

In Touch 1220, 18<sup>th</sup>/19 July 2020

Dear Parishioners

It was such a pleasure to begin welcoming you back to mass at the weekend. I felt that there was a real festal atmosphere as we gathered. It was a good reminder that our celebration of the Eucharist together is the heart of our spiritual life as a community, and I look forward to welcoming you again this coming weekend. It must have seemed a shock to come to such a simple and stark liturgy when we are used to a much more elaborate celebration at Worth; but the only really important matter is that Jesus himself is present with us when we gather in his name. Do this in memory of me. (We are still streaming the monastic liturgy at 11.30.) I should like to take this opportunity to thank all those who volunteered to help as stewards for the occasion, as also for the moments of private prayer. Without all of you nothing would be possible and the church would remain shut. I would particularly like to thank the team who prepared the Saturday mass, and who stayed behind afterwards to sanitise the entire church, so that the Eucharist could be safely celebrated on the following day. It is very striking how moments of crisis like this can bring out the very best and most generous spirit in people. Thank you all very much. (We need one or two more stewards to help on Tuesday morning. If you can help, please let me know.)

May I ask those of you who come to mass on Saturday and Sunday to be kind enough to register on the website? This is simply to avoid the possibility of exceeding the numbers which the church can safely accommodate at one time. (Those without access to the website can call me on 01342 710313.) As well as the three masses – Saturday at 5 pm, Sunday at 9.30 am, and Tuesday at 10 am – we continue to offer the church for private prayer on Wednesdays and Fridays from 2 pm till 4 pm, but regret that we can no longer offer Sunday and Monday afternoons.

Do please remember the Quiet Garden here at Worth, which is also a lovely spot for prayer. (Follow the signs from the main car park.)

This weekend the leaders of the G20 countries will be meeting to discuss matters of global finance. Please see the appeal by CAFOD concerning the need for debt relief, and the letter from national faith leaders to the chancellor, Rishi Sunak, urging him to press for this. CAFOD ask us to write to

our MPs about this. Please see <http://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/cafods-debt-campaign-and-the-g20-meeting-18th-july-2020/>

We also offer on our website statements by our Bishops about matters of ecological importance, and also some suggestions to help us to cope with the pandemic <https://mailchi.mp/cbcew/230320-1183514?e=7a19fd88af>

In our last parish team meeting we considered the urgent need for networking during the pandemic, which has left many people feeling lonely and distressed. Current legislation makes this complicated, because of safeguarding needs and data protection. But if anyone has ideas about how we might make this work, and would like to be involved, please let me know.

***A message from Fr Stephen:*** *At Bishop Richard's request, and with Abbot Luke's approval, I will be moving to East Preston, near Littlehampton, at the end of July to be Priest in Residence in the parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea. The appointment is for two or more years and I am looking forward very much to my new role.*

### **Anniversaries**

Please pray for Henriette Landon, Sidney Hoare, Dom Fabian Glencross, Betty Rochford, John Southam (16 years), Jack Holcombe, Maggie Lane, Bill Glass, Alan Harris, Joe O'Connell.

May they rest in peace.

### **Prayers**

Please pray for Laura Rawlinson, for her healing, and all her family.

Please pray for prisoners and detainees.

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.

### **Next week's readings:**

**Sunday 17 in Ordinary Time, Year A** 1 Kings 3: 5, 7-12; Romans 8: 28-30;

Matthew 13: 44-52 **Monday:** (week 16 in Ordinary Time) Micah 6: 1-4, 6-8;

Matthew 12: 38-42 **Tuesday:** Micah 7: 14-15, 18-20; Matthew 12: 46-50  
**Wednesday:** St Mary Magdalen : Song of Songs 3: 1-4; John 20: 1- 2, 11-18  
**Thursday:** St Bridget of Sweden : Galatians 2: 19-20; John 15: 1- 8 **Friday:**  
Jeremiah 3: 14-17; Matthew 13: 18-23 **Saturday:** St James: 2 Corinthians 4: 7-  
15; Matthew 20: 20-28

I send you all my very best wishes and prayers.

Fr Paul