The funeral of Prince Philip was a beautiful time of prayer for the repose of his soul and secondary, in thanksgiving for his life. Even though the rites we saw belong to the Church of England, we can take inspiration and you could see clearly the effort and love that Prince Phillip put into his own funeral. It was simply expressed by music, sacred scripture and prayer which is the true work of the liturgy. It even revealed his early Orthodox faith.

This spurred me on for something that I’ve been meaning to say for ages, but the coward in me has not. We use our church for sacred things and it seems when we have funerals in the church we seem to lose any idea of what is holy. The mystery of faith is simply blown away by eulogies and music that are not appropriate for church. I am happy for eulogies and popular music to be used in crematoriums, for that is their right place. The death of the just, we are told in Scripture, is blessed in the eyes of the Lord (Psalm 116). When a Christian dies, suitable reverence should accompany all of the rites and ceremonies that will accompany you. In the face of death, the Church proclaims that God has created us for Himself and that Christ has broken the bonds of sin and death that keep us from Him. In the face of death, Christians have hope in Christ, upon the sleep of death, “life is changed, not ended”. The wake is the appropriate time to celebrate the life of the deceased with favourite stories. The Holy Mass enables us to offer up our prayers and sorrows in union with Christ’s perfect Sacrifice, made present on the altar. In keeping with the ancient Christian teaching on purgatory, whereby souls experience a final purgation from the effects of sin, the Requiem Mass begs God to free the deceased from all bonds of sin and to receive the person into paradise. We have confidence that our prayers hasten the deceased’s journey through purgatory to the eternal joys of heaven (2 Maccabees 12:43-46).

In the Mass itself, we are given an opportunity to reconcile with God in the light of Our Lord’s Death and Resurrection. True joy comes from this moment.

The Requiem Mass differs from a memorial service since its focus is Jesus Christ, His victory over death, and the deceased’s participation in the Paschal Mystery. The Holy Mass also seeks to console the family and friends of the departed with the Christian hope of life after death and our continuing union with the deceased in Christ. The rites of the funeral are also for the living to give them confidence and strength.

In Jesus, Mary and Joseph ……………………..Fr Gerard
Retiring Collection THIS SUNDAY is for The Education of Future Priests (Gift Aid) It is also World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Prayers for the Sick and the Housebound: We offer our prayers for the sick and the housebound, and all those who are undecided, fearful and hesitant to attend Church due to Covid-19.

Our Parish Office Manager is working from home as per Government restrictions and Parish business continues, albeit remotely. Parish Office hours are 10am-2pm on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Please email knaphill@abdiocese.org.uk if you require assistance.

This Sunday at 8pm Bishop Richard will be giving a talk about his Benedictine journey. Since Bishop Richard was a seminarian, he has been an oblate of Pluscarden Abbey. This talk is part of a series hosted by the Lay Community of St Benedict which is celebrating 50 years since its foundation by the monks of Worth Abbey in 1971. You are welcome to join the livestream on Youtube at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFRiPXjiTi5GGaI6gJ4UFYQ/. If you want further information, please email: lcsb50.2021@gmail.com or you can visit www.laybenedictines.org.

Worth Abbey Online Retreat led by Fr Peter Williams OSB
Book your place at www.worth.co.uk/retreats/online-retreats. For all enquiries email: toc@worth.org.uk

The Faith Companion parishioner magazine online digital copies and subscriptions are now available at http://www.thefaithcompanion.co.uk or contact thefaithcompanion@gmail.com or call 01403 754808. We have now launched Christian Gifts online selling The Faith Companion candle, rosaries, journals, and a skin care range made by Benedictine monks.
A free edition is available to “taste and see” at http://www.thefaithcompanion.co.uk.

Mary’s Meals: Throughout the month of May, we are asking Churches and people of faith to pray with us to bless Mary’s Meals, as we recognise the special place of prayer in our work. Further details visit www.marysmeals.org.uk/prayinmay. Please support us by praying the Rosary for our work.

The Catholic Bishops of Arundel and Brighton 1965 – 2020
This new book has just been published by the Isle of Wight Catholic History Society to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the death of Bishop David Cashman, price £4.00. With Covid still around, it has not been possible to arrange Book Launches at various places in the Diocese.
To obtain a copy of the book and for further information, please email: iow-chs@outlook.com

St Hugh of Lincoln Catholic Primary School - Unusually, due to the low birth rate in Knaphill, our parish primary school (a feeder school for SJB) have availability in their reception class for children starting school in September 2021. The school would encourage any families who are interested in joining the school to contact the school office, either by email at info@sthugh-of-lincoln.surrey.sch.uk or by calling 01483 480441. Mrs Harper, the Headteacher, would be very happy to meet with any prospective parents to show them around the school and answer any questions they may have.
Financial Giving to the Parish:

Thank you to all who have supported our Parish financially during this difficult time. Parishioners have continued with their regular Standing Orders and weekly envelopes and some have offered ‘one off’ donations; all have been very gratefully received. We rely on your generosity to meet our operational costs and whilst we are not using our buildings to their full capacity, we still need to continue with maintenance etc. At this time we would like you to consider making a regular contribution by Standing Order as this reduces the handling of cash and ensures that our Parish receives a regular income. Even when Mass is suspended or has a reduced congregation, the Church still incurs regular costs.

A Standing Order can be raised with RCD A&B Knaphill / 40-05-20 / 01247611. If you are a taxpayer, the Parish can greatly benefit from your donation, at no extra cost to yourself, via the Gift Aid scheme.

If you would like your donation to be Gift Aided, contact Ian Dallas on 07966183107/iandallas47@gmail.com or direct to the Parish Gift Aid account RCD A&B Knaphill GA / 40-05-20 / 31077384.

Help Wanted

In order for the Church to open to the public, we are obliged to clean the Church after every service and to record names and contact details of those attending. To enable us to do this we need Stewards and Cleaners. Also needed are Ministers of the Word. In line with the guidance, volunteers should NOT participate if they are over 70 years with or without underlying health conditions.

If you are happy to help, please contact Parish Office or Anne: am.rushton@btopenworld.com asap.

The St Vincent de Paul (SVP) at St Dunstan’s is Rising to the Challenge of Covid-19 by giving financial and material help and offering friendship to the needy. If you can help, or would like help, please contact them via 07947 714139 or email presidentA010112@svp.org.uk.
Regina Caeli (Queen of Heaven)
The opening words of the Eastertide anthem of the Blessed Virgin, the recitation of which is prescribed from Compline of Holy Saturday until Afternoon Prayer of the Saturday after Pentecost inclusively. Substitute this prayer for the Angelus during the Paschal (Easter) season. St. Gregory the Great (d. 604) heard the first three lines chanted by angels on an Easter morning in Rome while he walked barefoot in a great religious procession and that the saint thereupon added the fourth line:
"Ora pro nobis Deum. Alleluia." Fr. Gant, moderator, Catholic News
It is a praiseworthy practice to recite these prayers in the early morning, at noon, and in the evening.

V. Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia:
R. For he whom thou hast deserved to bear, alleluia,
V. Hath risen, as he said, alleluia.
R. Pray for us to God, alleluia.
V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
R. Because the Lord is truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray. O God, who by the Resurrection of thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, has vouchsafed to make glad the whole world, grant, we beseech thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, his Mother, we may attain the joys of eternal life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen. (Roman Breviary)

Prayer Source: Enchiridion of Indulgences, June 29, 1968