

Dear Parishioners

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

On Monday we mark **Anti-Slavery Day**, when we are asked to learn about modern day slavery and how to spot it, and to pray for its estimated 40.3 million victims around the world, including 10 million children.

Pope Francis wrote: *“Human trafficking is an open wound on the body of contemporary society, a scourge upon the body of Christ. It is a crime against humanity.”*

We should not imagine that our own society is free of this evil. It may come as a surprise that Britain is among the top 10 countries involved in human trafficking. It is estimated that in 2019, in the UK, 136,000 men, women and children were trapped in modern slavery. Asylum seekers in particular are vulnerable to being enslaved in the UK. I have personally met several in immigration detention who were handed over, or sold, to slave masters by those who organised their passage to the UK. Once in their control it is difficult to escape, partly because they have no documents and because they are afraid that they will simply be arrested if they manage to escape and go to the police. Unfortunately, this fear is not unfounded, and it is clear that as immigration controls on those seeking asylum become ever more draconian, they become more vulnerable to slavery.

Our Diocese has set up a group to combat slavery. They write: *Every year, thousands of men, women and children fall into the hands of human traffickers, becoming unpaid modern-day slaves in their own countries and abroad. Our Diocese is committed to combatting modern slavery in all its guises and has set up a Steering Group attached to our Social Action Commission which aims to:*

Facilitate and co-ordinate public awareness of Modern Slavery and its abolition.

Support the practical needs of the victims of modern slavery in conjunction with relevant organisations and groups - including the provision of safe accommodation for those rescued from slavery.

Assist the Police in bringing the perpetrators to justice.

Modern slavery manifests in many different guises including forced domestic service, human trafficking for exploitation, and crimes which enable trafficking.

On Monday “Ambassadors” will be commissioned by the Diocese to engage in the work of exposing slavery and publicising its extent. Please see the Diocesan website for more information about how you can get involved:

<https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/formation/combating-modern-slavery>

And also, our own website: <https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/anti-slavery-day-monday-18th-october-2021/>

And please pray for all involved, victims and those who work on their behalf.

Meanwhile, may I remind everyone about our preparation for the Synod which will be inaugurated by Bishop Richard in the cathedral on Sunday for the Diocese. Please do make a note in your diary of the talk by Austen Ivereigh next Saturday, 23rd, in the Unity Room, at 10 am. I look forward to seeing you there.

Yours

Fr Paul

Church Opening Times

The church is now open from before the first office of the day until the end of the last one. (Please see the website for details.)

You are welcome to all offices and masses.

On weekdays mass is celebrated at 5.30 pm, and on Saturdays at 9 am.

Confessions take place on Sundays from 9 am till 9.30 am, and generally there is opportunity on Thursdays at 2 pm.

Sunday mass is celebrated at 5 pm (Vigil mass on Saturday)
and at 9.30 am on Sundays.

There is Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Thursdays from 2 pm till 3 pm, and on Fridays from 7 pm till 8 pm.

March for Climate Justice

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.

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.

The Faith Companion

The Faith Companion is a two monthly parishioner magazine. 65% of profits go to help the poor access the faith and to build a fund for training and education

By supporting The Faith Companion, you will be supporting the Church.

Order from www.thefaithcompanion.co.uk or call 01403 754808 or email the faithcompanion@gmail.com

Free online edition available

Invited - October Reflection

Dear Invited friends, Our Monthly Reflection is a little bit different this month, allowing us to share exciting news of an upcoming Invited film series due to launch [on our website](#) and across our channels on 19 October, the Feast Day of St Philip Howard.

This latest series of films was conceived in response to feedback from Invited Season One. Three of the films explore the themes of that season in greater depth, with a further two videos offering help and insight in two important areas of faith; prayer and scripture.

Please view and share these films in the order that best suits you. We hope to arrange an online meeting with the various speakers later in the year, providing a welcome opportunity to discuss the topics covered, and answer any questions.

With prayers and best wishes, *The Invited Team*

You can find out more about the Invited Five-Year Mission on the website - www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited

If you have questions about the Mission please contact the team on invited@abdiocese.org.uk

Christian Meditation Group

We meet once a month, usually the on last Wednesday of the month at Worth Abbey Church in the Unity Room. We meet at 7.00pm and have a short talk related to Christian meditation, followed by a period of silence and then time of reflective discussion. We finish by 8.00pm so that if anyone wishes to, they can go into the church for Compline. Anyone is welcome to join the group, if you wish to know more, please Contact Caterina Brown 01243 554001.

Our next meeting at Worth Abbey church will be on **Wednesday 27th October**.

A date for your diary

Saturday, 23rd October, at 10 am. A talk by Austen Ivereigh 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.

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

Rosary Group



From Monday 6th September, The Rosary Group will meet in the Abbey Church after Vespers - 7:15pm until 8:15pm when Compline is due to begin; Please get in touch with Rachel Davies: 07801 696354

Lectio Divina

The Lectio group meets on Tuesday evenings at 7.40pm, on Zoom for the present.

Please contact Jenny Chapman - jenny_chapman@sky.com

Prayers



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.

We pray for the victims of human trafficking that they may be helped to rebuild their lives after the traumatic experiences they have gone through.

We pray that we, as the Church, will continue to defend victims of human trafficking.

We pray for our governments that they may make and implement laws that will protect victims of modern-day slavery.

We pray for those organisations dedicated to eradicating modern day slavery that they will be courageous in the face of challenges.

We pray for those caring for the victims of human trafficking, that their efforts to help the vulnerable and traumatised may not go unrewarded. Amen

Catholics in England and Wales are invited to pray the prayer of St Josephine Bakhita for all victims of human trafficking. Despite the suffering she experienced as a slave, St Josephine lived a life rooted in faith, inspired by hope and characterised by love.

O God, who led Saint Josephine Bakhita from abject slavery to the dignity of being your daughter and a bride of Christ, grant, we pray, that by her example we may show constant love for the Lord Jesus crucified, remaining steadfast in charity and prompt to show compassion. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Anniversaries

Please pray for the Souls of – Sister Law SRN, Beryl Green, Elizabeth Leksinska, Patricia Stanford, Audrey Mary Davies, Jim Farmer, Elizabeth Montgomery, Cecily Evans, Miss Millet and Peter Cole. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen.

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

1st Reading – Jeremiah 31:7-9 2nd Reading – Hebrews 5:1-6

Gospel: Mark 10:46-52

Go, your faith has saved you

Daily Readings

Monday – 2 Tim 4:10-17b Luke 10:1-9 (**St Luke**)

Tuesday – Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21 Luke 12:35-38

Wednesday – Rom 6:12-18 Luke 12:39-48

Thursday – Rom 6:19-23 Luke 12:49-53

Friday – Rom 7:18-25a Luke 12:54-59

Saturday – Rom 8:1-11 Luke 13:1-9

For regular items, please see the website:

For readings for the coming week, see Universalis: [Universalis](#)

For prayers and anniversaries see our homepage: <https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/>

Our 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.