

Dear Parishioners

On Monday of next week the Church celebrates the feast of **St Josephine Bakhita**. She is famous today because she has been made the patron saint of victims of trafficking. In 1958, the process of canonization began for Josephine under Pope John XXIII. On December 1st, 1978, Pope John Paul II declared her venerable. Sadly, the news of her beatification in 1992 was censored in her country of birth, Sudan. But just nine months later, Pope John Paul II visited Sudan and honoured her publicly. He canonized her on October 1, 2000.

Saint Josephine Margaret Bakhita was born around 1869 in the village of Olgossa in the Darfur region of Sudan. She was a member of the Daju people and her uncle was a tribal chief. Due to her family lineage, she grew up happy and relatively prosperous, saying that as a child, she did not know suffering.

Historians believe that sometime in February 1877, Josephine was kidnapped by Arab slave traders. Although she was just a child, she was forced to walk barefoot over 600 miles to a slave market in El Obeid. She was bought and sold at least twice during the gruelling journey. For the next 12 years she would be bought, sold and given away over a dozen times. She spent so much time in captivity that she forgot her original name. As a slave, her experiences varied from fair treatment to cruel. But in 1883 she was sold to an Italian, the Vice Consul of Sudan, who eventually took her to Italy. She was subsequently placed in the care of the Canossian Sisters in Venice, and this was the beginning of her journey into the Christian faith. She joined the Sisters as a novice in 1893, and was sent to a convent in Schio, Vicenza. For the next 42 years of her life, she worked as a cook and a doorkeeper at the convent. She also travelled and visited other convents telling her story to other sisters and preparing them for work in Africa. She was known for her gentle voice and smile. She was gentle and charismatic, and was often referred to lovingly as the "little brown sister" or honourably as the "black mother." She evidently forgave the cruelty of her captors and "owners".

In her later years, she began to suffer physical pain and was forced to use a wheelchair. But she always remained cheerful. If anyone asked her how she was, she would reply, "As the master desires". On the evening of February 8, 1947, Josephine spoke her last words, "Our Lady, Our Lady!" She then died.

Please pray for all who suffer trafficking and slavery today, and those who work for their liberation and recovery. Please visit the website to find out more about the work of The Medaille Trust and the Santa Marta Group, which is promoted by Pope Francis and Cardinal Vincent Nicols. It is believed that there are more than 130,000 victims of trafficking in Britain today. We can all play a part in their liberation. See:

<https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/feast-of-st-josephine-bakhita-patron-saint-of-human-trafficking-monday-8th-february-2021/>

Church Opening Times

Mass at on **Saturdays at 5pm**

Click here for live streaming: [5pm live video 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

Lectio Divina

Would anyone like to join a Lectio Divina group on line during Lent? Lectio is a popular way of praying with the Scriptures, and is very simple. We could use the Sunday Gospel reading. You would not need to do any preparation, and the sessions will last for only half an hour. It consists in simply reading the passage slowly and letting God speak to your heart. There's no obligation to share anything, but we have the support of doing the reading with one another. We can send you some hints about lectio, if you would like this, or look on the website. Please let us know if you would like to join a group – parish@worth.org.uk
This will take place on Saturday mornings, at 11 am. I look forward to hearing from you.

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>



Prayers

Please pray for the continued healing of Laura Rawlinson. Please pray for her family.

We pray for the victims of human trafficking that they may be helped to rebuild their lives after the traumatic experiences they have gone through. We pray that we, as the Church, will continue to defend victims of human trafficking. We pray for our governments that they may make and implement laws that will protect victims of modern day slavery. We pray for those organisations dedicated to eradicating modern day slavery that they will be courageous in the face of challenges. We pray for those caring for the victims of human trafficking, that their efforts to help the vulnerable and traumatised may not go unrewarded. St Josephine Bakhita, Pray For Us

Please pray for the people of Burma. We have just heard that the military has mounted a coup and arrested Aung San Suu Kyi and many of her supporters and NLD members, and human rights activists. Please see <https://burmacampaign.org.uk/>

Next Sunday's Readings: **Sixth Sunday in OT**
1st Reading – Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46 2nd Reading – 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1
Gospel: Mark 1:40-45
The leprosy left the man at once, and he was cured

Daily Readings

Monday – Gen 1:1-9 Mark 6:53-56
Tuesday – Gen 1:20-2:4a Mark 7:1-13
Wednesday – Songs 8:6-7 Luke 10:38-42 (**St Scholastica**)
Thursday – Gen 2:18-25 Mark 7:24-30
Friday – Gen 3:1-8 Mark 7:31-37
Saturday – Gen 3:9-24 Mark 8:1-10

Anniversaries

Please pray for the Souls of – Elizabeth Fresne, Edgar Stanford, Josephine Chamberlain, Eda Dunbar, Joan Witham, Jim McClusky, Fra Andrew Bertie, Angus MacDonald, Eddie Flanagan, Beatrice Green, Bruce Lagden, Anne Powys-Lybbe, Peggy Bonner, Peter Whelpton, Alison Rawlins, Tigs Nott (Wheeler) and Eamon Michael Litten.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen.

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 our homepage:

<http://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk>

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.