

In Touch

Worth Abbey Parish

9th & 10th October 2021

Twenty Eighth Sunday in OT (year B)

No: 1274

Dear Parishioners

I hope that you and your families are well.

This Sunday we are encouraged to pray for prisoners and their families. PACT, which sponsors this day, is a Catholic organisation of which Cardinal Vincent Nicols is the patron. He writes : *The Gospel message for Prisoners' Sunday shows how God's forgiveness and welcome are for all: no one is excluded. So let us not forget that the needs of prisoners are great and growing, particularly as we emerge from the lockdown imposed because of the Covid-19 pandemic. For prisoners this has meant being confined to their cells for over 23 hours each day for many months and not receiving visits from their loved ones, including their children. We must not forget either the prison staff or our chaplains who too have had to confront the additional challenges posed as a result of the pandemic.*

You can read about their work at <https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/prisons-week-10th-16th-october-2021/>

Here they tell the story of Michael (not his real name); they tell how his troubles began when his wife Clara died, and he began to suffer from depression. *Now he was on his own, he was much less able to leave the house and his chronic anxiety and depression was making him feel completely hopeless. He began numbing his pain with prescription drugs. Soon, Michael began to rely on a group of 'friends' who'd said they could bring him the drugs he needed and keep him company. They had seemed like a lifeline. It wasn't long before Michael began to help them out with their business, doing them small favours including letting them use his home to sell drugs to other people. Michael was the victim of exploitation and cuckooing by a criminal gang – but his involvement with their business earned him a 12-month prison sentence ... Michael would also be homeless on release: his rental agreement had been terminated due to his imprisonment and he had lost everything. As his release date approached, Michael was referred to Pact's Through the Gate team for support. That's when he met Annabel, one of Pact's Mentors... This was an*

enormous relief for Michael, who told Annabel that he was feeling extremely anxious and overwhelmed: he didn't know how he was going to cope without somewhere to live. Through the work of his mentor, Michael was able to face life again.

Do please pray for the work of PACT and all whom they support, and prisoners everywhere.

Meanwhile, we continue to prepare for the Synod in which Pope Francis has invited us all to take part. This Sunday, 10th, he will inaugurate the Synodal process in Rome, and on the following Sunday each diocese will mark its beginning. (In the cathedral at Arundel this will form part of the celebration of the feast our diocesan patron, St Philip Howard.) Bishop Richard writes : *This is an important moment in the life of the Church, for Pope Francis is calling us all to reflect on the theme "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission."* *The Holy Father is inviting us to take this journey together. As the Preparatory Document for the Synod expresses, "This path of walking together is the most effective way of manifesting and putting into practice the nature of the Church as the pilgrim and missionary People of God."*

Here at Worth our first major preparation is the talk by Austen Ivereigh, papal biographer and co-author, with Pope Francis, of *Let Us Dream*, which sets out the Pope's vision for the Church. Do see our home page :

<https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/vision-of-pope-francis-for-a-synodal-church-saturday-23rd-october-2021/> His talk takes place on Saturday, 23rd October, at 10 am in the Unity Room. Do please make a note in your diaries, and please let us know if you can come (parish@worth.org.uk). We can then begin to consider how we can best respond to the invitation of Pope Francis, when we begin our discussions in Advent. If you co-ordinate a group or a ministry, do please encourage those with whom you work to think about forming a group to respond to the questions which we will receive.

I send you all my very best wishes, with my thanks for your enthusiastic participation in our community.

Fr Paul

Prayers

Please pray for the work of PACT and for all prisoners.

Please pray for our parishioners Michael Grech and Laura Rawlinson.

Please pray for the forthcoming Synod :

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

Anniversaries

Please pray for the souls of : Mary Mason; Jack Harwood-Davis; Archbishop Cyril Cowderoy; Arthur Maynard; Jenny Frost; Timothy Robin Martin; Mary Hume; Tom Wheeler; Maria Beardsall

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

Some coming events :

God's Creation Mass, Youth Church; 16th October at 5pm in Worth Abbey
Kir Bennett Horner writes :

To all Worth Parishioners, young and old, please join in the Creation Celebration Youth Mass to be held at 5pm on Saturday 16th October.

We will celebrate the conclusion of Creation Season and take inspiration from Saint Francis of Assisi by hosting a youth run Mass. The celebration will begin with a blessing of animals promptly at 5pm on the piazza in front of the main entrance to the church, rain or shine. The children will then lead us all in to the church for our Mass. (We ask that four legged, winged, and other colourful blessing participants be led away at that time.). The celebrant of the Mass that follows will be Father Paul and his readers and ushers will all be children. The Mass theme will be the concept that human life is grounded in three key relationships between God, neighbour and Earth.

We politely ask that the front most pew be reserved for children wishing to sit with their peers. The Mass will be followed by refreshments in the Unity Room and an interactive session for the children focused on environmental outreach

and action in our local community. We ask that children bring internet accessible tablets or phones for use in this session after the Mass.

We look forward to seeing you, and any furry guests you may wish to bring, on the 16th!

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 on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm, on Zoom for the present. Please contact Jenny Chapman - jenny_chapman@sky.com

Emily Westlake is running an in-person **Creative Prayer retreat day** (on the theme of 'I am the vine, you are the branches') at Compass House, Worth Abbey, on Saturday 23rd October 11am-5pm. This is suitable for people of all ages and abilities (adults or families, with or without additional needs, are all welcome). We will be doing some creative and reflective activities, including some time in the Abbey church. Donations towards expenses would be appreciated, and attendees will need to bring a packed lunch.

Emily is a member of the Lay Community of St Benedict (www.lcsb.uk), and has been running retreats at Worth for many years.

To book, or if you would like more information, or could come as a helper, please contact Emily (Email: laybenedictines.bookings@gmail.com Tel: 07947103781). There will be limited spaces, so please let Emily know if you can come as soon as possible.

A letter of thanks from the Haywards Heath Foodbank :

On behalf of the Haywards Heath Food Bank, I would like to thank you all so much for your generous and truly kind donations of food recently and your continued support. We are so grateful to you all at Worth Abbey.

I am pleased to tell you that the weight of the food collected in your recent collection was 66.35 kgs, which is a fantastic amount.

Thank you for supporting us in our work to give food to those who come upon difficult times. This year has been more challenging, since April we have supported 697 families a total of 2,294 of the community, which is why your support is very much appreciated.

In the lead up the opening of the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow, CAFOD announce :

March for climate justice on 6 November :

Will you join CAFOD at the London Global Day of Action for Climate Justice?

We will be joining millions of people around the world who'll be out marching for climate justice on **Saturday 6th November from 11 am.**

As world leaders gather for the COP26 climate talks, we'll be marching in London to let them know that urgent action is needed to keep global temperatures within 1.5 degrees, and to ensure that meaningful support is given to the countries that have done the least to cause the climate crisis.

[Register today](#)

Come along with friends, family, or others from your parish to ensure that the Catholic community has a strong voice as part of the global call for climate justice. Pope Francis himself is planning to attend COP26 in Glasgow, signalling how vital this issue is for the Catholic Church.

Where

We'll be gathering at **St Mary Moorfields, 4-5 Eldon Street, London, EC2M 2LS** from 11am for reflection and prayers before joining the main march from the Bank of England.

Volunteers are needed for the team making our tea and coffee after Sunday mass. Can you help, please ? A cup of coffee helps to draw people together, and forms an important part in the welcome and hospitality which we can offer. Please get in touch – parish@worth.org.uk

My grateful thanks to everyone who offers their service to build up our community. I send my best wishes and my prayers for you all.

Fr Paul