

Dear Parishioners

As I write it looks likely that we will be able to offer public masses once more after lockdown, so we very much look forward to welcoming you here again next weekend, 5th and 6th, at the usual times of 5 pm on Saturday and 9.30 on Sunday, and again on Tuesdays at 10 am. As we move into Advent this weekend do please remember the times for private prayer and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament when the church is open (Sundays from 10 am and other days from 11 am for one hour). There is also the opportunity for confession in the Unity Room during this hour: do please ask the priest, who will be pleased to offer this sacrament. (We will continue to open the church on Thursdays after lockdown ends.) Please see the website for prayers and meditations for Advent - <https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/advent-resources/>

We do need more stewards to help us on Sunday mornings. Do please consider if you can help us in this way. This service is necessary to keep the church open, and I am very grateful to those who already offer their time. (Please register on the website – homepage - <https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/> or contact the office – parish@worth.org.uk)

Meanwhile we have begun to plan for masses for Christmas. Because of social distancing and the greatly reduced capacity of the church, we need to issue tickets for these. Please register as below for one of the five masses which are available. (Unless you are serving in a particular ministry, please register for no more than one for the time being. We do need more stewards for the 11 pm, 9.30 and 11.30 masses. Please contact Mandy Horton if you can help: horton668@btinternet.com

24th December, 3 pm: [Mass for younger children and families.](#)

24th December, 5 pm: [Christmas Eve Vigil Mass](#)

24th December, 11 pm: [Concelebrated Christmas Eve Mass](#)

25th December, 9.30: [Parish Mass](#)

25th December, 11.30: [Concelebrated Mass](#)

We will send out tickets as soon as we can. Please bring these with you since they will be for a specific place. (Entry will be by ticket only.) Regular parishioners will have priority for the first week. Please arrive early to help the stewards to show you to your seat. We should all be seated ten minutes before the service begins.

Those who do not have access to email may call the office to request places from December 2nd, between 9 am and 1 pm, on week days, and speak with Maria Stribbling. (01342 710313)

Meanwhile we have been asked to pray this weekend for the people of Palestine, who have suffered the loss of their land and property, and increasingly their lives, from 1948. We print below extracts from appeals by members of the Christian Churches in Palestine addressed to us, their brothers and sisters in Christ.

We realize that it is incumbent upon us as followers of Jesus to take decisive action. The very being of the Church, the integrity of the Christian faith, and the credibility of the Gospel is at stake. We declare that support for the oppression of the Palestinian people, whether passive or active, through silence, word or deed, is a sin. We assert that Christian support for Zionism as a theology and an ideology that legitimize the right of one people to deny the human rights of another is incompatible with the Christian faith and a grave misuse of the Bible.” (Cry for Hope document)

It is tragic that in 2020 a visitor to Bethlehem will not miss the irony: this place that has inspired hope for millions around the world holds so little hope for its inhabitants. The following continues to mark the daily lives of Bethlehemites: Continued occupation, oppression and dehumanization by the state of Israel. Human rights abuses and the incarceration of many, including children. Blatant racism that uses the name of God to justify land grabs and the abuse of power. Complicity by an astonishing number of Christians around the world who should know better about the values of the Kingdom of God, yet find themselves blindsided by the political manoeuvring of the State of Israel and its most important ally, the USA.

The Abbey church is open every day for private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament for one hour: on Sundays from 10 am till 11 am, and on other days from 11 am till 12 noon.

Advent Benediction

(By Rev. Allison Tanner)

Just as the Christ-child makes God known at Christmas

May we make God known in the week ahead

May our hope provide confidence as we await God's reign

May our peace provide comfort as we work for God's justice

May our joy provide celebration as we embrace God's presence

May our love provide wholeness as we accept God's healing

As the Christ-child has come into the world for us

May we go into the world for others.

CAFOD World Gifts

Please see our website for unusual and ethical gifts for your friends and family.

<https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/cafod-world-gifts/>

Traidcraft

This year has been a difficult one for so many and has presented challenges for everyone, including charities, such as Traidcraft. With the church closed and no after church socialising for much of the year, we've sadly not been able to open the Traidcraft stall. However, we do have a small number of items in stock for sale which are listed on the parish website. If you would like to purchase any of these please email Beryl McNulty at: berylmcnulty@btinternet.com, giving your address and telephone number. Sr Jo has very kindly offered to deliver orders to your door. Payment can be made by cash or cheque on delivery.

Cheques should be made payable to Worth Abbey Parish.

This Christmas will be very different for us all in the way we see our families and loved ones and how we shop for gifts. It is the year where we perhaps appreciate who and what we have more than ever.

With no sign of us being able to reopen the stall before Christmas, could we ask you, when shopping this Christmas, to consider buying from Traidcraft directly, via their website, traidcraftshop.co.uk, so that we can continue to support sustainably, ethically sourced products. There are some lovely gifts, cards and clothes available. You can also purchase Traidcraft Exchange gift cards ranging from £5 to £50.

Dialogue and Unity Zoom Event

Saturday 28th November. *Serving a wounded world in interreligious solidarity: a Christian call to reflection and action during Covid-19 and beyond.*

How do we as Catholics, as Christians, respond to the call to serve a wounded world? Join our Dialogue and Unity Adviser and special guest Katharina Smith-Muller, Interreligious Adviser to the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales, for a special Zoom event on Saturday 28th November 11am-1.30pm. Reflect, pray and explore the call put forward in a [new document](#) from the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue and the World Council of Churches. Invite your friends from other churches - everyone is welcome. You can register for this free event by emailing our Dialogue and Unity Adviser [here](#).

Compass in Advent ...preparing for Christmas

Our lives are being turned upside down at the moment due to Covid-19.

Join us to reflect on some of the characters in the Christmas story whose lives were also radically changed.

How is God speaking to us through these stories today?

Each Friday we will focus on one set of characters. The meeting will also include a sharing of a contemporary story of vocation/call. There will be time for sharing, questions and discussion.

Who? - Young adults 18-35

When? - **Fridays - 27th Nov, 4th, 11th and 18th Dec**

Time? - 7pm for one hour

Zoom link: email us on CompassInAdvent@gmail.com for the link and for any other information.

Help protect babies with cleft lip, cleft palate and club foot

Sadly abortion is currently available in the UK, right up to birth, for babies with cleft lip, cleft palate and club foot. All of these conditions can be corrected.

A cross-party group of MPs from the three largest parties in the UK Parliament have come together to bring forward the Abortion (Cleft lip, cleft palate and club foot) Bill. The Bill will change the law to clarify that cleft palate, cleft lip, and club foot are not grounds for abortion in the UK.

Can you help with getting your MP to support the Bill? Please visit www.standupandsmile.org.uk to email your MP asking them to support the Bill. It only takes 30 seconds.

Would you like to support those in your parish who are experiencing loss?

This has been a challenging year for so many people.

There is a network of trained Bereavement Supporters across the Diocese who journey alongside the bereaved and the dying and are trained to offer supportive listening.

Do you find it easy to empathise with people? Are you a good listener?

Our next Bereavement Supporters course, begins in January 2021 and will run on Tuesdays for seven weeks. Participants will be taught a wide range of important skills enabling them to work within their parish, supporting the clergy in meeting the needs of the bereaved.

To find out more about joining our Ministry of Consolation team, speak to your parish priest or contact our Marriage and Family Life Project Officer: simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk Tel: 01293 651155.

Roses in December Festival

Remembering 4 women martyrs of El Salvador, Maura Clarke (1931-1980), Ita Ford (1940-1980), Dorothy Kazel (1939-1980), Jean Donovan (1953-1980)

"Several times I have decided to leave....I almost could, except for the children – the poor, bruised victims of this insanity. Who would care for them?" (Jean Donovan, Lay Missioner)

Streaming of 1982 documentary film (55 mins)

Roses In December

Tuesday 1st December @ 7pm

Followed by questions with Julian Filochowski, Romero Trust)

Service Livestreamed from RC Parish, Hayes

With Address by Sr Gemma Simmonds C.J

Wednesday 2nd December @ 7pm

Zoom Registration for both events at: <https://bit.ly/3f5wqFD>

Crawley Interfaith Network (CIFN)

Programme of "ZOOM" Events

Dec. 2020 – Feb. 2021.

Further details: Iyad Daoud iyadhdaoud@yahoo.co.uk, Tel: 01293 883372

Thursday **3rd Dec.** 2020 7.30 pm

"Serving a Wounded World in Interreligious Solidarity".

(World Council of Churches and Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue).

Steve Innes

Thursday **21st Jan.** 2021 7.30 pm

"How we worshiped and managed during the lock down".

Najma Osman

Thursday **18th Feb.** 2021 7.30 pm

"Hindu community rising to the challenges of the pandemic".

Ashwin Soni

ZOOM MEETING ID: 385 254 5345

Passcode: AS

For regular items, please see the website:

For readings for the coming week, see Universalis:

<http://www.universalis.com/Europe.England.Arundel/mass.html>

For children and young people's prayer, see CAFOD's material:

<http://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/coronavirus-resources-for-children-young-people-and-their-families/>

For prayers and anniversaries see:

<http://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/in-touch-newsletters/>

Our new Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/Worth-Abbey-Parish-104966314630759/?view_public_for=104966314630759

Family liturgy:

<https://www.facebook.com/colourandshapeonline/>

or

<https://www.facebook.com/colourandshapeonline>

Diocesan Family Materials:

<https://abliturgy.wordpress.com/family-materials/>

Parish Giving:

<https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/about-us/parish-giving/>

Parish Priest: Fr Paul Fleetwood

Mobile: 07764 260216

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

(Parish office is currently closed please email and we will be in touch)

Parish Website: www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk

Secretary: Maria Stribbling (currently working from home 9am-1pm Tuesday/Wednesday)

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 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.