

Dear Parishioners

I hope that you and your families are well. I send my prayers and very best wishes to you all.

On Saturday, 4th and Sunday, 5th September we celebrate Climate Sunday with a special mass on this theme. This is to mark the start of Creation Time, which runs through the month of September until the feast of St Francis, on October 4th. This is a season which was instituted by Pope Francis, to follow up his encyclical *Laudato Si – Care for Our Common Home*. During this month we will also be marking *Great Big Green Week*, from 18th to 26th September, when we will be invited to share in various initiatives to help protect the environment. (You may already have heard about the very worrying report of scientists about the damage which has occurred.) The need for action is now more urgent than ever.

We are very grateful to Alan Rew, the chair of the parish group, *Worth Pro Earth*, for the following article. (The group, WPE, meets to bring ecological issues to our attention.)

Climate Sunday

Climate, nature and Catholic worship have long been treated as completely separate. But this is not so: there are clear links between the changing climate, the growing huge loss of plant and animal species and how we, as Christians, need to become more carbon literate, make appropriate purchases and vote actively in order to protect God's Creation. Our planet is the Common Home of our human brothers and sisters and of all the plant and animal species to which humans are linked in complex webs of ecological dependence. The many occurrences of environmental degradation fly in the face of our human responsibility to care for Creation. As Pope Francis writes, human-caused climate disruption especially affects the world's most poor and vulnerable. Climate disruption is thus also a justice issue. As Pope Francis notes "the cry of the earth" is "the cry of the poor."

The UK government will host the critical UN climate negotiations - called COP 26 [Conference of the Parties 26] - in Glasgow this November. 'Nature' and securing biodiversity are there with emissions reductions and climate finance in the international COP 26 negotiations. Scientists and economists have realised that restoring biodiversity can help combat climate change. "Re-wilding" (restoring

wetlands, forests, and grasslands for example) can make a major contribution to 'sequestering' carbon – extracting it from the atmosphere and locking it safely away. Some potentially major re-wilding projects are geographically distant - in the Amazon basin or on the Great Barrier Reef. But there is also huge scope here in the UK. Kelp forests, for example, grow naturally around many parts of our coastline and provide habitat and food for a large number of marine species. They can be up to 20 times more effective at sequestering carbon than land-based forests. The Sussex coast alone had 177 square kilometres of kelp. By 2018 this had diminished to just 6 square kilometres thanks in part to harmful fishing practices... Now West Sussex County Council and the Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) are working to restore the kelp forest, creating habitats for up to 1000 marine species. The lesson of this one project is that it is possible, here locally at least, to combat climate disruption through coordinated action between individuals, the private sector and government agencies.

My own recent experience in West Sussex also confirms that there is much scope for individual parishioners to combat climate disruption and damage by reducing their own greenhouse gas emissions.

In April the International Energy Association reported that the world now needed to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 45 percent in the next decade, to keep to the 2015 Paris Accord's aim of avoiding more than a 1.5 degree temperature rise above the pre-industrial average. Burning fossil fuel is still the greatest single source of greenhouse gases and petrol and diesel emissions from road transport make up circa 25 percent of the total. So tackling car emissions from has a high priority. My own case involves our family's decision to buy a Battery operated Electric Vehicle (BEV). Deciding to exchange our diesel car for a BEV was relatively simple. With no greenhouse gases coming from the tailpipe I am already feeling good about helping save the planet. Moreover on our modest annual mileage we expect to save at least £1000 per annum on car running costs so off-setting the slightly higher initial capital costs of a BEV. The car's range of 245 miles on a full battery allows me to reach all of our usual destinations on a single overnight charge.

Of the 30 million cars currently on UK roads only about 250,000 are purely electric, but that number is going up fast. EVs will outsell internal combustion models by about 2025. The government's ban on new petrol and diesel cars was brought forward to 2030. New hybrids will also end in 2030 (or, in some cases, 2035). Setting an early date for the demise of petrol and diesel vehicles was very necessary. 2030 is coming fast and I feared I might be left with a car with no value while having to justify its pollution. Now I am greatly enjoying driving the BEV. There are no engine fumes in the garage, it's very quiet, there is no road tax, and it's cheap to run and service. But I am anxious that the UK seems to be tardy - lagging behind France, for example - in providing charging points.

Since 2011, the Government has supported EV ownership through the plug-in grant scheme. Despite this support, the EV charging infrastructure is confusing and frustrating, especially in West Sussex.

There are a number of smartphone apps which give you the precise location of public charge points. I've yet to find them. The Which report on public charging concludes that even if you find a charging point it is sometimes difficult to pay for the recharge - the system doesn't accept cash or even normal credit cards. You need a special pass for each network. I recognised immediately I would need to rely on home, not public, charging. The BEV dealer had recommended a well-known home charger firm recently taken over by a major oil company, Prominent in providing chargers to homes, the firm had also installed about one-third of UK public charge-points. But it proved difficult to make sensible contact with them and it was quite beyond me to fill in their on-line application form with the necessary diagrams and photos. Moreover they were receiving many complaints from new EV owners waiting for months on end to get an installation. Supply fell short of demand. So I talked to neighbours with BEVs who recommended my own home energy supply company and its home chargers. Success! They talked me through the application process, were very helpful and had the home charger installed within a month. I now get "fuel" at about 1 penny a mile after charging on green energy overnight.

Over the next 8 to 10 years we're going to see a large jump in the number of EVs on our streets. With them will come the need for a public charging network that is over 10 times larger than what it is today. The government's independent statutory advisor - the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) - has estimated that around 280,000 charge points will be required by 2030, meaning that an average of over 30,000 charge points must be installed each year. To put this in context, the UK's total of charge points at the end of last year was just over 20,000.

Surveys have found that 36% of respondents worry they will have nowhere close to home to charge their BEV. Indeed, this is the area of BEV transition which is most urgent to address. You cannot charge at home if you lack off-street parking. It is not the distribution of electricity that is the problem: electrical power is almost everywhere. The challenge is to set up a system of access points. Suggested solutions include: turning lamp-posts into charge points ; engineering ducts that go underneath pavements; utilising empty office blocks; and putting (many) charge points in (many) car parks. The CCC has concluded that "Securing the investment [thought to be around £18 billion] is only half of the answer. Climate change can only be tackled if consumers are engaged in the process. For this to happen the transition to a low carbon economy needs to be fair, inclusive and affordable.

" Pope Francis makes the same point about the planet's environmental degradation and its protection. Remedies are needed urgently for the world's poor and vulnerable in order that the transition can succeed. In other words, halting emissions and damage

involves more than project finance, science or engineering; it demands justice in the outcomes for different groups plus a vision of care.

Faith communities and leaders have often stepped into the challenging area of finding innovative practical solutions to address major social and spiritual needs. The Trussell Trust, for example, started only in 2000 to develop its foodbank model from an initial small project improving conditions for 60+ children sleeping at Central Railway Station in Bulgaria. The founders - Paddy and Carol Henderson - received a call for help from a mother struggling to afford food. The Henderson's found significant numbers of people going hungry as a result of a sudden crisis and so Paddy started Salisbury Foodbank in his garden shed and garage. He provided three days' of emergency food for anyone in crisis. The food bank model spread rapidly through church networks. Inspiration was taken from Matthew 25:35-36: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in...

Perhaps the leadership of our local faith communities will recognise other pressing needs from economic and ecological change. Although many town-dwellers lack off-street parking they will still need EV charging during the low carbon transition and moreover could have sufficient time to wait in one place. Churches are intended to be places of shelter, contemplation and prayer while many also have spaces and times that might be available for car parking. Could the new Abbot of Worth help evangelise innovatively in Central Sussex through welcoming prayerful visitors to the Abbey while helping them simultaneously buy EV charging slots as they worship.

Please read and sign the Laudato Si Pledge. <https://livelaudatosi.org/>

Quiet Week at Worth Abbey, 11th-19th August

During this period Mass will be celebrated for Worth Abbey Parish at the usual times of 5.00pm on Saturday 14th and 9.30am on Sunday 15th.

There will be no other public liturgy between the 11th and 19th August.

The Abbey Church will be closed, and the usual live streaming of our Liturgy of the Hours and of daily Mass will be suspended, from Matins on 11th August through to Compline on 19th August.

Our normal arrangements, including the live streaming of public liturgy, will resume with the Office of Matins on 20th August.

If anyone needs to see a priest in an emergency, please send an email to parish@worth.org.uk, or phone the office on (01342) 710313. Maria will respond to your call as soon as she can.

The next copy of In Touch will be on 28th / 29th August.

Companion

Dave Carter writes – “Jill Carter, who is a Worth Parishioner, could do with a companion a couple of days a week. Mum is in the earlier stages of dementia and as a family we are looking to employ someone to spend time with her, help around the house a bit and give my father some time to himself. My parents live in West Hoathly, so anyone in the vicinity of Worth, East Grinstead, Hayward’s Heath etc. would be close by, perhaps you could let me know if you can help in any way? Please contact me on carter2012@me.com Many thanks, Dave Carter.”

A date for your diary

Sunday, 26th September we are pleased to announce that the “Welcome Back” mass has now been arranged. Do please set this date aside and come to celebrate our parish community.

Saturday, 23rd October, at 10 am. To help us all prepare for the **Synod** we are pleased to host a talk by Austen Ivereigh, author of two well know biographies of Pope Francis, and collaborator with him on his book, *Let Us Dream*. Austen will speak about the Synod which begins in October and explain why this is so important to Pope Francis and the Church, and what we can all contribute to the process.

Invited: August Reflection

Dear Friends, Please find attached the Invited monthly reflection for August. This month we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Co-Patron of the Diocese. This year the Solemnity falls on a Sunday, the 15th. We hope you find this reflection helpful as a way of preparing to hear the Gospel. With best wishes for a relaxing and peaceful summer, The Invited Team.
<https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/diocese-of-arundel-and-brighton-latest-news/>

YOUTH SERVICE CELEBRATION 40th ANNIVERSARY

Sat 4th September 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm Arundel Cathedral Whether you have been on a Maryvale retreat, walked at a Youth gather, travelled overseas for World Youth Day/ Lourdes Redshirts, you will be welcome to join us as we remember, reminisce and rejoice! Join us for a Mass of thanksgiving followed by drinks and nibbles with friends old and new.

E: ruth.gerun@abdiocese.org.uk or click [Youth Service 40th Anniversary Celebration \(04-Sep-2021\) · ChurchSuite Events](#) to register.

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

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

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.

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.

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.

Alpha



Alpha is an opportunity to ask the questions and explore Christian Beliefs in a friendly way in a social context. Each evening we share a light supper, watch a short film, and then talk with others in a small friendly group. You will be joined by like-minded people asking questions about faith and discussing their own search for faith.

Is Alpha for me?

- Are you questioning the existence of God  Have you begun a relationship with God 
- Are you on your personal faith journey  Are you a practicing Christian 

If you answered yes to any of these questions then we would love to welcome you.
Alpha is for us all regardless of how confident we are in our beliefs.

If you are interested, and want to know more about the programme,
Email: alpha_worth@outlook.com and let us know how you would like to be contacted.

"I love it when a plan comes together"

So says Colonel John "Hannibal" Smith of The "A" Team.

There is one Plan that is so perfect, with a many plot twists and unexpected scenarios, which it is well worth searching out. If you would like to be part of this Treasure Hunt to delve into this Perfect Plan then please join us in a 12 week Bible Study to discover its secrets. We hope to begin the search in early September, day and time to be arranged.

If interested please contact Fr. Paul Fleetwood at parish@worth.org.uk or Jenny Chapman at jennykchapman@gmail.com

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.