

## Fr Hugh Writes:

Really good news this week when the rain seems to be endless. (1" ? at the end of Thursday). The new soundboards have been hung in the hall and if nothing else, look good. I hope you find them an improvement and renewed thanks to those who made this possible. It is a tremendous gift to the parish.

I received short notice that the work could begin so grabbed the opportunity, it did however disadvantage the bridge group, but hopefully they will also benefit.

Bishop Gerard's episcopal ordination was a joyous occasion on Monday at St Georges Cathedral. It was a long celebration (2 ? hours!) and a privilege to be able to be present and to see another friend given that extra responsibility in our Church.

I look forward to seeing Gerard again soon and to hear of some new work.

Also, in my absence on Wednesday, I see the roofers have been and tackled the leak around the sanctuary window. I do hope that it is fixed again, and maybe we shall be able just to repaint that part of the window when it's dry.

Now looking forward to Sunday, we shall celebrate together, Michael and Mahni's full reception into the church and the sacrament of Confirmation. I hope many of us can gather in the hall afterwards for celebration refreshments.

There is a retiring collection this Sunday for the Lourdes fund, which is close to the World Day of Prayer for the sick on Wednesday. There are envelopes in the narthex if you didn't collect one last Sunday. Please gift aid if you pay tax.

Ash Wednesday is just 10 days away on Wednesday week, 18<sup>th</sup> February. Mass will be at 6.30pm and as it's in the half term break, a reminder of the importance of the day as we begin the season of Lent.

Reading an article recently on food waste, I was struck by the amount of money on average that we in this country waste by throwing good food away. Seemingly, the average waste per family is valued at £470 per year. It never ceases to surprise me that people complain about the price of food when so much is wasted. I know the government have directed councils now to collect this and so recycle through anaerobic digesters, wouldn't it be better though for us to not buy more than we need? Something for us perhaps to work on as we keep Lent this year.

Saturday (14th) is the feast of Sts Cyril and Methodius, patrons of Europe. It's the day when officially our diocese enters the interregnum as Bishop Richard is installed in Westminster Cathedral. The school half term break will begin this coming Friday (13<sup>th</sup>)

## Notices:

### **Lent Groups**

These will include at least the following, but other groups may be formed if called for:

#### **Wednesdays at 3pm at the convent**

'We dare to' Lent course (booklet)

#### **Thursdays at 3pm (various homes, to be announced in advance)**

'We dare to' Lent course (booklet)

#### **Thursdays at 7.30 pm at 'Sunnyside', Upper Station Road**

'Sycamore Lent course (video)

**Please sign up on the sheet at the back of church (not necessary for regular house groupers).**

*Cont/d...*

## **Deacon Paul Writes:**

On Wednesday, the gospel at Mass was Mark's account of Jesus visiting his home town of Nazareth. He was well known there, of course; "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary?", the locals ask rhetorically, as they listened with astonishment to his teaching - "where did this man get these things?". They acknowledged his wisdom, and even his "mighty works", and yet...."they took offence at him" and Jesus had simply (and no doubt very sadly) to move on, marvelling at "their unbelief". They knew all about him, they thought, they had their set 'picture' of him, but they were reluctant to allow their lives to be taken from their control and changed through putting their faith in him.

The scripture scholar Dom Henry Wansbrough had this to say:

*The very last sentence of the reading speaks of their lack of faith. What was this lack of faith? They recognised in Jesus an extraordinary wisdom and a power of miracles, but this seems not to have been enough. What more was needed? Faith is not the acceptance of a set of propositions; 'I believe that the earth circles the sun', etc. It is putting all my trust in God as my only hope. It is all very well to admire Jesus, to think him a fine teacher and a heroic, honourable, man who gave everything for his high ideals; but unless we see God in him (and worship him) he cannot work the miracle of taking us to himself.*

And our salvation is all about Jesus "taking us to himself". "Many Christians pray", said Pope Francis in 2020, "but they do not worship". We should all ask ourselves: how is my "sense of worship", that 'putting my faith, my trust, in God', getting on? Perhaps a focus for reflection and prayer for each of us this Lent?

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## **Notices cont'd...**

**Children's Liturgy** takes place in our hall at 9.30am Sunday mornings, and is suitable for children aged from 6 to 13 years. The liturgy is followed by our 10am Mass in church. For more details please contact Andreia Gaio by [email: andry\\_nunes\\_18@hotmail.com](mailto:andry_nunes_18@hotmail.com)

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Todays Second Sunday Holy Hour after Mass has been postponed to next Sunday 15th.

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**House Groups:** There are no groups meeting this week.

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A message from Deacon Dominic: CELEBRATE Trust is a Catholic ministry that inspires and equips people of all ages to live an authentic Christian life in the power of the Holy Spirit, in support of the family, to form the next generation and encourage local community. CELEBRATE have produced a family activity pack for Lent 2026. It can be downloaded free from <https://www.celebratetrust.org/shop/lent-family-pack-celebratethome-s45pm>

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**The 2026 World Day of Prayer Service** is on Friday 6th March at St Peter's Church, Henfield at 2.30pm. This year the Ecumenical service has been prepared by the women of Nigeria and brings us a powerful invitation drawn from Matthew 11:28-30.

At a time when people worldwide are carrying heavy burdens, our Nigerian sisters offer profound insights into finding rest in God. As usual there will be refreshments in the church afterwards.

Despite being called the "Women's" World Day of Prayer for many years this is of course open to all and everyone is very welcome. Look out for more details nearer the time open or go to the WDP website: <http://worlddayofprayer.net/index.html>

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## **Notices cont/d...**

**Our St Patrick's Day Community Party and fundraiser is on Saturday 14th March from 6pm to 10pm.**

**Tickets are available after Sunday Masses and online via the QR code or website on the posters and handouts.**

This popular annual event is an opportunity to meet with others from the parish and wider community. With a live Irish Band, Irish dancers and a meal of Irish stew and soda bread (vegetarian/vegan option available). There will also be a raffle and a donation bar. Proceeds will support the charity Uganda Hands for Hope which provides education, health, nutrition and social support to the poorest children and families in the Namuwonog slum in Kampala. Our parishioner Joe Cuminskey founded the charity.

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**Our Quiz Night & Ploughman's Supper is on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March starting at 7.30pm.**

Our Church Hall seats 60 and we are aiming to have ten teams of 6.

How about getting together with family & friends to make a 6 person team?

If you are unable to get a full team together then *fear not*, we will be able to put you together with others before/on the night!

**Tickets are £10 per person and include a delicious Ploughman's Supper**  
(suitable for Vegetarians too)

There will NOT be a Bar but you are more than welcome to Bring Your Own drinks/glasses. Quiz Nights are extremely popular in Henfield and we would love our Parishioners to have "first dibs" on tickets so.

**Tickets will be available after Mass from Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February**

**from Brigid Hilton or Audrey Shaw.**

**Contact Brigid on 07743 229828**

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### **Aid donation collection for UKRAINE:**

We will be collecting again in our Church Hall on the following dates:

Tuesday 24th March - 11am to 2pm

Wednesday 25th March - 5pm to 7pm

Thursday 26th March - 10am to 2pm

The following items are needed: Tinned and dried food \* Packet soups \* Toiletries \* Power banks for charging phones. Sleeping bags \* New underwear \* Sanitary pads/tampons.

Volunteers are welcome to help with sorting and packing the boxes.

Financial contributions can be made to: Hope and Aid Direct, reg. charity.

Please phone Celia Emmott 07802847234.

The Hope and Aid Direct is a registered charity no. 1077146, delivering humanitarian aid since 1999. Taking Aid – Not Sides. The charity is a 100% volunteer-led, UK-based humanitarian aid charity. They operate across mainland Europe and beyond, with a current focus on supporting people affected by the conflict in Ukraine. They are non-political and non-affiliated. To donate or for more information please go to:

<https://hopeandaiddirect.org.uk/>

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**Corpus Christi Carpet of Flowers, Arundel Cathedral, Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th June.** Experience Arundel's beautiful Carpet of Flowers, celebrating the Feast of Corpus Christi. View the carpet from 9.30am to 7pm on Wednesday and from 9.30am to 5.30pm on the Thursday when Mass begins at 5.30pm followed by a procession to Arundel Castle. All are welcome.

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## **Notices cont/d...**

The **Marriage Anniversaries Mass** this year is on 3rd October, 11.30am at Arundel Cathedral. A celebration with couples marking a special anniversary or simply giving thanks for their marriage, with an opportunity to renew vows. Followed by a drinks reception. To register please [Click here](#)

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### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

***Today Sunday 8th February***

***Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time***

10am Mass and Reception into Full Communion

***Sunday 15th February***

10am Mass followed by Holy Hour till 11.45am

***Ash Wednesday 18th February - The Season of Lent***

Mass and Distribution of Ashes - 6.30pm

***Friday 6th March***

World Day of Prayer service at St Peter's Church, Henfield  
2.30pm followed by refreshments in church.

***Saturday 14th March***

St Patrick's Day Party and Fundraiser for Uganda Hands for Hope  
In our hall 6pm to 10pm

***Friday 20th March***

Fund raising Quiz Night and supper in our hall at 7.30pm.  
See notices for full details of tickets etc.

***Tuesday 24th to Thursday 26th March***

Ukraine donation collections/packing boxes

Tuesday 24th - 11am to 2pm

Wednesday 25th March - 5pm to 7pm

Thursday 26th March - 10am to 2pm

***Thursday 2nd April to Sunday 5th April - The Sacred Paschal Triduum.***

Times to be confirmed

***Sunday 31st May***

***Mass and Celebration lunch for Deacons Paul and Seamus***

Times/booking details to be confirmed nearer the time.