

COR Newsletter – 20 August 2008

Dear all,

### **Last Sunday in Sofia**

Our faith in continuing to hold a service in August was rewarded by another 20+ congregation in Sofia. Things are really developing nicely here with a pool of around thirty people in all. One of the very best things is the atmosphere - really friendly - like a family. This is quite a turnaround for a chaplaincy, whose whole future once seemed in doubt. A warm welcome to **Karen** who joined us for the first time this week. Jonathan also brought little **Gabriel** for his first trip to our church. Thanks also to **Sharon**, for her warm southern hospitality, in putting us up (or is that putting up with us?), and to everyone who contributes to this church. We keep **Chris** in our prayers as she makes a trip to Tasmania next week where her ill parents William and Pat are in the corporate prayers of the church.

### **Last Sunday in Bucharest**

I have spoken to John so I know that all was well in Bucharest. I look forward to seeing everyone again next week.

### **Next Sunday**

is the 14th Sunday after Trinity. Holy Communion at 10am as usual.

### **Congratulations**

to **Ionut Mavrichi**. Some time ago a monk from my old college, Fr. Nicholas Stebbing passed through Bucharest. He asked me to recommend a Romanian candidate who might benefit from a period of study based at COR Mirfield and Leeds University. I got together with Fr. Mihai at the church of the Dormition and after a couple of false starts I interviewed Ionut and his wife. They were a delightful couple with some extensive theological study under his belt (and a good cantor to boot) and good English and so I had no hesitation in recommending Ionut to Mirfield who then found sponsorship for him. I am pleased to say that he starts his M.A. course this September.

### **British Garden party pictures**

This was a wonderful event and now we have some photos on line to remember it by. Jo Kinberger, our webmaster, currently on sabbatical in Brasov (Hi Jo!!) has not had access to the internet but has now managed to get the pictures on line. Go to <http://www.churchoftheresurrection.eu> and click on the "picture galleries" button or click on the direct link on the right side of the home page - and enjoy. About 130 people enjoyed this marvellous event which raised 6000 Euro for the Church of the Resurrection.

### **House available for family/small group holidays or private retreat in North Norfolk**

A former chaplain of the COR, **James Ramsay**, has a beautiful house for rent in North Norfolk. For a full description of the house and area and contact details see the attachment on this email

### **Thought for the day**

Normally of course, this is my chance to wax lyrical about something or other. A change this week then in that what follows is not an original piece from me but a reflection by a man who was assassinated by a right wing death squad while celebrating mass, shot as he raised the "host" and his blood being spilled over the altar - the catholic Archbishop Oscar Romero - a man of rare courage and compassion who was killed for daring to speak out on behalf of the poor and oppressed in Latin America. There was initially dismay when he was made Archbishop from many of his peers because he was so conservative that they thought he would stifle their affiliation to the poor. But once he was made Archbishop he displayed a radicalism and solidarity with the poor that surprised his detractors. For this, the powerful wanted him killed - just like they wanted Jesus killed. I read this while in one of my periodic fits of depression and despondency over the awful state of Christianity in the world and it lifted my spirits no end. A modern hero.

**A reflection by Oscar Romero. Assassinated March 1980 while presiding at Mass.**

It helps now and then to step back and take the long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said: no prayer fully expresses our faith: no confession brings perfection: no pastoral visit brings wholeness. No programme accomplishes the church's mission, no goals and objectives include everything.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay the foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in knowing that. This enables us to do something and do it well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are the workers, not the master builders, ministers not messiahs. We are the prophets of a future not our own.

**The prayer for today** is written by William Temple

*O God the king of righteousness, lead us, we pray you,  
in the ways of justice and of peace;  
inspire us to break down all tyranny and oppression,  
to gain for every man the his due reward,  
and from every man his due service,  
that each may live for all,  
and all may care for each,  
in the name of Jesus Christ.  
Amen.*

Love and peace

Martin