

## *Father Hugh Writes:*

Bishop Richard has sent a pastoral message for this weekend with regard to Lectio Divina. He also refers to Pope Francis' letter *Aperuit illis* which can be found on <http://www.vatican.va>

Bishop Richard again refers to 'The God who speaks' which can be accessed on <http://www.cbcew.org.uk>

Also this weekend, Archbishop Kevin McDonald has sent out reflections for Holocaust Memorial day: As I'm sure you are aware; tomorrow is the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

The theme for this day is 'Stand Together'. Those who are targeted by persecutors and racists find protection when others stand together in solidarity with them and challenge what is being done.

During the Nazi era, Jews were saved because people who were not Jewish stood together with them, hiding them from the Nazis, giving them new non-Jewish identities or even speaking out against the genocide, at risk to their own lives.

Archbishop Kevin continues: Holocaust Memorial day is an opportunity each year for people around the UK to stand together with those in their local community, learn about those affected by genocide around the world and take action for the future.

In recent years, the number of hate crimes recorded by the police in the UK has been increasing. Christians have a crucial role to play in changing the unacceptable language that stir up racist attitudes and promote hatred.

It is where the work of Churches Together can really make a difference and one of the many reasons why we must go forward together with our sisters and brothers in our respective congregations in all our communities.

We must not only pray together, but act together.

Last Sunday's service for the week of Prayer for Unity did not fill our church, which it could of done bearing in mind the three parish communities of Henfield and beyond. Would it be better to have next years service on a weekday evening perhaps?? Your thoughts please. Our thanks to the bakers; cakes as always were delicious and made a fitting end to the day.

Our Confirmation programme has begun with 5 candidates now on their next step of the journey of faith. Please do hold them in your prayers.

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## *Fr Hugh Writes cont/d...*

Those running the Confirmation programme between our parishes are meeting on Monday Night at St Edward's, Keymer.

This Friday, our Finance team are meeting; reviewing amongst other things the recent quinquennial survey and the works we must carry out this year.

The new Crucifix is much appreciated by many. I am grateful for your comments and I know the donor will also be delighted that it has been received so well and again our thanks to them.

I have asked for some copies of 'The Tablet' to be sent to the parish, so some copies will be received over the next month for you to try. It would be good if we can increase the readership of this quality weekly. A subscription is approx. £116pa the cost of a Sunday paper. In my opinion it is the best of the Catholic weeklies.

Please note that next Sunday (2nd February) is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and replaces the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Day by day the daylength is increasing and as winter progresses, signs of new life are in the garden; the recent frosts will only do harm to those plants that are tender in our climate. The rest just pause in their growth. Rarely, these days do we have continued frost that the ground is frozen in the south, so we can continue with jobs outside and so freely top up our vitamin D levels. I really need to empty the compost bins so that they can be refilled!

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## *Parish Notices*

**Wedding Anniversaries:** If you have a special anniversary this year please let Fr. Hugh know the date and also if you would like a Mass of Thanksgiving on or around that date.

**World Day of Prayer:** In 2020 the service, written by the women of Zimbabwe, will take place on Friday 6th March at St Peter's Church, Henfield at 2pm. Everyone welcome. More details nearer the time.

Canon Brendan McCarthy's Requiem Mass is at 12noon on Friday 31st January at Christ the Prince of Peace, Weybridge. There is also a Vigil Mass the night before at 8pm.