

Dear Parishioners

I hope that you and your families continue well. As always, I send you my prayers. I hope that you are encouraged by this beautiful spring weather.

The Bishops of England and Wales held their annual meeting last week, to consider the needs of our Church, and in particular to offer us all some words of encouragement at this time of hardship and uncertainty. They write: *We wish to pay tribute to all in the Catholic community who have shown such courage, generosity and understanding in the face of adversity this past year. Across England and Wales, families and parish communities have risen to the challenge of sustaining one another through times of great isolation, loneliness and grief in an impressive variety of ways, spiritual, emotional and practical. We thank all who have worked tirelessly in prisons, in hospitals, care-homes and across the medical profession for giving of themselves so generously. We thank all who have worked valiantly in our schools, facing unforeseen demands and meeting them with characteristic professionalism and dedication.* They also pay tribute to those who have helped to keep our churches open - *We wish also to pay tribute to those who have given of their time and energy to keep open our churches as havens of peace and prayer. Churches up and down the land have realised the vision of Pope Francis that they be like village-wells.* In this context I would particularly like to thank all those who act as stewards in our church, without whose service, we could not open.

They also mention the provision of food for those in need - *Also prominent in this tribute should be thanks to all who have contributed to the immense effort of providing food for those most in need. The generosity shown... has given eloquent expression to the mercy, love and compassion which are at the very heart of God.* In our own parish this has been done by your generous contributions to the food banks each weekend.

They then reflect on the importance of the Eucharist, which we can celebrate fully only by our physical presence : *It is the Eucharist, the celebration of the Mass, that makes the Church; and it is the Church, in the gift of the Holy Spirit, which makes the Eucharist. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the lifeblood of the Church. It requires our active participation and, to be fully celebrated, our physical presence. At this moment, then, we need to have in our sights the need to restore to its rightful centrality in our lives the Sunday Mass,*

encouraging each to take his or her place once again in the assembly of our brothers and sisters. We face the task of seeking to nurture the sense of Sunday as “a weekly gift from God to his people”, and something we cannot do without; to see Sunday as the soul of the week, as giving light and meaning to all the responsibilities we live out each day; to see the Sunday Eucharist as food for the unique mission with which we have been endowed.

They end by reminding us of the close connection of the Eucharist and our care for Creation: *The Christ to whom we come so close in the Eucharist must be the foundation of our strivings, not least in the urgent task we face of caring for creation and our environment.*

Please see the full letter on our website www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk

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).

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.
(This will replace the normal mass on Tuesday at 10 am.)*

There will also be the usual Vigil mass on Wednesday, 12th, at 7.30 pm.

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.

Green and Glorious- Growing Cut Flowers for the Abbey Church

Now that Br Anthony is in Brighton we are looking for a person(s) who would like to offer 2 or 3 hours a week in the cut flower garden based at the Abbey. Some help may be arranged for any heavy work. So if you think you could help please contact the Parish Office who can put you in contact with Br Anthony to discuss what is involved. Many thanks.

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.

Are you struggling with bereavement or loss?

Would it help to have someone to talk to? Our Deanery has a team of trained Catholic Bereavement Supporters available to listen and support people experiencing bereavement and loss. Please contact your Parish Priest if you would like to speak to one of our team.

To find out more about Bereavement Support please contact our Marriage and Family Life Project Officer:
E:simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk T: 01293 651155

The Open Cloister

Saturday 8th May: The Wisdom of the Desert Fathers and Mothers – The thoughts cont.... (Online retreat) – led by Fr Peter Williams OSB During the recent Lent retreat we looked at several of the 8 thoughts – gluttony, anger and vainglory and saw how relevant John Cassian’s observations were about these vices for us today.

In this retreat we will look at all the 8 thoughts and how they work together in combination.

To quote Cassian, “Once you can understand the problem, you become very near to finding the solution”.

The sessions: 1. Thoughts of the World – gluttony, lust and avarice 2. Thoughts of the Heart – anger, acedia and sadness 3. Thoughts of the Mind – vainglory and pride

Book your place online at www.worth.co.uk/retreats/online-retreats

For all enquiries, email: toc@worth.org.uk

Marriage week

10th – 16th May is Marriage week, a time for us to celebrate the joy and blessings of marriage. Pope Francis reminds us that “Marriage is like a plant. It is not an armoire, which is placed there, in the room, and it’s enough to dust it every once in a while. A plant is alive, and it needs to be cared for every day: to see how it is doing, to give it water, and so it goes. Marriage is a living reality: the life of a couple should never be taken for granted, in any phase of a family’s journey.”

[Pope Francis, 21st December 2015](#)

Why not take some time this week to really find some time to talk to your spouse and nurture your marriage.

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.

Anniversaries

Please pray for the Souls of – Matthew Dawson, Veira Flanagan, Margaret Albert, Dom Bede Hill, ‘Pop’ Yaldren, Joan Moody, James Mackey, Judith Whelpton, Linsey Smith and Veronica Andrea Maria Paterson.

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

Next Sunday's Readings: **6th Sunday of Easter**

1st Reading – Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48 2nd Reading – 1 John 4:7-10

Gospel: John 15:9-17

You are my friends if you do what I command you

Daily Readings

Monday – 1 Cor 15:1-8 John 14:6-14 **(SS Philip & James)**

Tuesday – Acts 7:55-60 Matt 10:17-20 Acts 14:19-28 John 14:27-31a **(All Martyrs of England and Wales)**

Wednesday – Acts 15:1-6 John 15:1-8

Thursday – Acts 15:7-21 John 15:9-11

Friday – Acts 15:22-31 John 15:12-17

Saturday – Acts 16:1-10 John 15:18-21



Prayers

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

Please pray for Edward Lightburn who died recently. Please pray for his family

Prayer for Healing and Reconciliation

Praise to you Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all consolation and hope.

Be the refuge and guardian of all who suffer from abuse and violence.

Comfort them and send healing for their wounds of the body, soul and spirit.

Help us all and make us one with you in your love for justice as we deepen our respect for the dignity of every human life.

Giver of peace, make us one in celebrating your praise, both now and forever.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

<https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/day-of-prayer-for-survivors-and-victims-of-sexual-abuse-tuesday-4th-may-2021/>

A prayer for Eastern Christians

Heavenly Father, we pray today for peace in the world, especially in the Middle East. By your heavenly grace, strengthen the faith and hope of Eastern Christians. May they be blessed with peace and prosperity in their countries. May we be inspired by their devotion and witness to the Gospel, by their love and compassion for all in their communities, and by their courage, their endurance and self-sacrifice. Through their charity, tolerance and friendship, bring peace and reconciliation to those troubled lands, where Christianity was born and first spread. This we ask of you through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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/>

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.