

Dear Parishioners

I hope that you and your families continue well. It is very good to be in touch with you all once more, after a break of two weeks.

Our most significant news on the home front is the election of Fr Mark Barrett as our new Abbot. Please see below some details about him, and please visit the website to see a photo. Most importantly, do please pray for him as he assumes this new role, and please pray for the monastic community as we try to discern our way forward in the future.

Another piece of news, this from the universal Church, is that at Pentecost Pope Francis announced that he is calling a Synod in which the whole Church will be invited to take part. This is at the heart of P Francis' vision for the Church. We are quite used to learning about synods of the bishops, of course, both national and international, but this synod will be different in a very significant way, because it will involve every diocese, and every parish, around the world; and I hope that we will be able to play a full part. The theme is: *For a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission.*

The essence of a Synod is the activity of listening. (As a Benedictine parish, I hope we will be ready for this: the first word of St Benedict's Rule is *Listen.*) Pope Francis reflects on the nature of a Synod: *From the beginning of my ministry as Bishop of Rome, I sought to enhance the Synod, which is one of the most precious legacies of the Second Vatican Council.... The world in which we live, and which we are called to love and serve, even with its contradictions, demands that the Church strengthen cooperation in all areas of her mission. It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium.* For P Francis it evidently represents the true expression of the spirit of the Second Vatican Council, with its re-discovery of the concept of the Pilgrim People of God – all Christians, laity together with pastors, playing an equal part in building up the Body of Christ, and all called to discern the way forward for the Church : *After stating that the people of God is comprised of all the baptized who are called to "be a spiritual house and a holy priesthood", the Second Vatican Council went on to say that "the whole body of the faithful, who have an anointing which comes from the holy one (cf. 1 Jn 2:20,27), cannot err in matters of belief."* A Synod, he says, is a *Journeying together – laity, pastors and the Bishop of Rome... A synodal Church is a Church which listens, which realizes that listening "is more than simply hearing". It is a mutual listening in which everyone has something to learn. The faithful people, the college of bishops, the Bishop of Rome: all listening to each other, and all listening to the Holy Spirit, the "Spirit of truth" (Jn 14:17), in order to know what he "says to the Churches" (Rev 2:7).*

The Synod will open in Rome in October of this year, and each diocese will then be invited to take part in its own locality. This phase will last until April, 2022, and the whole process will be concluded in Rome in October, 2023. Do please pray for the success of this important initiative of Pope Francis. Do please look at his reflections on the purpose of the Synod

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2015/october/documents/papa-francesco_20151017_50-anniversario-sinodo.html and do read *Let Us Dream, The Path to a Better Future*, by Austen Ivereigh, in which P Francis sets out his vision for the world after the pandemic. (See p 80 & ff for his reflections on the Synod.)

I send my best wishes and my prayers for you all. 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.

Tuesday, 29th June is the Feast of Sts Peter and Paul, and a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass will be celebrated on the Vigil, Monday, at 7.30 pm, and on the day at 10 am.

Abbatial Election

The monks of Worth Abbey, the Abbey of Our Lady Help of Christians, announce the election of Dom. Mark Barrett as the seventh Abbot of Worth Abbey on 8th June 2021.

Biographical details of Abbot Mark and the date of the Abbatial Blessing will be announced in due course.

Press Release, 8th June 2021 - New Abbot at Sussex Monastery

The monks of Worth Abbey have today elected a new Abbot, Dom Mark Barrett in succession to Abbot Luke Jolly, who is retiring having completed his term of office. English Benedictines choose their superior every eight years, after a process of prayerful discernment and discussion.

'The task of a Benedictine Abbot is to articulate the rhythm of the monastery and bring the many different gifts of the brethren together', Abbot Mark said. 'It is a challenge to be asked to undertake this responsibility, and a genuine honour.'

*Abbot Mark was born in West Yorkshire in 1957. He is a graduate of Cambridge and London Universities. He has been a teacher of Christian Spirituality at both secondary and tertiary levels, and is the author of several books, including *The Wind, the Fountain, and the Fire*, the Bloomsbury Lent book of 2020.*

Worth Abbey is situated close to Gatwick Airport in West Sussex. The monastery has close ties with the neighbouring Worth School and supports the life of a local Catholic Parish as well as offering retreats both online and in the Sussex countryside. Monks of Worth Abbey have recently founded a small urban monastery in Brighton as part of their continuing support of Catholic life and youth ministry in that city and its universities.

A date for your diary

Sunday, 27th June, we are planning a "Welcome back" mass and picnic for the whole parish.

This will depend on Covid regulations, of course, and the weather! But please make a note and keep it free.

Refugee Week

From 14th to 20th June we celebrate Refugee Week. Please see our website:

<https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/refugee-week-14th-20th-june-2021/>

Laura Rawlinson Update - 28.05.2021

Today marks two years since the beginning of Laura's epic journey through Guillain Barre Syndrome (Miller Fisher Strain). What a journey and amazing challenge for her (and the whole family!). Sorry for the couple of months' silence but please be assured that Laura is continuing to improve every day.

Laura is now managing to work fifteen hours a week (from home) and it has definitely been beneficial to her state of mind. She also continues to have several hours physiotherapy per week on Zoom thanks to Becky (her neuro physiotherapist) and Paul who continues to drive her onwards towards more sustained mobility.

Laura, when walking about during the day, does not need to use any kind of walking aid. We have been amazed by how much cooking and preparation she has been doing, both for our meals and for Ella's as well as her amazing cakes. She recently walked over one mile to her in-laws' house with just Lee's hand for gentle support.

We are aware that her balance is still a little shaky and her fine motor skills are still recovering. She is still aware that areas in her body are not completely recovered. However, we are hopeful that these areas will continue to repair.

Thank you so much for your support and prayers for Laura and her family. We ask that you continue to pray for her to achieve full mobility and for the return of use and feeling of all the nerves in her body very shortly.

Financially we are all so grateful for your contributions which has meant, instead of having to wait for NHS outpatient physio, Laura has been able to have regular appointments, either face to face or via Zoom right from the beginning of last year when she remained at home rather than being "imprisoned" at the Royal Hospital for Neuro Disabilities and probably having very few, if any, support or physio sessions. It also meant that she was able to have a stair lift installed as well as a wheelchair-adapted vehicle which had enabled her to return home every weekend.

Laura adds a few words:

I want to thank everyone who has supported me, thought about me or contributed to my Go Fund Me through this impossibly hard time in my life. You have made all the difference to my recovery. I will keep on fighting towards the best that I can achieve for myself and my family. Love ♥️ you all and particular thanks to my parents for their love ♥️ and support.

Love Laura xx

We all thank you sincerely for your contributions without which Laura's story would have been very different. (Jan and Lee)

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 12 noon (**new time, permanent change**).

I look forward to hearing from you.

CAFOD (Reclaim our common home)

Take action to stop the climate crisis! This year, the eyes of the world will be on Britain as we host world leaders for the UN "COP26" climate talks.

Call on the Prime Minister to use this historic opportunity to protect our common home.

"...Climate change is the global problem with serious implications.....It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day" (Pope Francis). Sign the CAFD Petition at [cafod.org.uk/reclaim](https://www.cafod.org.uk/reclaim)

First Holy Communion

Please let the parish know if your son or daughter would like to make their First Holy Communion next year. The date of the celebration will be in May, by which time your child should have completed their eighth year. The course will begin in September, and we will issue more details once the inscriptions come in and the possibilities of meeting become clearer.

Confirmation

Would your son or daughter like to make their confirmation next year? We hope to form a group for preparation in September, and the sacrament will be celebrated in May next year. Candidates should be about fourteen or fifteen years old. Please get in touch with the parish office.

Safe Spaces

Safe Spaces is a free and independent support service, providing a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has been abused by someone in the Church or as a result of their relationship with the Church of England, the Catholic Church of England and Wales or the Church in Wales.

Our Services are for people aged 18 or over, regardless of whether the abuse occurred recently or in the past, or whether the perpetrator is living or deceased. You do not have to have reported the incident to the Church authorities or the Police in order to access support. Our service is for people who have experienced any kind of abuse – this includes (but is not limited to) sexual violence, inappropriate sexual behaviour, physical abuse, financial abuse or exploitation, psychological abuse (including spiritual abuse), domestic abuse, coercive and controlling behaviour

How can we help? Remote support is provided nationally through our helpline and Live Chat for as long as our clients feel they need it and it is deemed to be helpful. We can help with advocating with authorities and other agencies, giving you emotional support, providing information (including information on church and police procedures), understanding your needs and working together on individual support plans.

Opening Times: Mon/Tue/Wed/Fri/Sat: 10am – 6pm, Thursday: 12pm – 8pm

Website: www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk/

Email: safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk

Phone number: 0300 303 1056

CRAWLEY INTERFAITH NETWORK

Zoom Meeting -

"Baha'i Community management of the Pandemic".

SPEAKER: Simon Ward

Date: Thursday **24th June 2021**

Time: 7.30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89720504245?pwd=a2lHVnF6SEQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89720504245?pwd=a2lHVnF6SEQwYjAwVWx4VTV3V3Fxdz09)

[wYjAwVWx4VTV3V3Fxdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89720504245?pwd=a2lHVnF6SEQwYjAwVWx4VTV3V3Fxdz09)

Meeting ID: 897 2050 4245

Passcode: 643587

Website: <https://www.crawleyinter-faith.com/>

Face Book:

www.facebook.com/Crawley-Interfaith-Network-527183677396243

For Further Information Contact: Iyad Daoud:

iyadhdaoud@yahoo.co.uk,

01293 883372

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

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

Message

"I am Bei, a part time mandarin teacher at worth school. I am currently living in Reading, but to get involved more in school, I might need to move to Crawley and live there and find an accommodation there, would you know anyone who is in the church has a room to rent out? If so, I would like to get in touch with them."

Please contact the office if you can help. Thank you.

Step into the Gap

Are you aged 18-30? CAFOD offers a gap year programme called Step into the Gap. As part of the 10-month programme, you will be based in either a youth retreat centre, university chaplaincy or a secondary school chaplaincy team gaining new skills, developing as a leader and gaining work experience. Accommodation and travel expenses are included. Full time placements include stipends. Find out more information including how to apply at www.cafod.org.uk/gapyear

For families, for civil society and for government?

A new series of four public conversations for 2021. Politicians regularly say that they want to act for the common good. This is not surprising. After all, who could disagree? But, what does the term mean? And is it an agenda just for politicians? In this series of four events hosted jointly by [Together for the Common Good](#), the [Centre for Social Justice](#), [Caritas Social Action Network](#), the [Benedict XVI Centre for Religion and Society at St. Mary's University](#), we explore the meaning of the common good, and the responsibility it places on families, society and the state.

The series is supported by our longstanding partner, CCLA, one of the UK's largest ethical fund managers, home of the new Catholic Investment Fund. The first three events will be held online, and the fourth in person, at the Church of St Mary Putney, home of the historic 1647 Putney Debates. **EVENT 1: The common good – what does it mean?** will take place on 15th June, 6.30pm-8pm, online.

[You can book your free place here.](#)

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.

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.