

Dear Parishioners

On Thursday of this week, February 11<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. You will all know about the annual diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes, when Catholics of all ages and backgrounds gather to take sick people to Mary's shrine, and where together they find strength and a deeper sense of faith through the prayers of Mary, and through service of the sick. Pope John Paul II, who himself suffered greatly following the attempt on his life, and was afflicted with serious illness during his last years, dedicated this day as the **World Day of The Sick**.

Pope Francis has written a message for us to mark this day. He writes: *Dear brothers and sisters, the celebration of the World Day of the Sick is an opportunity to devote special attention to the sick and to those who provide them with assistance and care both in healthcare institutions and within families and communities.* He begins, of course, by turning to those who suffer from the pandemic: *We think in particular of those who have suffered, and continue to suffer, the effects of the worldwide coronavirus pandemic. To all, and especially to the poor and the marginalized, I express my spiritual closeness and assure them of the Church's loving concern.* He continues: *Before the needs of our brothers and sisters, Jesus asks us to stop and listen, to establish a direct and personal relationship with others, to feel empathy and compassion, and to let their suffering become our own as we seek to serve them....The experience of sickness makes us realize our own vulnerability and our innate need of others. It makes us feel all the more clearly that we are creatures dependent on God...Sickness raises the question of life's meaning, which we bring before God in faith.* He affirms that we can observe injustice in the care given to some: *The current pandemic has exacerbated inequalities in our healthcare systems... Elderly, weak and vulnerable people are not always granted access to care, or in an equitable manner. This is the result of political decisions.* But he goes on to praise the wonderful work undertaken by so many on behalf of the sick: *Yet the pandemic has also highlighted the dedication and generosity of healthcare personnel, volunteers, support staff, priests, men and women religious, all of whom have helped, treated, comforted and served so many of the sick and their families with professionalism, self-giving, responsibility and love of neighbour. A silent multitude of men and women, they chose not to look the other way but to share the suffering of patients, whom they saw as neighbours and members of our one human family.*

He ends by invoking the prayers of Our Lady: *To Mary, Mother of Mercy and Health of the Infirm, I entrust the sick, healthcare workers and all those who generously assist our suffering brothers and sisters.*

Please see the full message on our website here. [Day of the Sick](#)

Please also see the appeal by the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Organisation, who are asking for funds for their work. (There is the opportunity to give on line.)

### **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, **15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

The Bishops Pastoral Letter can be found at  
[Bishop Richard's Podcast for the Fifth Sunday of the Year \(B\), 7th February 2021](#)

### **Open Cloister Online Weekends**

**12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> February.** Christian-Muslim friendship and the Nineteen Martyrs of Algeria: Creating a new dynamic of meeting and living together. Led by Fr Martin McGee.

**26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> February.** The Lent Journey. There will be 5 talks by Worth Monks. All you need is a smart phone, tablet or computer with access to Zoom!

Bookings and Information via [TOC@worth.org.uk](mailto:TOC@worth.org.uk)

### **Invited – The Diocesan Lenten Retreat**

This weekend Bishop Richard has sent a pastoral letter about the on-line retreat in which we are all invited to take part. This is available on the website – [www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited](http://www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited)

Please see full details about the retreat itself on the website - <https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/> Do sign up for this. If you normally perform some ministry in the parish, you may already have received an invitation to take part in group discussion with others in that ministry, or in a house group. If not, do please get in touch with the parish – [parish@worth.org.uk](mailto:parish@worth.org.uk) – and we will form a group or groups. For those who do not have access to the internet, the organisers of the retreat will produce written material based on the talks. Please let us know if you would like these, and we will post them to you.

### **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](mailto:parish@worth.org.uk)  
This will take place on Saturday mornings, at 11 am. I look forward to hearing from you.

### **Right to Life**

#### **Write to your MP to prevent the legalisation of assisted suicide.**

Right to Life UK has issued an e-Action campaign, asking people to write to their Member of Parliament to ask for their commitment to preventing the legalisation of assisted suicide. Right to Life UK says: 'The assisted suicide lobby are currently running a large campaign to put pressure on the Government to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide. Thankfully, the Government has recently resisted these attempts and emphasised their commitment to neutrality on this issue. It is vital that the Government continues to hold strong against pressure from assisted suicide campaigners and rejects their demands.'

#### **Take action!**

Bishops' Conference are strongly encouraging all Catholics to take part in the e-Action campaign. You can make your voice heard and contact your MP by simply entering your postcode and following the subsequent steps [here](#).

### **CRAWLEY INTERFAITH NETWORK**

Zoom Meeting: " HINDU COMMUNITY: RISING TO THE CHALLENGES OF THE PANDEMIC"

Speakers: Ashwin Soni (Treasurer of CIFN) – Host, Ratnam Nadarajah (Vice Chairman CIFN) - Tamil community and Dhirubhai Gadhavi - Brighton and Crawley community

Dhirubhai is the past very successful Chair of Gujarati Cultural Society of Brighton. He has organised weekly social, cultural and dharmic Zoom events from March lock down. He is very deeply knowledgeable in Gujarati and Indian culture. He has very deep knowledge of religion and powerful command of Gujarati language.

Mayura Patel - South London and wider community

- Mayura is from Croydon and the Founder of Spirituality for Daily Life, Dynamic Women's Foundation Aangikam Dance Akademi. She is also Chairperson for Croydon Hindu Council, Hindu Representative with Croydon Faith Leader's Forum, Faiths Together

Thursday 18th February at 7.30 pm

To Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81937666499?pwd=Nk0zL0xOSG13cXQySWxRSFIZUklvQT09>

Meeting ID: 819 3766 6499 Passcode: 349122

### **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](mailto:jessica.macey@westsussex.gov.uk) | Web: [www.westsussex.gov.uk](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk)

WSSCC will be hosting 'Who Loves a Pollinator? 2021', **18<sup>th</sup> 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>

### **Save the Date**

National Justice and Peace Conference 2021, 23rd-25th July 2021, Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick.

**'2021: Life on Earth - moment of truth'**

As climate changes, the biodiversity crisis and Covid-19 make clear, ecological conversion is becoming a matter of life and death. Decisions to be made this year at the COP26 climate summit and in the recovery from the pandemic are critical for salvaging a viable future. This is a year of opportunity the like of which we will never see again.

At Conference 2021 we will take inspiration from *Laudato Si, Fratelli Tutti* and secular thinking on integral ecology. We will seize this moment of grace for the changes and choices now confronting us.

Please see the website for more details: <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/>

## **CCAR**

Would anyone like to join a virtual meeting of Crawley Council Against Racism? Please see below for Jane Buckley's invitation.

*Crawley has evolved in many ways in its history as a new town. We will celebrate this with our multicultural uniqueness, in mind!*

*We will also be earmarking a star spot for honouring two extremely influential people in CCAR and their exceptional contributions to Crawley; Queenie Hopcroft and Raj Sharma, both of whom have sadly passed away in recent weeks RIP.*

*Join in this 'ideas stage', for the exhibition next October.*

*Topic: CCAR Museum Exhibition*

*'Celebrating Crawley's Changes'*

*Zoom Meeting.*

**Time: Feb 15, 2021 07:30 PM**

*Join Zoom Meeting*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85256685708?pwd=Z0xaQzRkSzIYXW9BVi85OEo1TlVhQT09>

*Meeting ID: 852 5668 5708      Passcode: 557698*

## **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](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](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.**

