

Dear Parishioners

I write once more hoping that you and your families remain well and that you are surviving these strange and difficult times. With me the monastic community hold you all in our prayers.

Today I would like to draw your attention to a Bill which is passing through parliament at the moment - the new Nationality and Borders Bill. The Bill's second reading is planned for the 19th and 20th of July, (next week), and we are urged to write to our MPs about this. I am sure that you are all aware of the very strong tradition of hospitality in Judaism and Christianity, and how this is a central element in teaching about the Kingdom of God. The Jewish Law emphasises repeatedly that we must protect the stranger, because the stranger is vulnerable: *Do not oppress an alien; you yourselves know how it feels to be aliens, because you were aliens in Egypt.* (Ex.23.9) Above all, we have the statement that the Land belongs to God, and therefore cannot simply be surrounded with barbed wire by those who live there, but must be shared: *The land is mine and you are but aliens and my tenants.* (Lev.25.23) We also remember the words of Jesus: *I was a stranger and you made me welcome.* (Mt 25.35) In other words, when we welcome a stranger, we welcome Jesus himself. The proposed Bill would have quite the opposite consequence. The Jesuit Refugee Service (J.R.S.) comment: *This legislation shows no respect for human dignity, justice, or the protection of human life.* In particular they pick out the proposal to exclude those who arrive by "unofficial" channels. The government claim that this will stop people making dangerous crossings by boat, or other means provided by smugglers. To this J.R.S reply : *By penalising refugees for how they are able to get to the UK, this legislation builds walls against people in need of protection and slams the door shut on many seeking a safe haven. Most refugees have no choice of how they travel. The Refugee Convention does not state that refugees must claim asylum in the first safe country they come to, and it permits refugees to cross borders irregularly in order to claim asylum. Global provision for refugees could not function if all refugees claimed asylum in the first safe country they came to.* The Bill also proposes a higher standard of evidence to prove the need of asylum, but JRS note that the Immigration Service is already highly likely to disbelieve anyone claiming asylum: *a long-standing culture of disbelief and refusal in asylum determination is well-evidenced. There is much evidence that Home Office caseworkers often apply an excessive standard of proof to asylum claims, and simply prejudice claimants' credibility – starting from the position that people are lying.*

Please see the full report: <https://www.jrsuk.net/news/where-is-our-shared-sense-of-humanity-jrs-condemns-governments-new-borders-bill/>

Please write to your MP about this. (You can use the link on the page of JRS above.)

Please also see Safe Passage, dedicated especially to child refugees:

https://www.safe passage.org.uk/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIm6Tgm9nd8QIVEdTtCh0JjgCcEAAYASA AEgKuWPD_BwE

Please look at two groups which work for refugees: <https://togetherwithrefugees.org.uk> and <https://action.helprefugees.org/page/78976/petition/1>

Finally, for a very personal account of the hardship and dangers which they face, please see the latest work of Refugee Tales, where you may recognise Pious, who came to speak to us in the parish some years ago: <https://youtu.be/J25HhmkZFMo>

Thank you all for your attention to this issue which affects each one of us, forming the culture, for better or worse, in which we live and practice our Christian faith. For all these issues, please see the link to material on our website.

<https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/refugees-and-the-new-anti-refugee-bill/>

I send my very best wishes. Yours. Fr Paul

The next copy of In Touch will be on 31st July / 1st August.

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.

A date for your diary

We are pleased to announce that the “Welcome Back” mass has now been arranged for **Sunday, 26th September**.

Do please set this date aside and come to celebrate our parish community.

Finding Stillness

“Be still and know that I am God” Psalm 46:10. An experimental hybrid retreat where you are invited to come to Worth or join the retreat online FINDING STILLNESS The Open Cloister @ Worth Abbey on **Tuesday 24th-Thursday 26th August**.

For further information or to book your place online go to: worth.co.uk/retreats/online-retreats
Enquiries: toc@worth.org.uk

Many of us are looking forward to the ending of the restrictions imposed to protect our health during the pandemic. However, many are also worried that relaxing our precautions will lead to greater danger of infection, especially for those who are most at risk. In order to reassure those who are concerned about the danger of infection which remains, may we please request everyone to maintain the precautions which we have been practicing until now? I.e. the wearing of masks, the use of the hand sanitiser, the use of track and trace, and maintaining social distancing? Thank you

Day for Catechists

You may be aware that we are holding a gathering of our Catechists, at Worth Abbey on **25th September**. If you would like to join us please click on this link [Day for Catechists \(25-Sep-2021\) · ChurchSuite Events](#) to complete our booking form, and for more information. If you have already booked, thank you. Please spread the word, and we look forward to seeing you there.

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 696354

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.

Financial update

In March, we reported on the impact of COVID-19 on the parish's finances for 2020 and I'd like to update you on what we are seeing in 2021.

As we had expected, the resumption of services has led to higher costs than 2020 though we continue to find ways to cut back where we can. With a reduced mass count at services, our income from offertory remains lower than we had planned for and this is putting significant pressure on our finances. We now expect to have a deficit for the year of several thousand pounds.

We are very grateful for those of you who have made an inflationary increase to your giving, but I ask those of you who have not yet made that adjustment to consider making a small increase. Please can I again encourage all Parishioners who donate via cash or envelopes to consider setting up a more regular donation via standing order/direct debit and to consider completing a gift aid form allowing us to reclaim 25% tax. This also allows a clearer view of our income and facilitates better planning. This can be done by contacting the parish office by phone or email, mstribbling@worth.org.uk, and is a simple process.

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.

NEW Colour and Shape website launch! Mass resources for families.

Colour and Shape developed over the pandemic providing a weekly video liturgy for families to use at home during lockdown.

This video, Connect Sunday, has now changed into a new shorter format, along with a set of accompanying resources on a brand new website.

Head over to www.colourandshapeonline.com to check out the resources reflecting on the Sunday Gospel each week, plus links to Spotify playlists, ideas on how to pray together as a family, and information on how to join the online community supporting families.

Synod



Across the world preparations are taking place for the **synod**.

To help the Catholic community we are offering online sessions, open to all, with experts sharing what the synod and synodality is, why it is important and how parish communities will be taking part. You and your parishioners are welcome to join us live or by watching on catch up. The first session, on Tuesday 27 July at 7pm, will feature a conversation with **Christopher Lamb, Rome correspondent for *The Tablet***, about why Pope Francis is inviting us all to participate in the synod. [Click here to book onto the session.](#)

Family Prayer Resources for Summer

We will be offering a prayer focus for each week of the summer holidays with some simple ideas, designed to help parents explore faith with their children, in solidarity with our global family. They will be available from mid-July at <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources>

The Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group in Crawley request.

Thank you for all of your support of donating clothing and shoes for the people we support in immigration detention.

We are currently low on a few items and we would really welcome any support you can give.

We are in need of the following items:

Jeans/Trousers sizes 30", 32", 34"	Jogging bottoms S, M, L	Jumpers S, M
New socks	New boxers S, M, L, XL	T-shirts S, M
Coats/jackets S, M, L	Trainers sizes 7-11 (40-44)	

Please contact - josie@gdwg.org.uk with any questions

CIFN

You are cordially invited to join for a virtual gathering of the Crawley Inter Faith Network, to hear a presentation by Nabhinandan Das, Chief Executive Officer of LIVE on

Thursday 29th July at 7.30 p.m.

Nabhinandan Das will offer a presentation on the beliefs and principles of the Vedas, the earliest literary record of Indo-Aryan civilization and the most sacred books of Hinduism that constitute the origin of Hindu teachings. The Spiritual knowledge they purport to contain, encompasses all aspects of life. The philosophical maxims of Vedic literature have stood the test of time as the Vedas form the highest religious authority for all aspects of Hinduism and are a respected source of wisdom for mankind in general.

The emphasis for the presentation will be the application of Vedic knowledge to the current and modern life and society we live in.

The event will be on Zoom followed by questions, answers and discussion.

If you would like to be involved as a committee member or a volunteer of CIFN or as a contributor or observer then please contact Ashwin Soni, 07833252551, ashel@hotmail.co.uk. Also follow us on our Facebook page and website <https://www.crawleyinter-faith.com>.

Join the Zoom Meeting: Time: Jul 29, 2021 07:30 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81464727951?pwd=MzRnY01lc0ozOThnZjZobDU4bVh3dz09>

Meeting ID: 814 6472 7951

Passcode: 082374

Recruitment



Michael Weston-Burt writes:

Lockdown is ending (slowly). Our Abbey is opening up once again, and we have a new Abbot!

Volunteers to join our altar serving team (aged 8 to 80) will be warmly welcomed.

Please contact Michael, on:

Paul.Michael.Westonburt@btinternet.com

01293 (Crawley) 522418

An Open Cloister Online Day

Saturday, 24th July 10am – 4.30pm
Desert Wisdom: power thoughts with
David Clayton & Michael Woodward
Evagrius (b.345) is honoured as 'one of the most important names': come & see why his teaching lives. .

Bookings & Info via TOC@worth.org.uk
www.worth.co.uk/retreats/ online-retreats

You will just need a smart phone, tablet or computer, with access to a Zoom account!

Pilgrimage of Reparation and Consecration

Saturday 17th July at The Church of Our Lady of Consolation & St Francis West Grinstead RH13 8LT
Click [Pilgrimage of Reparation and Consecration Tickets, Sat 17 Jul 2021 at 12:00 | Eventbrite](#) to book your free place. If you would like to confirm your place and book in person or would like further information, please contact:

Linda C-Dominguez T: 01273 463463 M: 07944 377252

Jayne Lock M: 07816 422851 or E: jaynelock1@gmail.com

Jozef Bubez T: 01444 232974

Anniversaries

Please pray for the Souls of – Dick Norman, John Palmer, Mary Relfe, Henrietta Landon, Sidney Hoare, Dom Fabian Glencross, Betty Rochfort, John Southam, Jack Holcombe, Maggie Lane, Bill Glass, Alan Harris, Joe O'Connell, John Ellis, Stephane Dewey, Frank Robinson, John Marklew, Charles Stonor, Lily Frankton, Oscar William Jefferies, Russell Coleburt and Mick Fagan.

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

Next Sunday's Readings: **Seventeenth Sunday in OT**

1st Reading – 2 Kings 4:42-44 2nd Reading – Ephesians 4:1-6

Gospel: John 6:1-15

The feeding of the five thousand

Daily Readings

Monday – Exod 14:5-18 Matt 12:38-42

Tuesday – Exod 14:21- 15:1 Matt 12:46-50

Wednesday – Exod 16:1-5, 9-15 Matt 13:1-9

Thursday – Songs 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17 John 20:1-2, 11-18 **(St Mary Magdalene)**

Friday – Exod 20:1-17 Matt 13:18-23 **(St Bridget of Sweden)**

Saturday – Exod 24:308 Matt 13:24-30

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.



Prayers

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

Loving God,
You saw everything that you had made – and it was very good.
We are awed by what we see that is still good but weep for what we have spoilt.
Give us the heart and will in our living and praying to restore all creation to the very good.
So we may show our love to you, the Lord of love. Amen
(Revd. Linda Atkin)

Jesus, friend and brother, you know what it is like to be hungry and thirsty.
You know the plight of the stranger who is made unwelcome.
You know the suffering of all who have lost everything.
We pray that by welcoming refugees we may show love for our neighbour and draw closer to you.
Amen.
(Tony Singleton/CAFOD)

Lord Jesus,
help families and society to value the presence and role of grandparents.
May they never be ignored or excluded, but always encounter respect and love.
Help them to live serenely and to feel welcomed in all the years of life which you give them.
Mary, Mother of all the living,
keep grandparents constantly in your care, accompany them on their earthly pilgrimage,
and by your prayers, grant that all families may one day be reunited in our heavenly homeland,
where you await all humanity for the great embrace of life without end.
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/>