

Dear Parishioners

I hope that you and your families are well. I hold you all in my prayers and ask God's protection for you.

On Thursday we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension, a feast which celebrates the power of God's love at work in Jesus on our behalf. In an older form of the liturgy, this was marked by the extinguishing of the Paschal candle during mass, thus signifying the end of the period of forty days during which, according to Luke's scheme, Jesus appeared to his disciples. (It is significant that St Paul did not share in these appearances, and therefore did not qualify as an apostle according to St Luke's criterion.) Today, we no longer extinguish the candle, as this can give the impression that the feast is about Jesus leaving us, his absence. In fact, of course, it is not about his absence, but about his triumph, and, as such, forms an equal part with the celebration of Easter. Both feasts celebrate his exaltation, but using different symbolism. At Easter we speak of Jesus' triumph over death, and his return from the place of the dead; at the Ascension, we speak of his triumph over hostile spiritual powers – anything which might separate us from God – and his going up to heaven to share his Father's reign. In the second reading of the feast we hear: *God raised him from the dead and made him sit at his right hand, in heaven ...He has put all things under his feet.*

(Ephesians 1.20-23) Our celebration reminds us that this is all for our sake: *Where the Head has gone before in glory, the Body is called to follow in hope.* (Collect of the day) Elsewhere in the letter to the Ephesians, Paul writes: *God raised us up with Jesus, and gave us a place with him in heaven.* (2.6) In the earliest Christian liturgy the entire period of fifty days from Easter to Pentecost was regarded as one 'great Sunday', a continuous celebration of the triumph of Jesus. Later, the liturgy adopted Luke's chronology – he is the only New Testament author who distinguishes the Ascension from the Resurrection – and divided the time, distinguishing Easter, Ascension and Pentecost. Today's feast leads into Pentecost, which we celebrate on Sunday 23rd, by emphasising that Jesus sends the Holy Spirit from his place 'at God's right hand', sharing in the power and authority of the Father.

Cardinal Nichols encourages us to join the novena of prayer, *Thy Kingdom Come*, praying to the Holy Spirit for people to come to know Jesus Christ and the role of the Holy Spirit as 'God's power' sustaining the created world. He writes: *"It's the Holy Spirit that transformed what we call the 'chaos' into the 'cosmos' – the ordered world."* Please see his message on the parish website.

<https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/thy-kingdom-come-praying-together-at-pentecost-2021/>

Meanwhile, the new measures which the Home Secretary is proposing to control the arrival and treatment of asylum seekers has attracted much negative comment from groups which seek to

protect them. In particular, Bishop William Kenney of the Santa Marta group, which acts against slavery, writes: *“The introduction of new barriers to entering and seeking asylum in the UK risks pushing more people into the hands of traffickers. Across the world it has been consistently demonstrated that policies criminalising those seeking sanctuary and introducing new border security measures do not save lives but are simply a charter for trafficking.”* Please see his letter to Priti Patel on this subject on the website.

<https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/social-action/refugees/>

On the theme of migration and asylum, Bishop Paul McAleenan comments: *With the Holy Father we encourage a widening of minds and hearts. Within the circle of our society, room should be made for everyone, including migrants and refugees who seek a home among us.”* He reminds us that we should have a “heart open to the world” when engaging with migrants and refugees.

Please see the full statements of our website.

I send you all my very best wishes.

Fr Paul

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).

Please note that 2 of these masses will be celebrated on Mondays, 31st May and 7th June, instead of on the Tuesday.

This is due to the Abbatial election.

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.

Thursday, 13th May, is the Feast of the Ascension, and a Holy Day of Obligation. There will be mass at 10 am that day.
(Vigil mass on Wednesday 12th at 7.30pm)

Please note that there will be three way traffic lights outside the Abbey entrance of Worth from 10th till 21st May. Please allow extra time for engagements.

Abbatial Election

Parishioners are asked to join the monastic community in prayer ahead of the abbatial election on **Tuesday 8th June.**

This comes at the completion of Abbot Luke’s 8 year term. The community is preparing through prayer and reflection for the election, and looks forward in faith and hope to the next 8 years under a new abbot.

Lectio Divina

Would anyone like to join a Lectio Divina group on line? Lectio is a popular way of praying with the Scriptures, and is very simple. We use the Sunday Gospel reading. You would not need to do any preparation, and the sessions will last for only half an hour. Lectio 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 the group – parish@worth.org.uk
This will take place on Saturday mornings, at 11 am. I look forward to hearing from you.

Online Mother and Toddler Group

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@abychapman.com, I'd love to hear from you!

The Post-Covid World – Pope Francis' vision

An online day retreat led by Austen Ivereigh **Saturday 29th May.**

The retreat will take two recent texts by Pope Francis that lay out a vision of a post-pandemic future in which fraternity, rather than individualism, can be the organising principle of our world. Let Us Dream, which came out in December 2020, is the first ever book by a pope in response to a crisis. In it, Francis offers us a three-step way of changing so that we emerge better from the pandemic: by learning to contemplate, discern and take action. Fratelli Tutti ('Brothers and Sisters All') is the title of Pope Francis' October, 2020 encyclical letter on human fraternity and social friendship

Austen Ivereigh - A Worthian, Austen is a biographer of Pope Francis and his collaborator on Let Us Dream. A well-known commentator, author and journalist, he is a regular contributor to The Tablet and other journals. Book your place online at www.worth.co.uk/retreats/online-retreats
Enquiries email: toc@worth.org.uk

Online retreat led by Fr Martin McGee OSB

The Wisdom of St Benedict **SATURDAY 5th June.**

Book your place online at: worth.co.uk/retreats/online-retreats
Enquiries email: toc@worth.org.uk

The teaching of St Benedict (480-547) has come down to us through his Rule or guide for monastic living. This teaching, based on the lived experience of the Christian life, is in our time inspiring more and more people who live outside a monastic setting. St Benedict's wisdom is drawn mainly from Scripture, and his own lived experience and that of other monastic writers. He stresses the importance of the quality of our life together, a life founded upon worship, as well as mutual respect and service as we travel together "to everlasting life". Fr Martin's three talks will explore the riches of St Benedict's Rule which seeks to help us to live out the Christian life in all its fullness. The first input will look at stability, or becoming rooted in Christ and the Christian community. The second talk will be on humility, or learning how to become oneself. And the final reflection will examine lectio divina, or how to find nourishment in God's Word which "is alive and active"

Haslemere Festival

'2021 – a year of opportunity'

Come and hear Christine Allen, our Director of CAFOD speak to people in the Arundel and Brighton Diocese via zoom about the pandemic and how we can seek to recover, heal and rebuild a better world.

7.30 pm on Wednesday 26 May - By Zoom

This is a year when the UK will host two major international gatherings: the G7 and the Climate Conference (COP26). Christine Allen will explore ways in which these events could make a difference to our world, especially to the lives of people who live in poverty. She will reflect on the impact of COVID-19 and draw lessons for the future for our interdependence with one another and with our natural world as we seek to recover and heal after the pandemic.

Christine is Director of the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD), a leading international aid agency, and has worked in this field for many years.

Online Ticket: £5

Tickets are on sale through the Haslemere Hall Box Office:

<https://tickets.haslemerehall.co.uk/sales/genres/events/talk-2021---a-year-of-opportun/streaming-ticket>

By phone: 01428 642161 (Mon-Fri 9am – 1pm Sat 10am – 12 noon)

The Haslemere Festival is from 17th – 31st May 2021.

The full programme of Events is at <http://www.haslemerefestival.org.uk>

CAFOD aid for India



India is facing a devastating second wave of coronavirus. The country has confirmed more than 16 million cases with more than 200,000 deaths to date. The pandemic has put a huge strain on the medical infrastructure of the country, with hospitals unable to cope with the influx of patients. CAFOD has already pledged £200,000 to their partners Caritas India who will distribute medical kits and set up temporary treatment centres, as well as providing PPE to frontline health workers. They are also helping families to provide home-based care for mild cases, raising awareness of the vaccine, and how to avoid further spread of the virus. You can [read more about CAFOD's response here](#)

You can also make a contribution to CAFOD's emergency appeal through their website.

Rosary Missions

Bishop Richard writes: Pope Francis' **Rosary Mission** begins in May and will include 30 Marian Shrines from across the world. Our Lady's Shrine at Walsingham is going to be the first Shrine featured during the Holy Father's Rosary Mission, with the recitation of the rosary streamed from Walsingham to the Vatican so that Pope Francis can join the broadcast live. Catholics across the globe are encouraged to dedicate the Marian month of May to praying for an end to the present Covid-19 pandemic, with Walsingham's intention offered for those who have lost their lives across the world. [Click here to visit their website](#) and find out more.



Online Rosary Group

Would anyone like to join an on-line rosary group? They meet every Wednesday at 7 pm. Please get in touch with Rachel Davies: 07801 696 354

Mass for Engaged Couples

Join Bishop Richard for a special Mass on **Friday 25th June at 7.00pm**, celebrating the momentous journey of discernment that is engagement towards lifelong commitment made by couples preparing for marriage. We look forward to meeting many engaged couples from across the Diocese and sharing in their joy.

To book a place, please contact our Marriage and Family Life Adviser: Katherine.bergin@abdiocese.org.uk

A Pilgrimage of Mission, Healing & Renewal.

The pilgrimage dates are **23rd July – 29th July 2021**

Applications close 31st May. Open to Pilgrims, Families, Students from years 12 & 13 (Blueshirts) and Years 10 & 11 (Redshirts)

For further information and the Application Form link go to 2021.ablourdes.org or contact the Pilgrimage Office by phone on 01403 740110 or by email on office@ablourdes.org

The 2021 Pilgrimage is only open to those who do not have a condition that makes them susceptible to CV-19. Please see website for more details.

CIFN – Promoting mutual respect and understanding

Event: "How Buddhist community and faith are managing the pandemic"

Date: 27th May 2019 at 7.30 p.m. by Zoom. Speaker John Marder

Zoom joining details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83205170416?pwd=bmxrSU9QN2FSRHdjbm0rYjVJQ2FoQT09>

Meeting ID: 832 0517 0416

Passcode: 338875

For further information: Contact Ashwin Soni, 07833252551

Anniversaries

**Please pray for the Souls of – Anita Weston-Burt, Charles Wilson, Emma Brackpool, Russell Brailey, Brian Groombridge, Dick Wheeler and Jacque Dickenson.
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 refugees and for migrants around the world, especially for those who come to this country. Please pray that we may receive them generously and give them the hospitality which they need.

Please pray for Palestinians, especially those living in Jerusalem who are suffering from the violence of the Israeli State.

Please pray for the people of Burma, and for their democratically elected leaders.

Please pray for all those suffering from the pandemic, especially for the people of India, and for their medical personnel.

Next Sunday's Readings: **Pentecost**

1st Reading – Acts 2:1-11 2nd Reading – 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

Gospel: John 20:19-23

As the Father sent me, so am I sending you: receive the Holy Spirit

Daily Readings

Monday – Acts 19:1-8 John 16:29-33

Tuesday – Acts 20:17-27 John 17:1-11a

Wednesday – Acts 20:28-38 John 17:11b-19

Thursday – Acts 22:30, 23:6-11 John 17:20-26

Friday – Acts 25:13b-21 John 21:15-19

Saturday – Acts 28:16-20, 30f John 21:16-25

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.

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:
<https://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/>