



Worth Abbey Live Streaming -
<https://worthabbey.net/spiritual-resources/liturgy-live-streaming/>

Praying The Psalms: Exercising Our Priesthood

Last week we saw how the Psalms, as the prayers of Jesus, draw us into the Body of Christ – we the Body praying in union with Christ, the Head. We considered how the psalms of lament, by far the biggest group of psalms, offer us an opportunity to bring to Jesus those for whom we wish to intercede, as He prays on our behalf. These psalms we associate especially with His passion and death. The other main group of psalms, the psalms of praise, we interpret as referring to Jesus' Resurrection and His triumph over suffering, death and all evil. New Testament authors used these psalms to interpret Jesus' saving victory. *The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone*, a quotation from ps 118, v 22, is used by Matthew in his gospel to speak of Jesus' triumph, and also by Luke in Acts, 4.11, and by Peter, 1Pt 2.7. *You do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit. You show me the path of life*, a quotation from ps 16, v 10, is used by St Luke in Acts (2.25) about the Resurrection of Jesus. (In last Sunday's gospel, the Road to Emmaus, we should probably understand something of this sort when Luke tells us that Jesus explained to his disciples the scriptures concerning his death and resurrection.)

In the Jewish tradition there is a strong sense of the whole people serving God as priests. It is first expressed in Exodus, when they arrive at Mt Sinai where they are given the revelation of the Law. God declares to them: *The whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.* (Ex.19.5f) Although there will be a caste of priests who will be charged with offering sacrifice in the sanctuary, the whole people is set apart for the service of the one true God and given the role of intermediary between God and the world. We find the same quotation in 1 Peter (2.9), writing to his Christian converts from paganism - *you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light.* This priesthood is a gift given to every Christian at our baptism, sharing in the priesthood of Jesus. In the psalms we can join His role of intercession for all Creation. The Letter to the Hebrews in particular meditates on his intercession for us - *In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.* And this prayer continues in heaven - *He is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.* (5.7 and 7.25) As we pray the psalms, the Body in conjunction with the Head, we exercise our priesthood for the sanctification of our world, in praise of God for all He has done for us through Jesus, and in intercession for all who are in need.

Sunday is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pope Francis has written a special message for us. He writes:

Every vocation is born of that gaze of love with which the Lord came to meet us, perhaps even at a time when our boat was being battered by the storm. "Vocation, more than our own choice, is a response to the Lord's unmerited call". We will succeed in discovering and embracing our vocation once we open our hearts in gratitude and perceive the passage of God in our lives.

Please see the complete message on the parish website, and please join us in praying that all may discover our true vocation and respond generously.

Anniversaries

Please pray for the Souls of – Margaret Albert, 'Pop' Yaldren, Joan Moody, James Mackey, Judith Whelpton, Linsey Smith, and Veronica Andrea Maria Paterson.

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 healing of Laura Rawlinson. Please pray for her family.



Please pray for all in need of healing and those who care for them.

Please pray for those who live alone, especially our own parishioners.

Please pray for Fr Patrick, who was admitted to the Marsden Hospital.

Please pray for Patricia Blake who is unwell in Francis Court Care Home.

Parish Finances

I would like to thank very much all those of you who have been generous enough to change from using Gift Aid envelopes to making a standing order in favour of the parish.

At this moment when we have no congregation in church our income has fallen by about £750 per week in the absence of the plate collection.

If anyone else could consider making a standing order I would be most grateful. Do please get in touch with the parish and we will send you the necessary forms.

Thank you very much.

Fr Paul

Virtual Children's Liturgy

Join Bronagh, Eileen and Martin at 10am this Sunday for our next virtual children's liturgy. Register here: <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Sunday 3rd May, is World Prayer for vocations day.

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.

*I do not see the road ahead of me, nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will, does not mean that
I am actually doing so.*

But I believe that the desire to please you, does in fact please you.

*I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire,
and I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road
though I may know nothing about it.*

*Therefore I will trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and
in the shadow of death, I will not fear, for you are with me, and
you will never leave me to face my struggles alone.*

Amen

We print below a letter from Pope Francis, encouraging the prayer of the rosary during May, as is traditional. Please see the parish website for more material for this month from Pope Francis.

Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Faithful for the Month of May 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The month of May is approaching, a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this “family” aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.

For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow.

I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone.

Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 April 2020
Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist

Art that Comforts from the Vatican

A new initiative between the Vatican Museum and Vatican News has resulted in the creation of a platform showcasing masterpieces held in the Vatican's art collection, accompanied by extracts written by a selection of Popes. This engaging and uplifting resource can be found on the Vatican News website
<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2020-03/vatican-museum-beauty-art-spirituality-comfort-faith-pope.html>

A Prayer of Solidarity

For all who have contracted coronavirus,

We pray for care and healing.

For those who are particularly vulnerable,

We pray for safety and protection.

For all who experience fear or anxiety,

We pray for peace of mind and spirit.

For affected families who are facing difficult decisions between food on the table or public safety,

We pray for policies that recognize their plight.

For those who are afraid to access care due to immigration status,

We pray for recognition of the God-given dignity of all.

For our brothers and sisters around the world,

We pray for shared solidarity.

For public officials and decision makers,

We pray for wisdom and guidance.

Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all.

Grant peace. Grant comfort. Grant healing. Be with us, Lord.

Amen.

Next Sunday's Readings: Fifth Sunday of Easter

1st Reading – Acts 6:1-7 2nd Reading – 1 Peter 2:4-9

Gospel: John 14:1-12

I am the way, the truth and the life

Daily Readings

Monday – Acts 11:1-18 John 10:11-18

Tuesday – Acts 11:19-26 John 10:22-30

Wednesday – Acts 12:24 – 13:5a John 12:44-50

Thursday – Acts 13:13-25 John 13:16-20

Friday – Acts 13:26-33 John 14:1-6

Saturday – Acts 13:44-52 John 14:7-14

“The first step of humility is unhesitating obedience, which comes naturally to those who cherish Christ above all”

(St Benedict)

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**For the foreseeable future, Maria will be working from home.
We will all be in contact through email and will pick up your telephone messages.**

Parish Office Email: parish@worth.org.uk **Parish Office Tel:** 01342 710313
Parish Website: www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk **Secretary:** Maria Stribbling (Hours: 9.15am-1.15pm Mon-Fri)

Night time emergencies only: 07494 484979

Any 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 Wednesday morning)

If you have any prayer intentions, please let Fr Paul know