

Dear Parishioners

I hope that you and your families continue well in these difficult times, and that you had a good celebration of Christmas together, and the New Year. We pray that 2021 will bring us all happier and less anxious times, and I and the monastic community pray for you all and for your safety.

It is very noticeable that numbers of those coming to mass have declined since we were placed in tier 4, and we heard the news about the faster transmission of the virus; and I quite understand that many feel the need to take extra precautions to protect themselves by remaining at home at the moment. It is a happy chance that we began to use our new streaming technology only a short while ago. You will find the monastic masses on the website, and we have just started to stream some of our parish masses too. Do please look out for these, and help us with any suggestions about how this service can be improved.

Meanwhile, we all need prayer more than ever, and, as well as the liturgies available on streaming, I commend to you all the prayer resources which are offered on our parish website. There are resources for family worship ([Family Worship](#)) and we hope to be able to offer the weekly productions of the Forerunners Team for young people once more from Worth. For more general help with prayer, please see [Daily Reflections](#)

You may have noticed how, during the seasons of Advent and Christmas, the theme of light has been very prominent: *The people who walked in darkness has seen a great light;* and *All that came to be had life in him (Jesus, the Word of God) and that life was the light of men, a light which darkness could not overpower.* The same theme is present in the feast of the Epiphany, which we celebrate on Wednesday of this week: *Arise, shine out Jerusalem, for your light has come;* and, *we saw his star as it rose.* This feast is one of revelation, (especially to the Gentile nations of the world) and is linked by tradition to the feast of Jesus' Baptism, which we celebrate on Sunday, and to the Marriage Feast of Cana. All these were incorporated by Pope John Paul into the mysteries of light which he added to the recitation of the rosary. They all celebrate the presence and the loving intervention of God in our world. We need these moments of light just now in a special way. Do look out for them in your own lives. Meanwhile, I send my prayers for you all.

Yours. Fr Paul

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

Fr Aidan, Fr Roderick, Br Anthony and Fr Gabriel in Brighton from January 4th 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 4th, 2021, the four monks will be living at 199, Elm Grove, Brighton.

Confession

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

Justice & Peace Assembly Webinar

The number of people experiencing food insecurity has increased dramatically during the Covid-19 crisis, with families across our Diocese under increasing pressure. Trussell Trust food banks distributed more than 1.2 million emergency food parcels to people in the UK between April 1st and September 30th this year, with 2,003 food parcels given to children. Join our free Justice and Peace Webinar and find out what our parishes can do to help. January 16th 2021 10.00am - 12.30pm

To book your free place and receive the zoom link contact: Rosie Read rosie.read@abdiocese.org.uk.

To find out more visit our website: <https://abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/news>

Assisted Suicide

The assisted suicide lobby have launched a large campaign to put pressure on the Government to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide.

It is vital that it is clear to the Government that the public want them to continue to hold strong against this pressure from assisted suicide campaigners and reject their demands. Right To Life UK have set up an easy to use tool which will enable you to email your MP asking them to make it clear to the Government that it should not give into demands from the assisted suicide lobby to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide.

It only takes 30 seconds to email your MP by visiting the link below:

www.righttolife.org.uk/StopAssistedSuicide

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

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 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.