

In Touch

Worth Abbey Parish

2nd/3rd October 2021

Twenty Seventh Sunday in OT (year B)

No: 1273

Dear Parishioners

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

I would like to begin by thanking you all for entering into the spirit of our “Welcome Back” mass last Sunday with so much enthusiasm and commitment. I greatly enjoyed the occasion myself, and I hope that you did too. I really found it inspiring to watch you all processing in by the East door. It gave me a new sense of us all accepting the invitation of Jesus to be his disciples, his followers. Thank you also to those who mounted the display about the different activities which the parish sponsors in various ways, and those who showed interest and signed up for some ministry. This is so important to strengthen our parish community. Thank you also to those who came with delicious picnics, which I was able to sample and enjoy. Sharing one another’s company, especially with food and wine, is also of great importance for our community spirit.

This Sunday we have another occasion for building up the community, by celebrating baptisms in the Sunday Eucharist. This will, I think, be the first time when we will have done this, and we welcome four children, together with their parents and godparents, families and friends : Florence Montagu, Archie Naylor, Ella Tolan and Benedict Russell. Previously, baptisms have been celebrated individually, but this time we hope that, by celebrating with the gathered parish community, we will manifest the aspect of the sacrament which involves us all – the entry of these children into the family of God as His chosen sons and daughters, and members of *our* family, children of our common Father. Do please pray for the children and their families, and do greet and congratulate them.

During the liturgy, at the moment of anointing, we will hear the words, *God now anoints you with the chrism of salvation, so that, united with His people, you may remain for ever a member of Christ* (the “anointed one”) *who is priest, prophet and king*. As we hear these words, we can all ponder our own vocation

and the ministries of Christ in which we share. We will also be invited to join in the renunciation of sin and profession of faith, so renewing what was spoken on our behalf at our own baptism.

Meanwhile, we are asked to ponder the invitation of Pope Francis to play our part in the Synod of the Universal Church which will begin later this month. Next week we will hear a letter from Bishop Richard about this, where he tells us, *The Holy Father's invitation is to a path of prayer, discernment and openness to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in response to particular questions... They invite us to deepen our understanding of our own Mission, our Formation for that Mission and the Prayer that must always be the foundation for our lives of Faith and Witness to the Gospel.* We will hear the letter at mass next Sunday. Meanwhile, please remember the talk which Austen Ivereigh has prepared for us for later in the month, Saturday, 23rd October, at 10 am. Please see our wonderful website for full details -

<https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/> (home page, Latest News) You will find copies of his latest book, *Let Us Dream*, in which he collaborates with Pope Francis to express his vision for the church, in our excellent bookshop.

I look forward to seeing you all again and to praying with you at the weekend.
Yours. Fr Paul

Prayers

Please pray for Michael Grech who continues treatment at home.

Please pray for Laura Rawlinson, who continues her gradual process of recovery with great courage.

Anniversaries

Please pray for the souls of James Heargerty; Peter Constable; Fred Billings; Iris Higgins; Jo Dobson; Denis McCrory; Elvira Castro; Fr Robert - Founder of Crawley Down Monastery; David Whiting; Desire Powlett; Bill Murphy; Alan Thomas; Jack Prosser; Glen Robertson.

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

Some coming events :

CAFOD Family Harvest Fast Day; 1st October

Kir Bennett Horner, our parish CAFOD rep., writes :

Pope Francis says we are a single family living in a common home. CAFOD asks that we meditate on this concept during Harvest Family Fast Day on Friday 1st October.

We must take inspiration from this meditation and convert it into action. Particularly in regards to how it applies to the abuse of our Mother Earth's environment. COVID has pushed millions around the world into poverty and deepened inequality, and it is the world's poorest and most vulnerable people who are being hit hardest by climate change.

For those interested in taking direct action to combat climate change, please consider joining our own group of dedicated environmental activists, Worth Pro Earth. Additionally, please be aware that CAFOD is deeply committed to acting in defence of our planet and its most suffering inhabitants.

There are a few things that you can do to support CAFOD in their efforts.

-Give money today via an envelope, online at CAFOD.org.uk/climatecrisis, call 0303 303 3030, or text CAFOD10 to 70580 to donate £10, CAFOD20 to donate £20 or any amount you wish to donate in this same way.

-Be aware that the COP26 climate talks will be hosted in Glasgow in early November, and that this is the largest gathering of global leaders to ever take place on British soil. Encourage the Prime Minister to ensure that we listen to those hardest hit by the climate emergency by signing CAFOD's petition at CAFOD.org.uk/reclaim

Thank you for always being such a generous Parish to CAFOD; an exceptionally effective force for change, force for critical support, force for Christian love. Without your support, their hands would be tied.

Yours in Christ, Kir Bennett Horner, Worth Parish CAFOD Representative Volunteer

-South East England Faiths Forum : Wednesday 6th October 2021 :10.00 am – 12.30 pm, 2.00 pm—3.00 pm

WHO CARES? CARE, DIGNITY, GRIEF AND FAITH IN THE TIME OF COVID19

Register on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/who-cares-care-dignity-grief-and-faith-in-the-time-of-covid19-tickets-165735943669> Full details of the event, including speakers and the programme are on the Eventbrite page.

God's Creation Mass, Youth Church; 16th October at 5pm in Worth Abbey

Talk by Austen Ivereigh : Saturday, October 23rd, at 10 am in the Unity Room : The Synod. Please register your intention to come by email – parish@worth.org.uk This will help us to find the right place for the talk, according to numbers attending.

The **Lectio group** meets this Saturday at 12 noon as usual; then from Tuesday 5th October we will be meeting on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm, on Zoom for the present.

You will see that once more we are back with the war time economy edition, in the absence of our secretary, Maria Stribbling. Thank you for your patience ! Please look to the website for all other details. To get in touch, please use the contact details in the email.

I send my best wishes to you all. Fr Paul