

Dear Parishioners

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

We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard

This weekend the Church around the world celebrates **World Mission Sunday**. Pope Francis has written a message for us, and the title brings us back to the work of the first days of the Church in Jerusalem, and the activities of the disciples as recorded in The Acts of The Apostles. It is good to remember that speaking about the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus, is the essence of what it means to be a Christian. This is also the theme of the very first major document which Pope Francis wrote, *The Joy of The Gospel*. Today he writes that Jesus knows our needs intimately: *Everything about Christ reminds us that he knows well our world and its need for redemption, and calls us to become actively engaged in this mission...: No one is excluded, no one need feel distant or removed from this compassionate love.* To engage in mission, in whatever way, we need to draw on our own experience of God's love for us, to share something of what we ourselves have received. *Experiencing the Lord's friendship, watching him cure the sick, dine with sinners, feed the hungry, draw near to the outcast, touch the unclean, identify with the needy,* was what gave the first disciples the energy and desire to share their knowledge and love of Jesus. Pope Francis speaks of an *expansive joy and a profound sense of gratitude, and a consuming awareness of the Lord's active presence in our heart, impelling us to mission.* He goes on to reflect on the difficulties which we face just now with the pandemic: *Our own times are not easy. The pandemic has brought to the fore and amplified the pain, the solitude, the poverty and the injustices experienced by so many people. It has unmasked our false sense of security and revealed the brokenness and polarization quietly growing in our midst. Those who are most frail and vulnerable have come to feel even more so. We have experienced discouragement, disillusionment and fatigue.* The antidote, he affirms, is the hope of the Gospel which allows us to show compassion, the "sacramental" of God's closeness to us, a closeness that abandons no one along the side of the road. He concludes: *May his compassionate love touch our hearts and make us all true missionary disciples.*

Please pray for the mission of the Church, and pray that our hearts may be filled with the compassion of God. Please see our website: <https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/world-mission-sunday-24th-october-2021/>

Yours, Fr Paul

Liturgy Times

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.

St Dunstan's, West Hoathly

St Dunstan's, West Hoathly, is a relatively small, local chapel within the Worth Abbey Parish.

Those parishioners who have worshipped there value the chapel's modest size and intimacy. But in such a small space it is difficult to achieve the safe levels of ventilation and social distancing that national Catholic Church guidance calls for from all congregations during these later stages of the covid-19 pandemic. In this context, each parish is asked to risk-assess its activities, especially its practices around the celebration of the Sunday liturgy. St Dunstan's remains closed during these winter months of the pandemic because the risk of transmission of covid-19 in the small chapel space available in West Hoathly has been judged to be more significant than in the more generous spaces of the Abbey Church at Worth. Those parishioners who have worshipped at West Hoathly in the past are warmly welcomed to join the worshipping community at the Abbey for the time being.

This Saturday

23rd October, at 10 am.

A talk by Austen
Ivereigh in the Unity
Room: The Synod.

Cake Sale

Next Saturday **30th October** after mass, Tristan Van Assche will be running a cake sale to raise money for his school's charities, Kangaroos, a charity which supports disabled children in Sussex (see <https://www.kangaroos.org.uk/A>
And the Black Mamba Anti-Poaching Unit (see <https://www.blackmambas.org/>).

Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

Bishop Richard writes: In 2021, the UK government assumed the presidency of COP26. This provides a unique opportunity for the UK government to present its vision of a "Global Britain" and lead the way in International efforts to tackle the climate crisis.

As a Catholic community we have been given a very clear steer from Pop Francis about the importance of caring for our common home. In his 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'*, His Holiness made it clear that to "harm the environment was to harm human beings". Furthermore, it asks us the key questions, "What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?"

The Conference of Parties (COP26) is the 26th United Nations Climate Conference, that is set to meet in Glasgow in November 2021. It will be attended by leaders from over 200 countries to discuss climate change and how to tackle global ecological crisis. The conference follows from a series of summits including the Paris climate talks in 2015, where countries pledged to work together to keep the global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Centigrade.

If we exceed this threshold, millions of the most vulnerable people in our communities at home and abroad will be at risk of the devastating effects of climate change. In this respect, Pope Francis also makes the link that our current environmental crisis represents a sociological crisis as well, with the effects of climate change disproportionately affecting the world's poorest communities.

In the run up to the COP26 and specifically on the last Sunday in October, we are asking people to pray that the leaders meeting in Glasgow work together for positive outcomes for people and the planet. To assist with this the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, in partnership with CAFOD have produced a prayer resource, for use in both the parish and the home, which is available in the Narthex.

Our Common Home – Week One



OUR COMMON HOME AND THE THEME OF SERVICE

“Not to hurt our humble brethren is our first duty to them, but to stop there is not enough. We have a higher mission; to **be of service to them** whenever they require.” - *St. Francis of Assisi*
“We strive to be **guardians of our common home**”. -prayer to St. Francis of Assisi

CLIMATE CHANGE –THE RISK TO OUR COMMON HOME

How much do you know already?

10 climate and eco focused questions:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeh3JTSm7VlnjjNysQ64C2IU4LYHs8QK92GkkIPq8WFOXVvyA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0>

Take the quiz to find out more about why fairer trade will help:

<https://www.riddle.com/showcase/303916/quiz>

Traidcraft

We are pleased to announce that the Traidcraft stall has re-opened on Sundays after mass. Our grateful thanks are due to Beryl McNulty and her team, who have run it with great dedication for several years. Beryl has now retired, and her place has been taken by Caroline Howells, and our thanks go to her and the new team. Do please show your appreciation by buying lots of delicious goods!

We are also very pleased to announce that we will begin serving tea and coffee again after Sunday mass, beginning on 31st. Our very grateful thanks go to Christina Fitzsimons who led the team for many years, and to all her team. We now have a new team in place, which will be coordinated by Jenny Chapman. Our grateful thanks to Jenny and all the team.

Ministry of Consolation

Do you have a good ear for listening? Are you able to support people who are going through a difficult time? Do you feel you are able to journey with those who are experiencing the loss of someone important in their life?

If the answer is yes to these questions, you might be interested in joining the Diocesan Ministry of Consolation team of Bereavement Befrienders?

We will be running a training course on each Wednesday through January and February 2022 to prepare you for this Ministry. You will need to attend all the training days to be commissioned and each day will run from 10.00 am to 1.30 via Zoom.

If you would like to find out more details, please email simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk for more information.

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 will send a representative 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.

Worth Retreat

“Be still and know that I am God” *Psalm 46:10*

A hybrid retreat where you are invited to come to Worth or join the retreat online. A section of the retreat is silent. FINDING STILLNESS. The Open Cloister @ Worth Abbey

Fri 29th-Sun 31st October 2021

Mon 8th-Thurs 11th November 2021

Mon 13th-Thurs 16th December 2021

For further information or to book a place online go to: worth.co.uk/retreat-programme

Enquiries: retreats@worth.org.uk

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

We are delighted to announce that the Invited Autumn Series films are now available to watch at

www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited

There are five films in total, three exploring the themes of Season 1 in greater depth and two offering an introduction to fundamentals of our faith: Prayer and Scripture.

We would also like to thank our speakers, Fr Tony Milner, Fr Stephen Ortiger, Pia Matthews, Fleur Dorrell and Fr Stephen Dingley, for their time and commitment to this project.

We hope that you find them interesting and stimulating, and we look forward to hearing your thoughts.

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**.

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

Rosary Group

The Rosary Group 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

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 volunteers:
<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, available 9.15am-1.15pm Mon-Fri

Night time emergencies only: 01342 710331

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.