

19<sup>th</sup> / 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent (year B)

No: 1241

## Dear Parishioners

I write to express my prayer and my hope that the coming celebration of the birth of Jesus will bring you all the joy which God can give. Augustine, writing for the celebration of his own congregation, declares: *Awake, humankind! For your sake God has become man. Awake, you who sleep, rise up from the dead, and Christ will enlighten you. I tell you again: for your sake, God became man... Let us then rejoice in this grace.* And Ambrose reminds his people of the infinite dignity which the Incarnation confers on us all: *Christian, remember your dignity... You share in God's own nature...Bear in mind who is your head and of whose body you are a member.* Because God in Jesus has assumed our nature, we are all raised up with him.

Many of us will soon be putting up our crib in our homes. Pope Francis clearly has a great devotion to the crib, and last year wrote a meditation for us, which you will find on our website. [Admirabile Signum](#) He writes: *As we contemplate the Christmas story, we are invited to set out on a spiritual journey, drawn by the humility of the God who became man in order to encounter every man and woman. We come to realize that so great is his love for us that he became one of us, so that we in turn might become one with him.* Again, we are reminded how, through his birth as man, Jesus takes what is ours so that we might receive what is his.

Francis ponders the sense of wonder which the crib can arouse in us. (Perhaps we need to regain that sense of wonder which we all felt as children!) *Why does the Christmas crèche arouse such wonder and move us so deeply? First, because it shows God's tender love: the Creator of the universe lowered himself to take up our littleness. The gift of life, in all its mystery, becomes all the more wondrous as we realize that the Son of Mary is the source and sustenance of all life. In Jesus, the Father has given us a brother who comes to seek us out whenever we are confused or lost, a loyal friend ever at our side. He gave us his Son who forgives us and frees us from our sins. The crib scene touches our hearts and makes us enter into salvation history as contemporaries of an event that is living and real.*

Francis dwells especially on the poverty of the scene. *In a particular way, from the time of its Franciscan origins, the nativity scene has invited us to "feel" and "touch" the poverty that God's Son took upon himself in the Incarnation.* Reflecting on the shepherds, he writes: *It is the humble and the poor who greet the event of the Incarnation...The shepherds remind us that God became man for the sake of those who feel most in need of his love and who ask him to draw near to them.*

I look forward to welcoming you all at our various Christmas celebrations (don't forget your tickets!) and I send my prayers and very best wishes to you all. Fr Paul



*This will be our Last In Touch until 9<sup>th</sup> January.*

*We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward  
to seeing you all in the New Year.*

Mass will be celebrated on Saturdays at 5pm, on Sundays at 9.30 am,  
and will be celebrated as usual on Tuesdays at 10am.

The church will be open for private prayer on Thursdays at 2 pm with the opportunity for confession

### Confession

Confession will be available in the Unity Room from  
9am on Sundays before mass.

The monastic community will be in retreat

**from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> December.**

We will pray for you.



### Christmas Mass Live Streaming

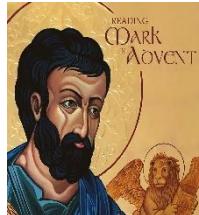
For those who are unable to join us in person for any of our Christmas Masses, we will be offering full visual and audio streaming of our midnight mass which begins at 11pm and of the 11.30am Christmas morning mass.

<https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/audio-live-streaming-from-worth-abbey/>

### Epiphany

Mass will be celebrated for the vigil  
of the feast of the Epiphany –

**Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30 pm.**  
(This is a holy day of obligation.)



### Reading Mark in Advent

Listen to the whole of St Mark's Gospel in 18 parts throughout Advent.

Released one-a-day on the weekdays of the season.  
English Standard Version of the Bible (ESV).

<https://open.spotify.com/show/4giTMysVK5Acwhb7hzJdDV>

### Fr Aidan, Fr Roderick, Br Anthony and Fr Gabriel in Brighton from January 4<sup>th</sup> 2021

Abbot Luke writes: 'We initiated a new venture in 2019, when Fr Peter and Fr Roderick went to live and work alongside the Wellspring Community - a community of young lay people formed in their Benedictine spirituality by the Worth monastic community. Building on that experience, we are launching a new phase of our monastic presence in Brighton as we now prepare to send four monks: Aidan, Roderick, Anthony and Gabriel. Their priority will be to follow the Benedictine way of life and to be a witness to the gospel, living alongside both the Wellspring Community and the people of East Brighton. As far as the Covid moment allows they will offer hospitality and engage in pastoral ministry in the local parish and with Wellspring. Fr Roderick will continue in his role as the Catholic Chaplain to Sussex University. From January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the four monks will be living at 199, Elm Grove, Brighton.'

### A Pre-Christmas On-Line Retreat at Worth Abbey.

**Friday 18 Dec eve 5pm to Sunday 20 Dec lunchtime**  
(with online Carol Service at 4pm on Sunday)

Join the Worth Abbey community for a pre-Christmas On-Line retreat. A good way to re-connect after a difficult year and an opportunity to reflect on how this great Christian celebration can bring hope and new meaning into our lives.

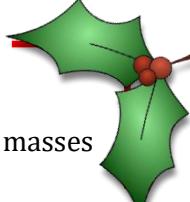
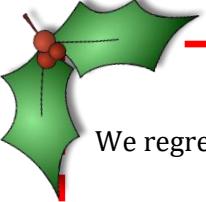
This invitation is for anyone connected to Worth Abbey to come together and to:

- \* Ponder on the meaning of our Advent journey.
- \* Reflect on the incarnation and the joy of Christmas.
- \* Engage anew in our world facing the challenges we do.

We will do all this in the context of community, prayer and worship. Our services will also be on-line over Christmas with full audio-visual streaming. To take part of this retreat, please contact us on:

TOC@worth.org.uk

There will be no charge for the retreat but donations are invited.



## Christmas Masses

We regret that we cannot issue more tickets for the Christmas masses after Friday, noon.

Tickets will be sent via email before Friday, so if you have requested a ticket and not received it, please do let the parish office know.

## Food Bank

Just want to say on behalf of Saint Vincent de Paul in Crawley,  
A big thank you! To Worth Abbey Parish for the continued support.  
We are currently supporting around fifty families in Crawley with food parcels.  
This surplus food can make a great difference.

*Donal Quinlan, President Crawley SVP Conference*

## Update on Laura Rawlinson

Merry Christmas – may you be blessed and enjoy this special time of year and may we wish you a wonderful and peaceful 2021. Thank you for all your love and support during the last challenging eighteen months.

As the year draws to a close, and I am sure we have all had the most difficult and trying and sad times during the last few months, we are so grateful to you for holding on to the assurance that Laura will make a full recovery from this Miller Fisher strain of the Guillain Barre Syndrome.

We have spent the last two weeks with Laura and her family, James and Ella and Wispa (cockapoo) and were daily amazed by yet another first in her recovery. To name but a few:

- Climbing up and down her stairs unaccompanied
- Walking unaided for short distances but also moving to a 4-point base stick instead of her wheeled walking frame
  - Managing all aspects of dressing and undressing unaided
  - Preparing simple meals for Ella each day without assistance
  - Using her computer, phone and TV controls independently
  - Carrying out manicures and applying her make-up herself
  - Wrapping Ella's Christmas and Advent presents unaided

Laura's company, SES Water, have been so supportive of her throughout this whole challenging period and have given her the opportunity to choose what hours and work she would prefer to do (from home) as well as providing the equipment she will need. Therefore she will start work, doing two hours a week initially, on 11<sup>th</sup> January and with responsibility for long term coordination and planning of all company policies.

Sadly she will be unable to attend Paul and Becky's wedding on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December but will be there "virtually" along with other originally invited guests. Just 15 of us will be there to celebrate their wedding.

With all our love and blessings, Jan and Lee Walshe

**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&fbclid=IwAR1XWzJLcOOGdCgkVQDfjyfPmBZGKUHqoRzvYDgkMzJF0Dg>

**Children's Junior Church liturgy:**

<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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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.