

COR Newsletter – 30 January 2008

Dear all,

### **Last Sunday**

My first Sunday in Bucharest for three weeks and it was good to see so many people - and so many children (9) - and to introduce myself to some new faces. Frans is leading the Sunday school enthusiastically and my thanks to him for that - teaching children because you want to and not because you have to is a real gift.

### **Next Sunday**

The presentation of Christ in the Temple. Eucharist at 10am as usual. **Produce sale** - please contribute and bring along some home produce to sell - and **Sunday school**.

### **Monday evening Lent course**

This started on Monday with eleven people and we had a look at Palm Sunday from Mark's point of view. We will meet every Monday at 7pm. through Lent so if you want to attend just turn up at the church!

### **Ash Wednesday**

Speaking of Lent, this season starts next **Wednesday the 6th February**. There will be a **simple said service in church at 7pm** with the imposition of ashes if desired.

### **Week of prayer for Christian unity report**

This was a busy week but always rewarding in being an invited part of the liturgy in so many different traditions. Because we are such a small community numerically in comparison with the others (especially the big two - the Orthodox and the Roman Catholics) I don't think many people realise that the way this week is celebrated so enthusiastically here is largely down to the Anglican church and one of my predecessors, Rev. Chris Newlands. Although we may now look very much like the junior partner, we were in fact the motivating force together with the Orthodox who started the whole thing off - and look how it has grown. If you are reading this Chris, you can feel justifiably very pleased indeed. Another pleasing development I think is that the Armenian priest was lamenting the fact that we only meet once a year and there should be more contact - especially social contact between the churches, so there are stirrings that this should grow yet more. The fact that in Sofia, we are using the catholic chapel, free of charge, courtesy of the Papal Nuncio, and when I am not there, our people have permission to take communion in the catholic mass should also not be lost on us. Our turn for hosting was last Wednesday - and thank you to those who turned up to help - and it was gratifying to have a full church (The Knights Templars in their robes). The Roman catholic Archbishop, Bishop Ciprian and Michael Tita from the Orthodox, and representatives from the Greek Catholics, Armenians, Calvinists and Lutherans were treated to our mix of liturgy and informality. The Armenian priest preached without notes (that always impresses me!) but the best part for me was when we all stood to say the Lord's prayer in our own language - English, Romanian, German, Hungarian and Armenian all joined together..... Amen (Amin!!)

### **Thought for the day**

About ten years ago, before I left Folkestone to go on to theological college, our church benefice had to face a tragic situation when the husband of our Sunday school teacher committed suicide by throwing himself in front of the Eurostar train. To make matters worse (if that is possible) for his wife and young children he did this on Christmas Eve.

The thing is, he seemed to have everything. Good looking, wealthy, a lovely wife, beautiful and clever children, a high powered job in London, a large detached house - and moving to an even bigger one in Sandgate. My abiding memory of him was at our annual Sunday school picnic earlier that year, enjoying himself, messing about, cheating in the egg and spoon race.....to all intents and purposes, the model family man. I don't pretend to know what was eating away at him inside, that drove him to end his life - the most that came to light later was that he actually hated his high powered job in London, and he was worried about money and the house move. There may have been more, I don't know, but what I have learned is that I never judge by outside appearances. That rule is normally applied to people who look a bit odd or dishevelled on the outside, but I assure you it also applies to people who appear to have it all as well. That event - his suicide - left quite a mark on us. I can picture him now and yet I realised that now I can't even remember his name. I think of him occasionally - not often - but he came to mind for obvious reasons when I read this prayer by Adrian Plass.

### **Prayer for Today.**

*Jenny*

*Our Father who art in heaven  
Jenny walked in front of a train last night  
Hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,  
She was only thirty seven  
Thy will be done, as it is in heaven  
You knew what she was going to do didn't you Lord?  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
She had no hope left  
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us  
Jenny is forgiven, isn't she?  
Lead us not into temptation  
Lots of us are on the edge of darkness  
And deliver us from evil,  
The only strength we have is yours  
For thine is the kingdom  
And she's living there now  
The power and the glory  
She's yours Lord  
For ever and ever,  
Jenny  
Amen.*

Love and Peace

Martin