

*Church of The Sacred Heart, Petworth
SS. Anthony & George, Burton Park, Duncton*

Lent 2010

The season of Lent is a great time of opportunity, a wonderful gift which God gives us through his Church. It is very easy for us to go through life aware that there is much about ourselves, our priorities, our behaviour that is unsatisfactory, aware of a certain dissatisfaction, and yet we put off doing anything about it. We want to reform, but we persuade ourselves that it can wait until another day. Every year Lent challenges this attitude, and confronts us with the need to act. Lent holds a mirror up to our lives and asks if we are entirely happy with what we see. There is no point in putting action off until tomorrow. '*Now* is the favourable time, *this* is the day of salvation' (2 Corinthians 6.2). Once again let us embrace the gift of Lent, determined to use this time wisely, to let God into every part of our lives, to allow ourselves to be converted once more.

"Conversion to Christ, believing in the Gospel, ultimately means this: to exit the illusion of self-sufficiency in order to discover and accept one's own need - the need of others and God, the need of His forgiveness and His friendship."

Pope Benedict XVI Message for Lent 2010

Ash Wednesday
February 17th

Mass at 10am and 7pm

Ash Wednesday is not a Day of Obligation, but it is a day when all Catholics are advised to attend mass and receive the ashes if possible. These ashes are a powerful sign of our choice, our choice to repent and be reformed.

Sunday February 21st
Evening Prayer and Benediction
at 5pm

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Lent is a traditional time for receiving the great gift of forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Confessions are heard each Saturday at 5pm, or by appointment.

Our parish **Penitential Service**, at which we will be joined by a number of visiting priests, will take place on **Tuesday March 30th at 7.30pm**

CAFOD Fast Day
Friday February 26th

Fast Day Lunch at The Presbytery at 12.30pm

Something to Read for Lent

Are you looking for something to read for Lent? There are a number of booklets at the back of the Church, or if you have access to the internet you might be interested in one of the four daily reading plans at <http://www.lovethechurch.com/lent/>. One has (quite lengthy) readings from the Church Fathers; another has readings from Father Faber and Cardinal Newman; another has extracts from Pope Benedict on the lives of the Saints, and the fourth has readings from St. John Vianney. It's worth a look.

Stations of the Cross

From at least the time of the Emperor Constantine in the Fourth Century, Christians have made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to follow the route which Jesus walked from his condemnation at Pilate's house to his place of execution. Of course, the vast majority of people had no opportunity to travel to Jerusalem, so the practice arose of erecting a 'Way of the Cross' in each parish church. So, especially during Lent, people would follow a path around the church, stopping at each of the fourteen stations to remember, even spiritually to participate in, one of the events of Jesus last day.

Stations of the Cross

**Each Friday in Lent at 7pm,
and at 10am on Good Friday**

Lent Discussion Groups

In recent years it has become very fashionable to criticise religion in general, and the Catholic Church in particular. Sometimes we are confronted by these criticisms, and we do not quite know what to say. We hear people like Professor Dawkins or Stephen Fry, and we know instinctively that they are wrong, but we find it hard to put this into words. This Lent the Sunday homilies will address some of the issues that such people raise, and the discussion groups at The Presbytery will give an opportunity to discuss these issues further.

**Mondays Feb 22nd, March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd
at 7.30pm**

An almsgiving project for Lent

The Society of St. Peter the Apostle, the Church's official charity for supporting the training of seminarians in mission dioceses throughout the world, offers groups and individuals the chance to sponsor seminarians. If we can raise £500 a year for the next four years we can sponsor a seminarian through the last four years of his training. I would like our parish to take on the responsibility for training a seminarian over the next four years. Would you like to make a contribution to the first year's costs as part of your Lent discipline? Donations can be handed to Fr Peter.