

Dear Parishioners

I hope that you and your families continue well.

At last there may be some light at the end of the tunnel, and the monastic community is looking forward to being able to invite you to our Easter services. Although, of course, we are aware that the course of the pandemic might force a sudden change of plan, we hope to be able to welcome you to the following services:

Palm Sunday – Saturday, 27th March at 5 pm (parish mass)
Palm Sunday – at 9.30 am (concelebrated)

Maundy Thursday – 1st April, at 9 pm (?) (Concelebrated)

Good Friday – 2nd April – 3 pm (concelebrated)

Easter Saturday (Easter Vigil) – 3rd April – at 11 pm (concelebrated)

Easter Sunday – 4th April – 9.30 am (parish mass, when we welcome our RCIA group into communion with the Catholic Church)

Easter Sunday – 11.30 am (concelebrated)

The exact times have not yet been fixed, but we anticipate that these will be the approximate times.

Because social distancing is still necessary, the capacity of the church is limited, and we wish to ensure that all regular parishioners have priority. There will be a booking system as we operated at Christmas, with tickets. The parish secretary, Maria Stribbling, will take care of issuing tickets, and there will be booking forms on the parish website from early next week. Because Maria is partly on furlough, and has only limited time available for this work, please book as early as you can, and, in any case, **by 15th March**. Please email mstribbling@worth.org.uk. Thank you.

Meanwhile, we are celebrating Fairtrade Fortnight at the moment. I am delighted to offer you an article which Beryl McNulty has written for us to mark this moment, and I take this opportunity to thank Beryl very much for her dedicated work in this most important cause, with all the members of her team.

I send my prayers and very best wishes to you all.
Yours ever. Fr Paul

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 22 FEBRUARY – 7 MARCH 2021

For two weeks each year, at the end of February and the beginning of March, thousands of individuals, companies and groups across the UK come together to highlight the plight of the people who grow our food, people who are often exploited and underpaid.

Fairtrade sets social, economic and environmental standards for both companies and the farmers and workers who grow the crops. For farmers and workers the standards include protection of workers' rights and the environment; for companies they include the payment of the Fairtrade Minimum Price and an additional Fairtrade Premium. The Fairtrade Premium is typically spent in strengthening co-operatives to be able to support and train their members. It is also used for much needed investment in the community – for example, to provide education, clean water, healthcare and housing.

2020 was a very hard year for everyone but 2021 will be even more challenging. With the emergence of the global COVID pandemic, the challenges that farmers face now are bigger than ever before, with falling commodity prices and widespread shocks reverberating along the global supply chains. Ongoing poverty in farming communities makes it increasingly hard to cope with the effects of climate change. Those climate-vulnerable countries are already seeing the ever-increasing impacts from droughts and crop disease to floods, heatwaves and shrinking harvests.

We can all help the farmers and growers to improve their lives and to look into solutions to the problems they face due to climate change, by choosing to buy Fairtrade goods. Although our Traidcraft stall is not open at the moment, you might like to visit the Traidcraft Online Shop which has some Fairtrade Fortnight special offers and discounts. Waitrose and M&S have a wide range of Fairtrade goods and both stores have special Fairtrade Fortnight recipes on their websites. M&S and the Co-op stock a range of Fairtrade wines. For all ice cream lovers, you might like to know that Ben & Jerry's have committed to paying a higher price, an additional \$600,000, over the next year to their 5,000 cocoa farmers. This amount is on top of both the annual Fairtrade Premium of around \$970,000 and the Ivorian government's minimum price for cocoa that all companies are required to pay.

You might like to support Traidcraft's partner charity, Traidcraft Exchange who:

- *Run programmes in developing countries, supporting poor and vulnerable people to get a better deal from trade;*
- *Campaign to transform the way trade works - aiming for high-impact, sustainable change, and advocate for better trade policies and better business practices in the UK.*

Donations can be made to: <https://action.traidcraft.org.uk/donate>

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.

Lockdown Mums

Lockdown has affected many of us in different ways. For those of us with babies and very young children, staying at home can be isolating when we might usually fill our day with baby groups or visiting family and friends.

A couple of us from Worth Abbey have been meeting up on Zoom for a virtual Mother & Baby group and we'd love it if you could join us. If you are a mother of a baby or pre-schooler and you think you would be interested, please e mail me for more information on abby@abbychapman.com, I'd love to hear from you!

Works at Worth Estate

Please be aware that there will be delays when entering and leaving the Abbey grounds because of the installation of a new heating system. This will continue for about five weeks.

Please note that on 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays in Lent (7th, 14th and 21st March) we will use the readings of cycle A, not the current cycle B. This is recommended when there are candidates for baptism and reception at Easter, as this year

Open Cloister Online Weekend

26th-28th 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

Invited - The Diocesan Lenten Retreat

Last weekend Bishop Richard sent a Pastoral Letter about the Diocesan on-line retreat in which we are all invited to take part. His Letter is available on the parish website on the [Lent Resources](#) page. Please see full details about [Invited](#) on the website - 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 - 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.

If anyone would like to join a parish discussion group on Tuesday evenings, please get in touch with Charles McCarthy - Charles_mccarthy@hotmail.co.uk

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

Recently, the UK Government has launched a [consultation](#) on whether to make permanent the current temporary arrangement allowing 'DIY' home abortions.

In response to this, we are asking members of the public to take action and submit their views to the consultation. Right to Life UK has set up an easy-to-use tool on their website that makes it simple to complete your submission. This tool can be accessed [here](#).

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/>

Free ecology talks during Lent

The Bishop of Salford and lead bishop of the environment, John Arnold, is to take part in a series of evening talks and reflections on ecology during Lent. The series, organised by UK participants in the Global Catholic Climate Movement, will inform and challenge participants to respond to Pope Francis' call to care for "our common home". The free events will take place on six Thursdays from **18th February – 25th March** at 7.30pm-8.30pm.

To register, contact:
jane@catholicclimatemovement.global

Marriage Care

Rebecca Thorat, of Marriage Care, writes to inform us that they offer on line services both for marriage preparation, and also for relationship counselling, for any who would like help to strengthen their marital relationship. Do please get in touch if you feel that either of these could be of help. These services are promoted by Cardinal Vincent Nicols for use within the context of the Catholic Church.

The 2021 CAFOD Lenten Family Fast Day

On Friday 26th February. Our focus for prayer and fundraising this Family Fast Day is on water poverty.

The burden for many is tremendous, particularly young people, in areas where access to clean water cannot be taken for granted. Often the bulk of a day must be spent by a person to collect the water that they and their families need to survive. And very often this task falls on the shoulders of children. This water collection comes at the expense of their education, self-improvement and childhood.

Please help CAFOD put a stop to this.

I would be grateful for your prayers and preparation for CAFOD's Family Fast Day on Friday February 26th.

More information and a video can be found by using this link: <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Family-Fast-Day>

Additionally, please consider taking on the challenge of 'walking 10,000 steps for water' a day during Lent and ask friends and family to sponsor your efforts with a donation to CAFOD. Should you wish to accept this challenge, please let the Worth Parish Office know and update us on your progress.

Sadly, COVID prevents us from hosting Lenten coffee mornings or soup lunches this year, but there are online activities that you may wish to explore.

[Stations of the Cross](#)

Every Friday throughout Lent, 11am

This Lent, we will walk through the Stations of the Cross online in a prayerful journey of transformation in solidarity with people living in poverty around the world.

Join us as we meditate on Christ's journey to the cross, following themes of justice, poverty, mercy, friendship and hope.

[Register](#) to the series.

CAFOD continues to effectively fundraise to help battle poverty and suffering during this challenging COVID period. We are most grateful to the parishioners of Worth Parish for your continued efforts and support.

Yours, Kir Bennett Horner, Worth CAFOD Volunteer Representative

Anniversaries

Please pray for the Souls of – Kitty Adams, Karen Rozum, Roy Hemming, Anthony Francis Rowland, Albert Mason, Peter Reeve, Rose Fleetwood, Bert Rayson, Lina Talbot, Mary Renouf, Maurice Geal, Aaron Martin, David Rutherford, Alex Leaney, Barry Penn, Jim Ryan, Simon Newnham and Pat O'Grady
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen.



Prayers

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

Please pray for Miriam Vinnycomb, who died on Sunday. R.I.P. Miriam lived with her family for many years in Crawley Down and was a faithful parishioner.

We pray for all those who produce our food, especially those who struggle with poverty and harsh conditions. May we all be moved to help them by investing in Fair Trade.

We pray for the world, our common home: that through God's grace we may hear its cry of the damage done and be moved to protect it for future generations to enjoy

We pray for those people who are already facing droughts, floods and storms: that God may grant them strength and hope for the future as they work to adapt to the changing climate.

We pray for our parish and our local community: that through the grace of God we may hear the urgent cry of the earth and of the poor and be inspired to respond at this crucial time.

We pray for the world we live in: that God may open our eyes to recognise the goodness of all creation and help us to do what we can to restore and care for the wonderful gift that we have been given.

Please continue to pray for the people and democratic government of Burma, as they struggle to resist the tyranny of the military takeover. Please pray for all those in prison there, especially for Aung San Suu Kyi and her supporters.

Next Sunday's Readings: **Third Sunday in Lent**

1st Reading – Exodus 17:3-7 2nd Reading – Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

Gospel: John 4:5-42

So he came to the Samaritan city called Sychar

Daily Readings

Monday – Phil 3:8-14 Matt 5:13-16 (**St David**)

Tuesday – Isa 1:10, 16-20 Matt 23:1-12

Wednesday – Jer 18:18-20 Matt 20:17-28

Thursday – Jer 17:5-10 Luke 16:19-31

Friday – Gen 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a Matt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday – Mic 7:14-15, 18-20 Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

For regular items, please see the website:

For readings for the coming week, see Universalis:
[Universalis](#)

For children and young people's prayer, see CAFOD's material:
[Children Resources](#)

For prayers and anniversaries see our homepage:
<http://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk>

Our new Facebook page:
[Parish Facebook](#)

Children's Junior Church liturgy:
[Junior Church](#)

Diocesan Family Materials:
[Family Materials](#)

Parish Giving:
[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 Website: www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk
(Parish office is currently closed please email and we will be in touch)

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.