

Advent is a time of consolation and hope

This is the theme of the address of Pope Francis to pilgrims in Rome at the beginning of the season of Advent this year. He said that the time of Advent is a time of “consolation and hope,” the beginning of “a new liturgical year, which brings with it the newness of our God, who is the ‘God of every consolation.’” “We are inclined to new things because we are born for great things.” It’s true, Pope Francis said. “We are born to be with the Lord. When we allow God to enter, true newness arrives.” Life, he continued, should not be spent in waiting for things which may never arrive; but in expectation, in the desire for the Lord “who always brings newness. I hope you will live out Advent in this way,” Pope Francis said, “as a time of consoling newness and joyful expectation.” He explained this does not mean waiting around doing nothing, but “being active in love.” Christians, the Pope said, “are called to keep and spread the joy of anticipation: we await God, Who loves us infinitely, and Who, at the same time, waits for us to be with Him forever in Heaven. Advent responds to this hope with “the Gospel of Fearlessness”, he said.

How can we respond in our own local parish? One way in which we are all invited to respond is to engage with Bishop Richard’s Pastoral Plan. At Worth we will be offering the Alpha course once more in January, beginning on Monday the 7th. This will be an opportunity for us to deepen our faith together through discussion and prayer, and to prepare ourselves to be able to offer the same course after Easter to those whom we invite, whom we do not meet in church. This is to become an “invitational Church”, our vocation as baptised disciples of Jesus. *In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples*, writes Pope Francis.

Another response which we are called to make is to welcome refugees. Please see CAFOD’s campaign on their behalf, and please also take a copy of the diocesan Refugee Crisis Newsletter from the narthex. Bishop Richard writes, quoting from *Evangelii Gaudium* of Pope Francis: *Let’s work together to welcome refugees into our communities; in this way we are called to recognise the suffering Christ*. May we too bring consolation and hope in these weeks of Advent.

Anniversaries

Please pray for the Souls of - Joanne Etherton, John Isted, Mrs Ray Smith, Margery Hemming, Dom Michael Smith, Mary (Molly) Hansford, Brian Hemming, Sean Duggan, Tom Fieldwick.
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen.

Parish News

Plate Collection

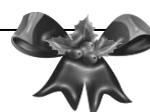
Gift Aided - **£342.95**
Non Gift Aided - **£284.36**

Confirmation Classes

The 1st session for the confirmation course will take place on **15th January**.
If you are year 10 or above and would like to be confirmed, please contact the parish office ASAP for an application form.



December Calendar



Sunday 16th December 7.30pm – Organ concert with D’Arcy Trinkwon.

Monday 17th December 7.45pm – Parish Reconciliation Service in the Abbey.

Sunday 23rd December 4.00pm - Carol Service – In the Abbey for our Parish, friends, families and neighbours.

24th December 10.30pm – Carols and Organ Service to prepare for Midnight mass at **11pm**. (Refreshments in the Narthex after mass).

25th December 10.00am – Concelebrated Christmas Day Mass in the Abbey.
11.30am – Christmas Day Parish Mass at St Dunstan’s, West Hoathly.

Family Carol Service

As you will see from the December calendar on **Sunday 23rd December** at 4 pm the Carol service is back (there was a break last year due to the 4th Sunday of Advent being on 24th of December). We would like to offer the warm hospitality of Worth to all visitors and parishioners so please do bring your family and friends to this special service.

We have the pleasure of having Lewis, the new Director of Music for Worth School, leading the choir. If you could bake a tray bake, mince pieces or cakes that would be wonderful. They can be brought along on the day (either at the 9.30 am Mass or at the Carol Service).

For more details please contact: Christina Fitzsimons, cfitzs3287@aol.com.

Diocesan Pastoral Plan

The presentation by Bishop Richard for this deanery will be in the Friary Hall on

Tuesday 11th December at 7.00pm.

The meeting will be fully open. There will be refreshments from 6.30pm

Adoration during Advent

Adore for someone who can't.

Come to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel each Friday during Advent, next dates **14th and 21st December**.

Diocesan Newsletter

There is a newsletter about Refugees available in the Narthex.

Last In Touch before Christmas

The **last** In Touch for 2018 will be next weekend **15th/16th December**.

We will return again in 2019.

If you have anything you would like to advertise please let us know in the Parish office as soon as you can.
Thank you

IRUNDU

During Mgr Stephen Modula's visit we discussed the implications on our friendship of his transfer to a new parish in Jinja Diocese. The Worth Irundu Friendship Committee (WIF) then met to consider the situation.

Over the ten years of our friendship with Irundu we have developed significant infrastructure for the parish, including the Friendship House, vocational training facilities and the facilities for the Irundu Parish Health Centre. Capital costs have all been met by the generosity of our Parish and the school. All the money raised has come from parishioners and parents, not from parish or school funds. As well as your response to appeals for Irundu we have a group of supporters who give a regular amount to support the Health Centre.

We confirm that the Health Centre funds will continue to be devoted to the Irundu Health Centre. As Fr Stephen is no longer in Irundu we have appointed him as our representative in Jinja Diocese, and commissioned him to administer the funds we devote to the Health Centre, thus ensuring that these funds are properly used.

Since our funds have provided excellent facilities for Irundu which are now complete, we believe we should consider broadening our support for Jinja Diocese. We have written to the Diocese inviting applications for funding, which we will carefully consider and share with the Worth Parish before deciding what projects to support. Any such support will be administered by Fr Stephen, in whom we have full confidence based on our relationship over ten years.

We look forward to continuing our relationship with Fr Stephen and developing our Friendship with Uganda though the Diocese of Jinja.

Crib Offering 2018

This Christmas our Crib Offering will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society's A&B Crisis Fund. This fund provides emergency grants for children and families in our Diocese who are facing a crisis in their lives. Every single penny donated to the Crib will be given out via these grants.

Send a Christmas card to an imprisoned Christian

Connect and encourage someone in prison this Christmas. For more information go to - <https://www.csw.org.uk/connectencourage>

ENCOUNTER Evening for 16-35s

The next ENCOUNTER evening will be next Friday (**14th**), 7.30pm at St Wilfrid's School in Crawley, RH11 8PG. Entrance is free, and there's no need to book. If you haven't been to an ENCOUNTER evening before, they're a great way for Catholic teens and young adults to make friends and explore their faith in a relaxed, welcoming environment. There is music, food, social time, inspiring talks, and prayer. New people are especially welcome. For more information, search 'ENCOUNTER Crawley' on Facebook

Residential Retreat for Doctors

At Worth Abbey from **1-3 March 2019** led by Fr. Stephen Ortiger. OSB. On the theme: Love your neighbour as yourself. Sessions include: Who and what we are; Personal challenges we face; Drawing strength from prayer; Nurturing our healthcare vocation. There will be opportunity to join the monastic community at prayer and time for quiet contemplation with access to countryside walks. Cost £150 full board. For all queries and to book a place email jodwyer@doctors.org.uk, putting **Doctors Retreat** in subject line.



Love in a box

Make up a shoe box of gifts for a young person staying in supported housing over Christmas. Show them that somebody cares. They ask *"if you can use the term male and female rather than girl and boy to label the boxes"* and they ask *"that you think about the boys too. We have proportionately more boys at the centres and they often get forgotten because they are not as easy to buy for. The boys she says, love their fancy mugs!! Scarves, hats and vouchers"*.

DROP OFF POINTS

Horsham – The Y Centre, Albion Way RH12 1AH,
Crawley – YMCA Crawley Foyer RH11 7AQ and Ewhurst Road, 3 - 5 Ewhurst Rd, RH11 7JH,
Burgess Hill - 12 Mill Rd, RH15 8DR

REGULAR EVENTS IN THE PARISH

Mass Times - Saturday: 9.00 am (Concelebrated) and 5.00 pm (First Mass of Sunday),

Sunday: 9.30 am, with an 11.30am mass at St Dunstan's West Hoathly

Daily Mass: 8.00 am and 5.30 pm (Concelebrated), Holy Days of Obligation: Vigil Mass: 7.30 pm;

Feast Day: 8.00 am and 5.30 pm

Adoration - Friday evenings 7.00- 8.00pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Reflection, music and silence.

Sunday Adoration - In St Dunstan's Chapel, West Hoathly, every Sunday from 5pm-7pm to support the parish evangelisation programme. Please feel free to come for as long as you wish.

Confessions (Sacrament of Reconciliation) - Sundays 9.10-9.30am before Mass.

Marian Prayer Group - 2nd/4th Monday, 7.30pm, Lady Chapel.

Eucharistic Healing Services - Wednesday 12th Dec at 7.15pm. Contact Fr Rod 01342 710308 for further details.

Lectio Divina - Tuesdays 8.20pm, for 30 mins, Parlour 3 (entry from the Narthex) then Compline.

Sunday Prayers for Healing - Once a month, there is a half hour Service of Prayers for Healing in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel after 0930 Sunday Mass. All welcome! The next date is 6th January.

Christian Meditation Group - Blessed Sacrament Chapel 7.45pm for 8pm start to 8.45pm followed by Compline. Contact Gabrielle 01342 326118/Caterina 01243 554001. **Next date is 12th December.**

Vigil for Vocations - (1st Friday) 9.00pm to midnight in the Abbey Church. **Next date 4th January.**

Children's Mass - 1st Saturday of each month at 5pm. **Next date will be 5th January.**

Bereavement Support - Marian & Clare are available to meet you either at St Benedict's or to visit you at home. Contact the team via the Parish Office or email - clare_harper@hotmail.com or marian.imhasly@gmail.com.

Mothers Prayer Group - in Balcombe every Tuesday 12 noon. Call Marie 07860 845658. All faiths and none are most welcome.

"The brothers are to express their opinions with all humility and not presume to defend their own views obstinately"

(St Benedict)

Next Sunday's Readings: **Third Sunday of Advent**

1st Reading - Zephaniah 3:14-18 2nd Reading - Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

And the crowds asked him "What then should he do?"

Daily Readings

Monday - Isa 35:1-10 Luke 5:17-26

Tuesday - Isa 40:1-11 Matt 18:12-14

Wednesday - Isa 40:25-31 Matt 11:28-30

Thursday - Isa 41:13-20 Matt 11:11-15 (**St Lucy**)

Friday - Isa 48:17-19 Matt 11:16-19 (**St John of the Cross**)

Saturday - Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Matt 17:9a, 10-13

Parish Priest: Fr Paul Fleetwood

Mobile: 07764 260216

Parish Office Email: parish@worth.org.uk **Parish Office Tel:** 01342 710313

Parish Website: www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk **Secretary:** Maria Stribbling (Hours: 9.30am-1.30pm)

Night time emergencies only: 07494 484979

Cheques to be made payable to - Worth Abbey Parish

Safeguarding: Rachel Davies (07801 696354) and Maria Stribbling (01342 710313)

In Touch: If you would like anything to appear in 'In Touch', please contact Maria Stribbling at parish@worth.org.uk (by Thursday 10am)

If you are unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, or if you have any prayer intentions, please let Fr Paul know.