



Next weekend we celebrate the final Sunday of Advent, when our attention is turned to Mary. In the early centuries the Feast of the Annunciation was celebrated on December 18th. We offer below some lines from a meditation of St Bernard, inviting the reader to enter this scene in prayer and devotion, and to embrace the sense of urgency which is so characteristic of Advent.

You have heard, O Virgin, that you will conceive and bear a son, you have heard that it will not be by man but by the Holy Spirit. The angel awaits an answer; it is time for him to return to God who sent him. We too are waiting, O Lady, for your word of compassion; the sentence of condemnation weighs heavily upon us.

The price of our salvation is offered to you. We shall be set free at once if you consent. In the eternal Word of God we all came to be, and behold, we die. In your brief response we are to be remade in order to be recalled to life.

Tearful Adam with his sorrowing family begs this of you, O loving Virgin, in their exile from Paradise. Abraham begs it, David begs it. All the other holy patriarchs, your ancestors, ask it of you, as they dwell in the country of the shadow of death. This is what the whole earth waits for, prostrate at your feet. It is right in doing so, for on your word depends comfort for the wretched, ransom for the captive, freedom for the condemned, indeed, salvation for all the sons of Adam, the whole of your race.

Answer quickly, O Virgin. Reply in haste to the angel, or rather through the angel to the Lord. Answer with a word, receive the Word of God. Speak your own word, conceive the divine Word. Breathe a passing word, embrace the eternal Word.

Why do you delay, why are you afraid? Believe, give praise, and receive. Open your heart to faith, O blessed Virgin, your lips to praise, your womb to the Creator. See, the desired of all nations is at your door, knocking to enter. If he should pass by because of your delay, in sorrow you would begin to seek him afresh, the One whom your soul loves. Arise, hasten, open. Arise in faith, hasten in devotion, open in praise and thanksgiving. Behold the handmaid of the Lord, she says, be it done to me according to your word.



*We hope you all have a Wonderful Christmas and New Year.
May this season bring you much love, happiness and laughter.*

Anniversaries

Please pray for the Souls of - Liam Dunbar, Elizabeth Shrimpton, Molly Cox, Ralph Etherton, Anne O'Reilly, Eric Frankton, Fr Jerome Tomlins, Mike Wheeler, Mary Lovell, Ernest Constable, Fr Alan Downs, Josephine McLoughlin, Alec White, John Hall, Joanna Mackey, Jack Mantelow, Stanley Pitt, Joy Argent, Veronica Lamarche, Ambrose Rigby, Eve Dodwell, John Edward Clarke, Faith Shine, Mrs Duncan, Hugh Vredenburgh, Revd George Church, Paul Rubridge, Donald Nicolson, Muriel Price, Marie Rogue, Patricia Langridge, May Lane, Mrs W G Wallis, Albert Laithwaite, Henry Hyslop, Emmie Walford, Basil Hull, Vivian Trowbridge, Alistair Stone, Elizabeth Figg, Josette Previtt, Joseph Loftus, Tom Harrison, Reginald Ball, Ken Cooper, Julia Herrick, Abdul, Mary Needham, David Gesden, Philip Curran, Philip McNulty, Paul Bonner and Max Morris.
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen.



Prayers

Please pray for the Climate Summit taking place in Poland.
Please ask God for the gift of wisdom for our leaders.



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.

Plate Collection

Gift Aided – **£553.12**
Non Gift Aided - **£270.28**

Monastic Desert

The Monks will be in the desert from **18th-20th December**, when they will be out of communication. They will be praying for you.

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation for those in year 10+ will be run on a Tuesday between 5-6.30pm every two weeks **during term time between 15th January and 18th June.**

The course will include a residential retreat and the Youth Alpha Film Series which will be facilitated by older students from Worth school.

Please contact the Parish Office to secure your place.

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.

Parish Office Holidays

Maria Stribbling will be out of the office from 20th December and will return to the office on Monday 7th January. If you have any queries (urgent only please), you may still email parish@worth.org.uk, where your messages will be checked.

CAFOD Prayers

Follow their 2018 online Advent calendar to reflect, pray and take global justice actions throughout this holy season. You can find this at cafod.org.uk/Pray/Advent-Calendar

Stamps

Rachel would like to thank everyone for their continued support in collecting stamps this past year. There is a box in the Narthex for used stamps or they can be given directly to Rachel. Thank you.

Clutch Bags

Thank you to everyone who purchased a handmade clutch bag recently. Thanks to you a total of **£140** was raised for Irundu. Many thanks to our wonderful seamstress.

Parishioners will be pleased to know that the total monies raised so far from the recent sales of jams and chutneys, to assist the medical needs of the people of Irundu is **£1,431.00**. There will be a further 2 sales of jars. After the concert next **Sunday 16th** and the Parish Carol Concert on **23rd December**. Very many thanks to all those who contributed so generously.

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.

Justice & Peace assembly

The Diocesan Justice & Peace Assembly is meeting on **Saturday 26th January 2019** at the St Philip Howard Centre (formerly DABCEC) to learn about issues of Human Trafficking and how the Church can help. If you are interested in attending this free event please see the flyer on the Narthex Noticeboard.

Alpha

Alpha is a chance to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly, informal & open environment. Alpha will run weekly between **Monday 14th January – Monday 8th April** at 7.00pm - 9.00pm in Compass House, Worth Abbey, RH10 4SB. Sign up at www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/sacraments-faith/alpha/

Recent collections

Aid to the Church in Need - **£400**
Outreach Peru - **£618.65**
(Inc. Giftaid)
Thank you to all of you for your very generous donations

Adoration during Advent

Adore for someone who can't. Come to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel each Friday during Advent, next date is **21st December**.

Pope Francis DVD

Sara Barclay-Hudson has a copy of the newly released DVD about the Pope, entitled *Pope Francis: A Man of His Word*. This film is a rare co-production with the Vatican. Pope Francis embarks on a personal journey to present his work of reform and answer today's global questions -- from his deep concern for the poor and wealth inequality to his involvement in environmental issues, social justice and calls for peace. Director Wim Wenders gained unprecedented access to Pope Francis and it is gratifying to see how well received the film has been in the press, at home and abroad. If you are interested in borrowing the DVD, please drop Sara an email (sbh0369@yahoo.com) **with a contact telephone number that you are happy will be used** by the next Parishioner who has booked the DVD. They can then contact you and arrange handover.

Flame 2019

Join 10,000 Catholic Young People at Wembley Arena next March.

Around 500 people from A&B went to Wembley Arena last March for Flame 2017. The arena was filled and it was great to be a part of. The good news announced just last week that it is happening again next March. Specifically Saturday 2nd March. Tickets are already on sale and unlike last time they can be booked online.

Go to cymfed.org.uk/flame2019 for details.

Flame 2019 boasts an impressive line-up of speakers. More names will follow in the months ahead, but Cardinal Nichols, Robert Madu, Guvna B, and Emma B from 'Girl Got Faith' are already on board.

Hurry though - there are only ten thousand seats and at least 5,000 tickets have already gone!

Next parish walk

Please put the date of **27th January** in your diaries for the next parish walk - a breath of fresh air and relaxation after all the festivities over Xmas. It will be an Ashdown Forest walk meeting at Friends Clump car park and walking with the most wonderful vistas across Sussex for approximately three miles circa one and a half hours. It is easy walking with one gentle gradient and lunching at The Crow and Gate for 1.30 p.m. A very happy and holy Christmas to all fellow walkers and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year. I would be grateful for numbers nearer the time on trishiasol@aol.com mobile no.07941865002.

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 - Sunday 13th January 2pm - 4.30pm in the Abbey Church. Mass will be celebrated, followed by prayers for healing - all welcome. 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.

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.

*"Share alike in bearing arms in the service of the one Lord, because whether slave or free,
we are all one in Christ"*

(St Benedict)

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

1st Reading - Micah 5:1-4

2nd Reading - Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-44

Mary visits Elizabeth

Daily Readings

Monday - Gen 49:2, 8-10 Matt 1:1-17

Tuesday - Jer 23:5-8 Matt 1:18-25

Wednesday - Judg 13:2-7, 24-25a Luke 1:5-25

Thursday - Isa 7:10-14 Luke 1:26-38

Friday - Songs 2:8-14 or Zeph 3:14-18a Luke 1:39-45

Saturday - 1 Sam 1:24-28 Luke 1:46-56

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.**