

In Touch 4th/5th July 2020

No. 1218

Dear Parishioners

I am pleased to be able to offer you the new copy of In Touch. I hope you will find it interesting and helpful.

You will have heard the good news that Cardinal Vincent Nichols has informed us that parishes may begin opening their churches for public masses from this weekend. We hope to be able to do this at Worth next weekend, 11th and 12th, and will confirm this as soon as we are able to put all the arrangements in place. We are still required to follow the rule of two metres social distancing, which means that the capacity of the church at Worth will be greatly reduced. We anticipate offering an extra mass at Worth, as well as the mass on Saturday evening, and the Sunday mass. It will probably be necessary to ask those who wish to attend this mass on Sunday to register for it, to avoid having too many come to be able maintain social distancing. We regret that it will not be possible at the moment to open the chapel in West Hoathly because of the needs of social distancing. But we eagerly look forward to welcoming you all to Worth soon and will be in touch again as soon as we can, to explain the arrangements.

St Benedict

Next Saturday, 11th July, we celebrate the feast of St Benedict, one of the patrons of Europe. We do not know much about his life. What we do know comes from St Gregory the Great, who wrote about one hundred years after his death, dedicating the second book of his Dialogues to his life and achievements (see <http://archive.osb.org/gen/greg/>) The Dialogues are hagiography rather than history, intended to edify rather than to offer history as we would call it. The story about Benedict includes many miracles which are modelled after miracle stories found in the Bible, but some basic details are generally recognised as genuine. He was born in Norcia in central Italy about the year 480. As a young man he spent time studying in Rome but abandoned his

studies because of the immoral way of life which he found there, and he retired to Subiaco where he lived as a hermit. The eremitical life had become popular in the Eastern Church several centuries earlier, and men and women went out to the deserts of Egypt and Palestine in a quest to find God and themselves, often making their homes in a cave. It frequently happened that disciples would gather around one who had a reputation for holiness, and this happened to Benedict too, which led eventually to the formation of regular community life which is at the heart of his famous Rule for Monks (see <http://www.osb.org/rb/show.asp?mode=today>). This was probably completed after his withdrawal to Monte Cassino where he founded a community and where he probably ended his days. His Rule gradually became the most commonly followed Rule throughout Europe. By the tenth century there were a great many monasteries following it, especially through the influence of the houses founded by Cluny, and these communities played an important role in maintaining the Christian faith in Europe, most particularly during the earlier centuries of the barbarian invasions and the destruction of urban centres of culture.

The Rule offers a humane pattern for a religious community life, for St Benedict avoided the extremes of asceticism which his predecessors had promoted. He writes, The Abbot should so temper all things that the strong may wish to follow, and the weak may not draw back. Discretion and balance is at the heart of the rule, and perhaps this in particular gives it relevance to our culture today, with a schedule which protects time for prayer in common and individually, with lectio divina, the prayerful reading of scripture, with time for rest as well as the time dedicated to work, and an emphasis on detachment from material wealth, and on self-control. Above all, perhaps, for today, he offers us the virtue of commitment and perseverance. May St Benedict pray for us all.

Anniversaries Please pray for the Souls of Tony Howes ; John Fawls; Eddie Dolman; Eileen O'Dwyer; Jennie Manktelow; Lilian Baker; Bob Mabey; Lilla Bethune; William Kibble.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen.

Prayers

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 all who are suffering from mental illness. Please pray for Fr Patrick, who is now back at Worth, but receiving treatment regularly at the Marsden Hospital.

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

Next Week's Readings: Sunday 14th in Ordinary Time, Year A Isaiah 55: 10-11; Romans 8: 18-23; Matthew 13: 1-23

Monday: (week 14 in Ordinary Time) Hosea 2: 16-18, 21-22; Matthew 9: 18-26
Tuesday : Hosea 8: 4-7, 11-13; Matthew 9: 32-37 Wednesday : Hosea 10: 1-3, 7-8, 12; Matthew 10: 1-7 Thursday : Hosea 11: 1-4, 8-9; Matthew 10: 7-15
Friday : Hosea 14: 2-10; Matthew 10: 16-23 Saturday : St Benedict, Abbot
Proverbs 2: 1-9; Matthew 19: 27-29

For children and young people:

Every Sunday join CAFOD's Virtual Children's Liturgy at 10.00am.

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>

In the light of school closures CAFOD has resources for primary school children

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Education-resources>

For the foreseeable future, Maria will be on furlough. The parish priest will 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

(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 us at parish@worth.org.uk (By Wednesday morning.)