

Dear Parishioners

I write today in the knowledge that, although some of us have now received a first vaccination against the virus, the news about the pandemic is still very worrying; so I would like to begin by reminding you that I and the monastic community remember you all in our prayers, and ask God's protection for you at this time of danger. Together with prudent action, and heeding the advice of the medical experts, we also need much prayer at this moment of anxiety, for ourselves and our families and friends, and for those who are suffering with the infection and those who work to care for them. Do please continue to take advantage of all the materials offered on our parish website, both for individual prayer and the streaming of liturgical prayer from the Abbey church.

This Sunday we are asked by our Bishops to pray especially for **Racial Justice**, under the banner, **A Time to Act**. Recent events, both at home and in the United States, have reminded us how far we need to progress to reach a situation of true justice. Although those who come to mass at Worth are very predominantly white, the issue of racial justice must be a concern for us all. Our Bishops write: Ethnic minorities have suffered disproportionately from the COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrating a systemic problem with racial injustice in our society. This was dramatically brought home with the brutal killing of George Floyd and the reaction it provoked. As Pope Francis reflects: *"instances of racism continue to shame us, for they show that our supposed social progress is not as real or definitive as we think."* These shameful reminders of racism demand meaningful action to confront and dismantle sinful structures of injustice. Our brother Bishops in the USA remind us that: *"all of us are in need of personal, ongoing conversion. Our churches and our civic and social institutions are in need of ongoing reform. If racism is confronted by addressing its causes and the injustice it produces, then healing can occur."*

They continue: Racism is a sin and a violation of human dignity in which we are all complicit... This is a time to act. In the words of the Holy Father: *"This is a moment to dream big, to rethink our priorities — what we value, what we want, what we seek — and to commit to act in our daily life on what we have dreamed of. God asks us to dare to create something new."* Most importantly we need to actively invite people from different ethnic communities to share their experiences and genuinely listen to their voices, however challenging this may be.

One way to do this would be to get involved with the two local organisations which support refugees – The Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group, and Refugees Welcome Crawley. Do please see our website for information about how you can get involved:
<https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/social-action/refugees/>

I am sure that you will form some really strong and rewarding friendships this way.

I will add your CCAR piece to the Racial Justice Sunday item. The link on the website for Racial Justice Sunday is:

<https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/racial-justice-sunday-31st-january-2021/>

Church Opening Times

Mass at on **Saturdays at 5pm**

Click here for live streaming: [5pm live streaming](#).

Mass on **Sundays at 9.30am**

Mass on **Tuesdays at 10.00am**

(The Church will remain open on Tuesdays until 12 noon for private prayer).

Private prayer on **Thursdays at 2 pm**, with the opportunity for confession.
(Please note only the East door of the church (on the lower level) will be open.

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

Please note that the monastic community will be engaged in discussions on Monday and Tuesday, **15th and 16th February**. The following day will be Ash Wednesday, so we propose celebrating mass on Wednesday of this week, instead of Tuesday, at the normal time of 10 am. There will also be a mass at 7.30 pm.

Lent with the Diocese

Invited. Lent 2021 – The Mission Begins.

The Diocesan Formation Team is hosting a mission for you this Lent. It will be the first of five seasons of mission, helping you to explore God's *Invitation* to live your life with him.

What is a mission? An opportunity for everyone in the parish to sit back and reflect on the content provided.

Season one is a series of programmes that help us to understand exactly how much we are loved by God, and features guest speakers such as David Wells, Eleanor Oliver and David Beresford.

You will then be able to join a virtual conversation to meet like-minded people and discuss what you have learnt. Visit www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited to find out more.

You, are Invited.

Acorn Stair Lift for sale

15 months old but good as new, fits any typical straight staircase.

Substantial savings on purchasing new! Price of **£999** includes delivery and fitting by a trained Acorn engineer and 3 months full warranty.

Call 0800 073 9793 and quote reference **313287**

Deepening prayer in our ordinary life

An Open Cloister Online Weekend **29th-31st January**, to explore how we can pray more contemplatively at home.

You will just need a smart phone, tablet or computer, with access to a Zoom account.

Bookings via TOC@worth.org.uk

Further Information - Michael Woodward

shotwithspirit@gmail.com

with David Clayton & Michael Woodward

Right to Life

Ask your MP to sign a parliamentary motion calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on fetal pain. A new parliamentary motion (EDM 1340) is calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on fetal pain. The evidence that babies can feel pain in the womb, and during many abortions, highlights the humanity of the unborn child and provides another important reason to introduce legislation to protect the unborn child from abortion.

Right To Life UK have set up an easy-to-use tool which makes it simple to contact your MP - please visit the link below - it only takes 30 seconds.

www.righttolife.org.uk/FetalPainMotion

Wilding Verges

The local council invite us to become involved in a project to help promote wildlife.

Are you and your neighbours interested in making your road verges more accessible and friendly to wildlife and pollinators? If yes, then the Local Highways Operations (West Sussex County Council) is keen to support you to make this possible.

What next?

- Firstly, check with the County Council that they own the verges. Note, the verges must be on a road of 30mph or less for safety reasons.
- Secondly, discuss with your community about why the verges might change, highlighting the benefits. The Council provides downloadable resources to support informing and promoting this activity within a community.
- Thirdly, agree with your community which wilding option you want to go with:
 - Option 1- Collect grass cuttings on the verge once or twice a year.
 - Option 2- Collect the grass cuttings as above and plant native wildflower plug plants or seeds that can be sewn alongside grass.
- Fourth, a simple agreement is signed.
- Fifth, your verge management changes will be relayed to our grass contractors to ensure their cutting regime is adapted.

As the County Council cannot work with all groups at once, therefore any requests are filed and progressed as soon as possible. For further information please contact Jess Macey, Stakeholder and Partnerships Officer,

Local Highways Operations, Highways, Transport and Planning
West Sussex County Council

Email: jessica.macey@westsussex.gov.uk | Web: www.westsussex.gov.uk

WSSCC will be hosting 'Who Loves a Pollinator? 2021', **18th February** at 7pm.

This will be an extended webinar event including live music from Richard Durrant and a Q&A session with our expert panel. Dave Goulson will also be speaking to us about the importance of pollinators and what we can all do to help, while WSSCC's Sustainability and Highways teams will be mentioning some of the things the county is doing to become more pollinator friendly.

Here's the link to sign up:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/who-loves-a-pollinator-2021-tickets-133703957135>

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/>

For D'Arcy's music, please visit our website homepage under Organ voluntaries:
<https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/>

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.