

Dear Parishioners

I hope that you and your families continue well.

I have great pleasure this week to send an article written for us by Gillian Maher. Gillian is a member of the parish group Worth Pro Earth, and the introduction by Alan Rew, the chair of the group, explains the group and its purpose. (For more information, please see our parish website - <https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/social-action/worth-pro-earth/> )

Meanwhile, I send my very best wishes and my prayers.

Fr Paul

## Plain Tales of Home - an Insect story

Within Worth Abbey Parish, Worth Pro Earth members try to enact Pope Francis' vision (in his encyclical *Laudato 'Si*) of widespread ecological conversion and care for God's Creation. We are not the only species to call Earth "Home". The other animal and plant species need us to care for them to assist God's plan and for our own long-term survival. We are challenged as Catholics and as citizens to replace the destruction of species and climate with communion between God's human and non-human creations. David Attenborough's recent television programme "Extinction: the facts" shows us living through an extinction spasm of nightmarish proportions with many terrestrial and marine wildlife species now highly vulnerable. The rate of decline in insect communities seriously threatens plant reproduction and agriculture. Gillian Maher gives us a vivid illustration of this decline with the following reflection.

### A Carnival of Insects - *Gillian Maher*

Imagine an eight year old girl, sitting under an apple tree in her garden, in the intense heat of a mid-summer's day during her school holidays. She is totally engrossed in her book and unaware that she is perspiring heavily in the heat – and attracting butterflies to feed on the salt accumulating on her skin as the moisture dries. Suddenly a machine erupts on the neighbouring land and as she jumps with surprise and shock, a cloud of butterflies soars around her head. Brightly marked Peacocks, Red Admirals, Commas, Marbled Whites, Painted Ladies, Yellow Brimstone and many other varieties, all amaze and captivate her.

She was used to seeing the butterflies in the flower borders, generally accompanied by a chorus of bees humming, as they competed with the butterflies for the nectar promised in the flowers' scent. To be touched by a cloud of butterflies, was an unforgettable experience!

Wasps, too, produced a loud humming much less welcome than that of the bees. It warned diners to resist or risk being stung as wasps tried to share the goodies on the picnic rug or table. Clouds of aphids were also unpopular as they smothered car windscreens during summer evenings, obscuring vision and forcing drivers to stop every 25-30 miles to remove them with a sponge. How we longed to be rid of them!

So, is it not strange that, more than forty years later, we yearn to see these tiresome insects again? Sadly, over the last thirty years we have seen a devastating decline in all our insect populations – and this is now compromising our ability to grow our food.

We desperately need bees and butterflies to pollinate our plants and enable seeds to be reproduced for the following seasons. Without this cycle of reproduction, the plants on which the bees and caterpillars depend to feed and lay their eggs will be lost. Aphids also make important contributions - to the health and structure of our soil and the life-cycle of our bird population. They also nourish ants, who farm the aphids to feed their young. Ants are a lynch pin in preserving the structure and health of our soil. Aphids also feed the chicks of the Tit population thus protecting our crops from damage. Surveys, however, reveal the decline in our bird population as chicks die from food shortages aggravated by climate change. Lethal levels of air pollution kill insects and humans in addition. The widespread use of insecticides and herbicides on our farms and gardens further attacks both our insect population and their host plants.

So, the time has come for change. We must do things differently and much more thoughtfully. In paragraph 67 of *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis quotes from Genesis 2:15, where he says, *"Each community can take from the bounty of the Earth whatever it needs for subsistence, but it also has the duty to ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations."* He continues - in paragraph 68- *"This responsibility for God's earth means that human beings, endowed with intelligence, must respect the laws of nature and the delicate equilibria existing between the creatures of the world...."*

The time for a policy for Future Generations has come. If humanity and the glory of Creation are to survive each one of us must review our life-style and expectations.

### **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.

On Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> March, there will be a service of Reconciliation in the church at Worth at 7.30 pm. It will include the opportunity to make a private confession.

### **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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays in Lent (7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 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*

### **Worth Abbey Christian Meditation Group**

We are continuing our meditation group of silent contemplative prayer using Zoom video. We meet on two Wednesday evenings each month with a talk and period of silent contemplative prayer. If anyone is interested they would be very welcome to join us.

We will be meeting in **March on Wednesday 10th and 24th at 7.00pm.**

Please contact Caterina Brown for more information and Zoom details. Tel: 01243 554001

### **Easter Retreat**

Join the Wellspring Community, Monks of Worth Abbey, and young people from across the country in this interactive online retreat over the Easter Triduum. With a mixture of prayer, small groups and talks there is a great opportunity to journey with others deeper into the mystery of Easter, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We have created the timetable in such a way that you should be able to attend the liturgies in church, and, if this is not possible, we will offer guidance [about](#) how to create a prayerful liturgy at home. Should one of the sessions clash with your liturgy you will have access later [to the talk](#) so you can catch up.

Plenty of space will be given to allow for deep reflection and personal journeying with God." <http://www.wellspringbrighton.org.uk/the-virtual-easter-retreat/>

Here is the Facebook link for the retreat: <https://www.facebook.com/events/3623733677740460>

### **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](mailto:abby@abbychapman.com), I'd love to hear from you!

### **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](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.

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](mailto: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](mailto:parish@worth.org.uk)

This will take place on Saturday mornings, at 11 am. I look forward to hearing from you.

### **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](mailto: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**

**Friday 26th February** was CAFOD's Lenten Family Fast Day. It's not too late to contribute. Please consider fasting and then donating the cost of what you would have consumed to CAFOD. There are several easy donation methods.

You can donate online at [CAFOD.org.uk/lent](https://CAFOD.org.uk/lent)

You can donate £10 by using your mobile to text the word LENT to 70460

You can use a traditional paper CAFOD envelope

Please give today to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and to provide other vital support.

Please pray for CAFOD and each other during our rather different Lenten journey this year.

### **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*

### **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/>



### **Prayers**

Please pray for the continued healing of Laura Rawlinson. Please pray for her family.  
Please see update on our homepage: [www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk](http://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk)

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

Please continue to pray for our RCIA group, and for catechumens around the world, as they complete their time of preparation, to be ready to receive the sacraments on Easter morning. On each succeeding Sunday at our parish mass we will celebrate the rite of the Scrutinies, which represent a “stepping stone” towards their reception. (For the next three Sundays we will use the readings from cycle A.)

Please pray also that we, the parish community at Worth, may be worthy to receive these new members. Please do all you can to ensure that they will feel welcomed among us.

Please continue to pray for the people of Burma and their elected leaders, many of whom have been arrested. They face increased violence and repression from the military authorities. Cardinal Bo, of Yangon, writes : *I have watched with sadness the moments of darkness in our history and watched with hope the resilience of our people in their struggle for dignity...Let not any more blood be shed in this land...I believe that peace is the only way, peace is possible.*

Please continue to pray for all those who are suffering from the pandemic, for those who have died and the bereaved, and for those who work to relieve suffering. Please pray especially for those who live in the poorest countries, with least resources to fight against the disease. A prayer of Pope Francis: *May the risen Jesus grant hope to all the poor, to those living on the peripheries, to refugees and the homeless. May these, the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters living in the cities and peripheries of every part of the world, not be abandoned. Let us ensure that they do not lack basic necessities.”* Please visit the website to learn about the response of CAFOD, and please remember to contribute to their work through their Fast Day Appeal. ([Cafod Covid response](#)) and [Cafod fast day](#)

### **Anniversaries**

**Please pray for the Souls of** – John Walford, Shelagh Wall, Merryel Barnwell, Marty Vaughan, Mother Mary Garson, Tony Corio, Stan Geal, Daniel Harrison, Rev Canon Richard Incedon, Terry Smith, John Surtees, Nancy Wilson Stuart, Kitty Cahill and John Burge.  
**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen.**

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

1st Reading – Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13      2nd Reading – Ephesians 5:8-14

**Gospel:** John 9:1-41

**As he walked along he saw a blind man**

### **Daily Readings**

Monday – 2 Kgs 5:1-15b    Luke 4:24-30

Tuesday – Dan 3:25, 34-43    Matt 18:21-35

Wednesday – Deut 4:1, 5-9    Matt 5:17-19

Thursday – Jer 7:23-28    Luke 11:14-23

Friday – Hos 14:2-10    Mark 12:28-34

Saturday – Hos 6:1-6    Luke 18:9-14

**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 volunteers:  
<https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/>

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(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](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.