6–9 March and 15–18 May Cost : £90 per person, per night (min 2 nights).

Spend a few days at Worth Abbey enjoying the rhythm of the monastic prayer and liturgy, time in reflection and the peace of the Sussex countryside. There is no set programme other than an optional daily Lectio Divina session, the usual monastic timetable of divine office and liturgy and the opportunity for a 1:1 meeting with a member of the monastic community.

**Finding Stillness** 13–16 March and 5–8 June Cost: £330 per person, single occupancy.

'Be still and know that I am God' (Psalm 46). Come to Worth Abbey and encounter this refreshing and empowering stillness. Through the Benedictine tradition, discover how stillness can be part of your everyday life and how transformative it can be. The retreat will include: teachings in Lectio Divina and stilling the mind as well as an opportunity to have a 1:1 meeting with a member of the monastic community.

**The Wisdom of St Benedict : Fr Martin McGee OSB** 14-16

February Cost: £220 per person, single occupancy

Fr Martin will explore the riches of St Benedict's Rule, a guide to living out the Christian life in all its fullness. The following topics will be covered:

Stability – Becoming rooted in Christ;

Humility – Learning how to become oneself;

Lectio Divina – Finding nourishment in God's Word;

Christian leadership – Serving Christ in others.

**Lent Retreat : Fr Peter Williams OSB** 28 February–2 March Cost: £220 per person

An opportunity to invite God into your daily life, and to give yourself some time for prayer during the season of Lent; to deepen your faith and your relationship with God. All centred around the monastic cycle of prayer and liturgy and Lectio Divina. There is also the opportunity to meet with one of the Monks for reconciliation or 1:1 chat. Concessionary rate for shared occupancy and bursary assistance available. Please contact Worth Abbey for further information. T:01342 710318 E: [retreats@worth.org.uk](mailto:retreats@worth.org.uk) W: [worth.co.uk](http://worth.co.uk)

**[Chilworth Abbey Study Day - Saturday 11 February 2023](#)**

Led by Fr John Seddon OSB, of Bishop Barron's 'Catholicism', Episode 6, The Mystical Union of Christ and the Church. Mass, 9.00am, Talks 10.15am-3.30pm. Bring a packed lunch and a friend if possible. See W: [chilworthbenedictines.com](http://chilworthbenedictines.com) for more details.

## CPG LIVESTREAM

**SUNDAY MASS ONLINE: 10.30am and 5 pm | JOIN US FOR DAILY  
MASS ONLINE: Monday-Saturday - 10 am**

Mgr Tony Barry