



WORTH
ABBAY PARISH

1st Sunday of Advent (year C)
27th / 28th November 2021
No: 1280



Journeying Together:

Collaboration

Co-operation

Co-Responsibility

In Touch

Dear Parishioners

I hope that you and your families continue well. I send my best wishes and my prayers for you all, most especially for those who are suffering from any sickness.

This weekend we begin our celebration of the season of Advent. While these four weeks in some sense form a preparation for our celebration of Christmas, it is important to remember that it has its very own character. It is sometimes difficult to remember this when we constantly meet Christmas decorations and Christmas carols – especially in supermarkets! And of course, our own preparations for Christmas – sending cards, buying gifts and preparing food – all take necessary time and energy. But the true meaning of Advent is to look forward to the return of Jesus at the end of time – to judgement and the coming of the Kingdom. It is a time to reflect on our own spiritual state. Are we ready to receive Jesus? Do we recognise him in his presence with us now, most especially in his presence in those in need, the poor, strangers, the homeless? As we hear in our gospel on Sunday, *stay awake, praying at all times...to stand with confidence before the Son of Man*. Do sign up for the CAFOD Advent prayer calendar : [Sign up now](#)

Speak Boldly. Listen Carefully.

Taking time to pray will help us adopt this spirit of listening and discernment which Pope Francis asks us all to foster as we take part in his Synod – Journeying Together. This offers us a unique opportunity to play our part in forming the Church which he wants us to become – a humble Church, the *Pilgrim People of God*. Bishop Richard writes: *The Holy Father has given us an invitation to take this “Synod Path” and it will be wonderful for us all to take this journey with – and for – the good of the Universal Church. Please keep in prayer the work of the “Synod Path” in our Diocese, and the Holy Father. We are at a significant moment in the life of the whole Church and the world. The experience of the Pandemic and the many challenges facing the global community are a spur to us to examine the best way forward for the effective proclamation of the Good News. This is a ‘golden moment’ for evangelization and the “Synod Path” will assist us in the Diocese in sharpening our focus on the essential work to which we have been called.*

In our parish we will be forming groups to respond to the questions which we are asked to consider over the next two months. We offer groups after Sunday mass (on 12th and 19th December and January 16th), at Worth; on Saturdays, either before or after the parish mass, at 3.30 and 6 pm, on 4th and 11th December and 8th January, at Worth; and there will be a group in Balcombe on Tuesdays, at 7.30 pm, beginning on 30th November; and a day time group in Crawley Down. For these two, please contact Rachel Davies (rfrmaison@protonmail.com) and Carol Morice (C. Morice carolmorice251@btinternet.com)

There will be sheets to sign up to groups in church this weekend, or visit the parish website - <https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/?s=synod> – or simply contact the parish office – parish@worth.org.uk – or by phone, 01342 710313 -giving your contact details. Please also see the website as above for more information, including the text of an excellent article by Austen Ivereigh.

Anyone who is unable to join a group is encouraged to submit their own response by email. If you know anyone who used to be a member of the church and no longer is, for any reason, do please invite them to make their response to the questions. Pope Francis is especially eager to hear from them. Please access the materials here - <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/synod>.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Yours. Fr Paul

After the Youth Mass on **Saturday 27th November**, there will be a stall selling homemade cakes and other delicious things, to raise money for CAFOD.

This has been prepared by two young parishioners, so please support them generously. Thank you.

Reconciliation Service

Tuesday, 14th December, at 7.30 pm,
Service of Reconciliation –
an excellent way for us to prepare to
celebrate the Feast of Christmas.

World Gifts

With Christmas just around the corner, CAFOD has the perfect ethical gift giving solution.

Each World Gift represents very real work that CAFOD is doing and for every gift you buy, you're helping someone living in poverty. Starting at just £4, and covering all sorts of our work from farming, to education, emergency response work, water provisions, there is something for every budget and personality.

For each gift you buy, you receive a beautifully illustrated card containing a real-life example of your gift in action.

You can also choose to send:

- a personalised card direct to a loved one's address
 - an ecard
 - a copy to print off at home

We have also added new gifts this year that are focused on our climate response!

Please see CAFOD website - [World Gifts](#)

Young Adults' (18-30) Advent Retreat

3rd – 5th December. An opportunity to prepare for Advent with talks, small group discussions and opportunities for reflection and prayer revolving around the rhythm of prayer of the Benedictine community at Worth Abbey. This retreat is offered in collaboration with The Wellspring Community. [Click here](#) to find out more.

Worth Retreat

“Be still and know that I am God” *Psalms 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
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

BIG Green Steps

Due to COP 26 the United Nations Climate Change Conference there is a lot in the media and conversations around climate change mitigation and reducing our carbon footprint. In our last newsletter we talked about how we need to make lifestyle changes, aiming to achieve ‘a 5-tonne lifestyle’. Well how on Earth do we do this you might ask. Well we have three ideas to help you learn and take action to reduce your carbon footprint:

1. At the Sussex Green Hub on the last Saturday of every month we are just starting up our ‘Carbon Watchers Clinics’, which is loosely based on the philosophy of Weight Watchers – encouragement, no blame, no shame and sharing ideas and tips to reduce our personal Carbon footprint. Drop in and be our first customers on 27th November!
2. Buy and read a book called How Bad Are Bananas? [by Mike Berners-Lee](#). Mike tells us the effects of big carbon footprint activities such as aviation, heating, swimming pools etc and small changes we can make (bananas, naturally packaged, are good!). You can learn about other fantastic [books and documentaries on this page](#). Read, watch, learn and take action now!
3. Don’t forget to use the [WWF Carbon Footprint calculator](#) app to see what your current lifestyle looks like, at the end it directs you to pages with information about areas you can improve.

Four schools over the last month have asked us about how they measure and reduce their carbon footprint, you will be pleased to hear that the WWF are working on a tool to help them.

Refugees Welcome Crawley

RWC are currently supporting many asylum seekers in local temporary accommodation
They really need Men’s casual clothes and shoes in good, clean condition (no rips or stains): Jogging Bottoms, jeans, jackets, jumpers, t-shirts and trainers. (nothing else required at the moment).

Donations can be dropped off at:

The Charis Centre, West Green Drive, Crawley, RH11 7EL. Tue-Fri 09.30-16.30
St Paul’s Methodist Church, Woodfield Road, Crawley, RH10 8ER. Mon-Thu 10.30-13.30

Annual Justice and Peace Assembly

Our Annual Justice & Peace Assembly will take place in person on **Saturday 15th January 2022**
from 9.30am – 2pm At St Francis’ School, Southgate Drive, Crawley, RH10 6RP.

This Year’s event “To a Safer Shore?” focusses on the considerable difficulties and challenges faced by individuals and families of all ages who are compelled to leave their homes and seek safety - and longed for sanctuary - in countries that can be considerable distances from their homes.

Speakers this year include **Canon Rob Esdaile** who will provide insight on Pope Francis' Encyclical [Fratelli Tutti](#), **Aidan Cantwell**, from the [Jesuit Refugee Service](#) who will explore current legislation in the UK and how best we can respond, and **John Paul de Quay**, from the [Ecological Conversion Group](#), who will examine the links between the plight of refugees and climate crisis. Click on the link below to secure your place - we look forward to welcoming you

<https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/8llnbi1a>

The Passage

The Passage is a Catholic charity working with homeless people is raising funds through the Big Give, a matched giving scheme from 12.00 noon.

Every £1 donated online between 12.00 noon on Tuesday 30th November and 12.00 noon on Tuesday 7th December makes £2 and £2.25 if you are a taxpayer through Gift Aid.

At a time when The Passage’s finances are stretched and they are helping more homeless people, please consider supporting this charity through the link <https://bit.ly/PassageBG2021>

Invited – Monthly Reflection – November

Dear Invited Friends,

The clocks have changed, with the nights now well and truly drawing in. If you haven't already done so, there couldn't be a better time to watch the latest Invited Film series available on our website. Our Formation Team have received some wonderful feedback from our Invited community over the last three weeks. Fr Stephen Ortiger's film on prayer was described by Monique as "amazing, helpful, instructive and reassuring". Having watched Fr Tony Milner talk about about God's love for us, Margaret said she understood "much better the way the love of God is portrayed and perceived in the Old Testament and, why!" Teresita also commented on this film, highlighting that she looks forward to using the concept of Covenant in her catechism lessons, preparing children for their First Holy Communion.

Thank you to those who have taken the time to share their feedback with us. If you would like to contribute your thoughts on Invited Films One to Five, then please contact our team. **Email:** invited@abdiocese.org.uk

On Sunday 21 November, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Established by Pope Pius XI in 1925, and later enhanced by Pope Paul VI, the Feast was introduced as a response to ever-increasing secularisation, the false hope offered by fascism and communism, and the devastation and desperation which followed World War I.

This annual Solemnity marks National Youth Sunday in England and Wales. This year, it has also been declared World Youth Day by Pope Francis, with the theme: 'Arise! I make you a witness of what you have seen' inspired by Jesus' words to St Paul in Acts 26:16. Pope Francis regularly acknowledges the challenges young people today face. In a speech to young Catholics in Canada he said: *'The world, the church, need courageous young people, who are not cowed in the face of difficulties, who face their trials and keep their eyes and hearts open to reality, so that no one should be rejected or subjected to injustice or to violence, or deprived...of human dignity.'*

Youth Sunday gives us an opportunity to recognise young people as a gift in the Church, and to affirm their contribution to parish life. During this month we pray for our young people and for those who work with them, catechists, youth workers, teachers in our Catholic schools and our clergy. We pray for the communities within our Diocese whose mission is to develop the potential of young people and, lastly, we pray that our parishes will always be places of welcome to families and the young, so that they may be courageous in their faith.

You can find information on **World Youth Day 2021** [here >>>](#)

To find out more about the **Youth Service** in our Diocese contact the diocesan Youth Adviser:

E: lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk **Or visit our website >>>**

Autumn's Invited Films: A brief Guide

Part 1 – A Deeper Dive into the themes of Season One

God's Love as revealed through the Old Testament Rev. Dr Anthony Milner is parish priest at St Theresa of Lisieux, Southwick and St George's, Hove, and a former theology tutor at the Venerable English College in Rome. Fr Tony guides us through parts of the Old Testament as he explores God's eternal love for us.

Theology of Human Brokenness

Dr Pia Matthews is a senior lecturer at St Mary's University in Twickenham, and was appointed an expert to the XIV Ordinary General Assembly Synod of Bishops in 2015. Pia talks to us about how, in a Christian context, human brokenness is always spoken of in the same breath as hope.

Salvation – How Jesus Saves Us Through His Cross

Fr Stephen Dingley is the parish priest of Our Lady of Sorrows and Church of the Holy Spirit, Fetcham, and former Professor of Theology at St John's Seminary in Wonersh. Fr Stephen explores different theories of salvation, helping us to understand more fully exactly what Jesus has done for us.

Part 2 – How to....

Prayer

Rt Rev. Dom Fr Stephen Ortiger OSB is a Monk of Worth Abbey, Episcopal Vicar for Religious in the Diocese and currently Priest in Residence at the parish of Our Lady, Star of the Sea in East Preston. Fr Stephen gently instructs and encourages us in how to establish a routine of prayer in our lives of faith.

Scripture

Fleur Dorrell is Catholic Scripture Engagement Manager for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and Bible Society. She's the national co-ordinator of the 'God who Speaks Campaign', a writer and an applied theologian. Fleur explores how we can develop a way of accessing scripture, and grow in love for the Word of God.

You can find out more about our Invited Five-Year Mission on the website: www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited
If you have any questions about the Mission please contact our team via email on invited@abdiocese.org.uk

REGULAR EVENTS IN THE PARISH



Mass Times - Saturday: 9.00 am (Concelebrated) and 5.00 pm (First Mass of Sunday),
Sunday: 9.30 am

Daily Mass: 5.30 pm (Concelebrated), Holy Days of Obligation: Vigil Mass: 7.30 pm;

Feast Day: 5.30 pm

Adoration - Friday evenings 7.00- 8.00pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Reflection, music and silence.

Confessions (Sacrament of Reconciliation) - Sundays 9.00-9.30am and Thursday 2pm.

Rosary Group - Mondays 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 - Tuesdays at 7.40pm via Zoom. Please contact Jenny Chapman jenny_chapman@sky.com

Christian Meditation Group - 7.00pm in the Unity Room, please contact Richard by email

rbrownd1@gmail.com. **There will be no group in December.**

Vigil for Vocations - (1st Friday). After Compline 8.30pm - 9.00pm.

Bible Study Group - 11.15am on Mondays in St Benedict's (Parish Office). Please double check with the Parish Office.

For other 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, 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.