



In Touch

Journeying Together:

Collaboration

Co-operation

Co-Responsibility

First Sunday of Advent (year A)

26th / 27th November 2022

No: 1318

Dear Parishioners

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

This weekend we begin our celebration of Advent, the beginning of the Church's year. It's a moment which we can easily miss, for it is a time when we start to prepare for Christmas. Shops especially will encourage us to do this, by putting up decorations and playing Christmas carols while we walk around the aisles of the supermarkets, inviting us to buy Christmas cakes and Christmas puddings, copiously decorated with holly and berries, and a whole range of gifts to fill our Christmas stockings. So, it's very easy to miss Advent altogether in our anxiety to be ready for Christmas. And this is a shame, for Advent has a character all of its own which offers us great spiritual riches. The word *Advent* means *Coming* – the coming of Jesus. The focus of the first two weeks invites us to reflect on the Return of Jesus at the end of time: Jesus will come in glory and majesty as King, to establish fully the Kingdom of God, with God's gifts of justice and peace for all. (The purple of the Advent vestments is the purple of royalty.) So, it is a time of joyful expectation, especially the third Sunday, traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday of *Rejoicing*. But it also has a sombre character, as we are warned to prepare for the Judgement which the Coming of Jesus will bring us, a moment for introspection and repentance. The early Church Fathers spoke of three comings of Jesus: his first coming, when he was born in the stable, a coming in weakness and humility and suffering, accepting all the limitations of our human existence; and his second coming at the end of time, a coming in all the power and glory of the majesty of God the Father. But they also spoke of a third coming, the countless moments in our lives when he comes as it were hidden and in disguise, in all sorts of unexpected people and circumstances. St Bernard expresses it thus: *... The third coming lies between the other two. It is invisible, while the other two are visible. Because this coming lies between the other two, it is like a road on which we travel from the first coming to the last. In the first, Christ was our redemption; in the last, he will appear as our life; in this middle coming, he is our rest and consolation.*

Do try to make time, during the activity and rush of your Christmas preparations, to experience his *rest and consolation* of which St Bernard speaks. A suggestion might be to spend a few minutes each day in prayerful meditation on the gospel of the day, or use some of the prayer suggestions given on line below. I pray that we may all experience again the power of God's love as we open our hearts to His coming. We might also prepare ourselves to meet Jesus by looking for opportunities to serve those in most need who live around us – the lonely, the sick, the stranger and the homeless person, the detainee... We see the face of Our Lord in each of them. I wish you a happy and holy season of Advent, and I send you all my best wishes. Yours. Fr Paul



Prayers

Please continue to pray for our parishioners Peter and Antee Greene,
Fred Green and Laura Rawlinson.

Wake us up Lord!

God of Salvation, Wake us up Lord!

The night is nearly over.

Let us begin our Advent journey.

*Move us from our lives Of greed and selfishness, From our globalised world
Of inequality and exploitation, To your kingdom Of righteousness and mercy.
To a transformed world, Where peace is built on understanding not weapons,
The poor are empowered to live their lives to the full, Businesses are built on need not greed
And your Creation is nurtured not abused.
Wake us up Lord! Let us live as people of the light.
Amen.*

CAFOD Prayer Calendar

<https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Advent-calendar>

Anniversaries

Please pray for the Souls of – Anne Carter, Mrs Malton, Dr Ivor Haire, Susan Law, Andy Girdwood,
William Avery Wright, Cynthia O'Neil, Allan Cameron-Willson, Amy Constable, John Davidson,
Revd Rupert Studd, Peter Lovell, Agnes Greenstreet and Trevor Adam.

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

Daily Readings

Monday – Isa 4:2-6 Matt 8:5-11

Tuesday – Isa 11:1-10 Luke 10:21-24

Wednesday – Rom 10:9-18 Matt 4:18-22 **(St Andrew)**

Thursday – Isa 26:1-6 Matt 7:21, 24-27

Friday – Isa 29:17-24 Matt 9:27-31

Saturday – Isa 30:19-21, 23-26 Matt (35 – 10:1, 5a, 6-8 **(St Francis Xavier)**

Next Sunday's Readings: **Second Sunday of Advent (Year A)**

1st Reading – Isaiah 11:1-10 2nd Reading – Romans 15:4-9

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

The one who follows me, will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

A big thank you to all those who generously increased your standing orders to our parish.
Unfortunately, we still expect to incur a deficit of £3000 at the end of the year.

This is partly because of rising costs.

This could be overcome if everyone were able to make a small increase in your giving.

If anyone else would like to increase your giving, there is still an opportunity to do so!

Please get in touch with the parish office.

Thank you. Fr Paul

Parish Events



Christmas Calendar

Saturday 26th November at 5pm - First Sunday of Advent, mass with special invitation to young people

Saturday 3rd December at 10am until 3pm – Training day for Catechists

Sunday 4th December after mass - In Compass House: A discussion about the latest Synod Documents.
Please see below.

Sunday 11th December at 11am – Parish Brunch in Compass House.

Monday 12th December at 7.30pm – Parish Reconciliation Service

Sunday 18th December at 3:30pm – 4.30pm. Join us to celebrate the joy of Advent at the Worth Abbey Advent Carol Service. Come and sing your favourite carols, listen to the choir and hear inspiring readings. Everyone is welcome and the service will be followed by festive refreshments.

Saturday 24th December

2.30pm – Carols in preparation for the Christmas Eve Crib Mass at 3pm, especially for younger children and families.

10.30pm – Carols and Organ Music to prepare for Midnight mass at **11pm.**
(Followed by refreshments in the Narthex).



Christmas Day

9.30am – Christmas Day Mass



Monday 26th – Friday 30th December at 5.30pm – Mass.

Saturday 31st December at 9am – Mass of Christmas Octave
5pm – Parish Mass

Sunday 1st January at 09.30am – Parish Mass

Friday 6th January at 4.30pm – Epiphany Mass with the school
7.30pm – Epiphany Parish Mass

Christ the King Children's Liturgy

Last Sunday on the Feast of Christ the King the children made crowns and talked about different kinds of Kings, and about trying to be the King of Kindness.



Traidcraft Christmas Cards

We have received a selection of Christmas cards available to order. Please visit the Traidcraft stall to pick up an order form, there are photocopies of the cards available.

There is also a selection of Advent Calendars available for sale.

Chants for St Benedict

Chants can be found on YouTube here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=myJWLHNkCkQ&list=OLAK5uy_mhhq4n6_xxlqssGkRsGY6z1ZGiM05rHnQ

Please note that, because of necessary building work, the Abbey church will be closed from 16th to 20th January.

Wild Fallow Deer Venison for Sale

There is now wild Fallow Deer venison available to buy.

A whole skinned Fallow Deer carcase (approx. 25 kg) is £4/kg and our farm manager has organised a fee of £50 per carcase for James A Harris & son - Butchers in Smallfield - to process.

This should result in 12 to 15kg of venison cuts.

So, the cost will be around £150 for 12-15kg of venison - or approx. £10 to £12 per kg - which is significantly less than the retail price of venison.

There will also be a limited number of individual cuts available to purchase. Please email Tim for details.

tatkinson@worth.org.uk

The Synod

On Sunday, **December 4th** the parish offers a discussion group to look at the National Synthesis which the Bishops are submitting. You will remember that *Synod* means *walking together*. It is an invitation to Catholics all over the world to play our part in building the Church under the guidance and with the strength of the Holy Spirit. In doing so we become *The Pilgrim People of God*, each of us offering the gifts which God has given us to create a strong and vibrant community. In our meeting on Sunday, we will look at topics which particularly affect our own parish, and think about how we can improve the service we offer, and how we can improve our mission to society. We will begin by thinking about the process so far, and we then propose looking at paragraphs 21 - 45 of the national document, *A Wounded Church Called to Conversion*. Please see: [National Synthesis Document](#)
We will meet in Compass House from 11 am till 12 noon.

Non-Parish Events

CAFOD

CAFOD writes: *Thank you to all parishioners at Our Lady Help of Christians for your generous support for CAFOD this year and for your latest donation of £500 which we received on 16th November. Thank you so much for being there for our global family.*

Thank you so much for your parish's donation this Family Fast Day. Your parish's gift will mean we can get food and clean water to more families like Talaso's.

As well as giving practical help, your prayers, fasting and collection are a gift of friendship, of love and of hope. When we met Talaso and her young sons, she was able to find a smile. She told us: "We have hope. We always have hope."

COP27

CAFOD write: For decades, the countries hardest hit by the climate crisis have been calling on those most responsible for causing it to provide money to deal with the loss of livelihoods, homes and ways of living. Rich countries have finally said they'll do so. As the COP27 talks drew to a close in the early hours of Sunday morning, negotiators in Egypt agreed to set up a 'loss and damage fund' to assist communities suffering irreversible devastation in the face of the climate emergency.

This is a huge victory – and it shows the power communities have worldwide when we raise our voices and demand action.

But there's still so much to do. Governments might have committed to set up a loss and damage fund, but too few of them have yet committed to put money into the fund.

And worse still, too many countries at COP27 blocked further commitments to stop supporting the fossil fuels at the root of the climate crisis, condemning people in communities most vulnerable to its effects to further loss and damage.

We need to keep raising our voices. As Fr Leonard Chiti, Jesuit Provincial for Southern Africa, says, the effects of the climate crisis are taking hold worldwide, "causing deep and painful suffering for millions of people".

We're resolved to keep demanding action to prevent this injustice. We hope you'll join us.

[Read what was agreed at COP27](#)

Headteacher Vacancy in Horsham

St Robert Southwell Catholic Primary School EXCEPTIONAL HEADTEACHER REQUIRED FOR SUMMER TERM 2023

Salary: Group 2, L11-L17, Contract: Full and Permanent

The Governing Board of St Robert Southwell Catholic Primary School, Horsham, is inviting applications for the post of Headteacher. We welcome interest from serving Headteachers who are looking for a new challenge and from high performing Deputy/Assistant Heads who are ready to lead their own school.

Click [here](#) to visit our website. Application deadline: by noon 28th November 2022

Short listing: 6th December 2022

Interview date: 12th & 13th December

Contact: Claudia Sharma our School Secretary at secretary@rstrobertsouthwell.co.uk
for application pack and to arrange a visit.

Laudato Si Retreat

Please join the on-line retreat from Laudato Si during Advent:

This Sunday, November 27, begins the most beautiful liturgical season of the year: Advent. From Laudato Si' Movement, we want to invite you to live a retreat guided by the words of Pope Francis and his encyclical Laudato Si', to prepare for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, the light of the world and of all Creation.

We will unite in prayer through the Hozana prayer platform, a space to pray in community globally. [Join Hozana to receive the weekly prayer guide.](#)

The theme that will guide the reflections will be "Preparation for the Good News", a pathway for our encounter with God, Jesus Christ, who comes to meet us in Creation. We will be guided by the words of Pope Francis and the encyclical Laudato Si', his special letter to us all on the call to care for our common home.

Each week you will be invited to reflect on a specific topic through

- a short clip of [The Letter](#) (the documentary with Pope Francis on Laudato Si'),
 - a brief reflection on that topic and
 - a prayer.

As Pope Francis reminds us, "living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience" (LS 217).

[Join us as we eagerly await the coming of Christ, crying out with Creation for the light of the world to come!](#)

Homes for Ukraine Matching Service

Caritas Social Action Network, in partnership with St John of God Hospitaller Services, an international Catholic charity with many services for the vulnerable in the UK and Ireland, have launched a service to bring together Ukrainian people displaced by the brutal war in their country with people in the Catholic community willing to host them in their homes for six months. Once the match is confirmed the Ukrainian guest can apply for their visa.

We know that coping with the cost of living crisis will be the main concern for many people this winter, but if you have room in your home and in your heart to consider welcoming a stranger displaced by war, then we'd love to hear from you. Please visit <https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk/> for more information.

CAFOD world gifts

Please have a look through CAFODs World Gifts online catalogue when doing your Christmas shopping this year. The link is here: <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/> -or see catalogues in the narthex.

Please consider signing up to receive CAFODs online Advent calendar. It will offer you a pathway of prayer throughout Advent.

You can use this link to sign up: <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Advent-calendar>

I wish you a fulfilling Advent, Kir Bennett Horner, Worth Parish CAFOD Volunteer Rep

CRAWLEY INTER FAITH NETWORK (CIFN)

You are cordially invited to join Christmas Party on **Saturday 3rd December**. (Please RSVP)
At CRAWLEY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, Worth Park Avenue, Pound Hill, Crawley, RH10 3DF.

From 6 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.

6 p.m. light supper followed by Christmas carol singing.

*Please contact Ashwin if you would like to sing a carol"

Also, if you would like to be involved with CIFN as a committee member, volunteer, contributor or observer then please contact Ashwin Soni, 07833252551, ashel@hotmail.co.uk.

You can follow us on our Facebook page and website <https://www.crawleyinter-faith.com>.

And we have a WhatsApp Group. You may join this group by contacting Ashwin.

Do you use health services in Crawley?

Sussex Health and Care would like your help to improve their services.

Creating a healthier population requires working together with communities, and health and care professionals to address the issues that are influencing poor health outcomes.

To make real changes for the people of Crawley, we want to work with them to help to craft the local solutions that create healthier and connected communities. The Crawley Programme is about building partnerships, gathering insights, engaging with the local population, and taking advantage of all opportunities help Crawley residents to stay well for longer.

After completing Phase I of the programme, we are eager to capture the views of a wider range of community members and residents across Crawley via a brief survey. This brief survey focuses on gaining ideas and solutions from Crawley residents on how to improve local health services and make them more accessible. The link to the survey is here and takes less than 10 minutes to complete: <https://yoursaysussexhealthandcare.uk.engagementhq.com/embeds/projects/14711/survey-tools/19519>

If you would like to find out more about The Crawley Programme or get involved further please visit our homepage for more information: <https://www.sussex.ics.nhs.uk/our-vision/priorities-and-programmes/improving-health-services/crawley-programme/>

Annual Justice & Peace Assembly

'Hungry for Change'

28th January 2023, 9.30am-1.30pm
(no cost),

The St Philip Howard Centre, RH10 6RP.

Our annual Justice & Peace Assembly will explore how war contributes to world hunger. Speakers and further details will be announced very soon.

School Applications

'Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Primary School is now taking applications for children who will be beginning school in September 2023. To book a tour of our school, please email info@olqoh.com or call 01293 526057.

Please remember that applications must be made by 15/1/23.'

Resident Climate Action Hub launches to everyone

Please see this forum sponsored by West Sussex Council for ideas with which local people can engage: <https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk/>

And please see their Resident Climate Action Hub:

With the COP27 climate conference underway in Egypt and climate change on everyone's minds, today we've launched our [Resident Climate Action Hub](#) across West Sussex.

Many of you will have visited the hub already after we invited eNewsletter subscribers to try it out first, but now we're hoping even more people will get involved by adding suggestions to the [Ideas Bank](#) or joining the [Discussion Forum](#) to talk about issues such as electric vehicles, recycling, biodiversity, and food waste. With winter fast approaching and household costs and bills soaring, not surprisingly, the most current topic of conversation on the Hub is how [households can reduce their energy use](#).

[Visit the Resident Climate Action Hub](#)

Links for Our Common Home

[Help Reduce Food Waste](#) [Greenpeace 101 ideas to live more sustainably](#)

[Help Reduce Plastic Waste](#) [Laudato Si' Movement](#)

[WSCC Environment and Climate Change Newsletter](#)

[Nature on your doorstep](#) <https://www.sussexgreenliving.co.uk/>

<https://www.recyclenow.com/repeatthecycle> [Greenpeace Big Plastic Count](#)

[West Sussex Climate Action](#) [The Joyful Environmentalist](#) [Greener Living](#)

For other regular items, please see the website:

For readings, see Universalis: [Universalis](#) Parish Leadership Team: [Parish Leadership Team](#)

Our Facebook page: [Parish Facebook](#) Children's Junior Church liturgy: [Junior Church](#)

Diocesan Family Materials: [Family Materials](#) Parish Giving: [My Dona Parish Giving](#)

For D'Arcy's music, please visit our homepage under Organ volunteers:

<https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/>

Please use the QR code for donations to the Parish. Thank you



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 – Fridays from 7pm-9pm. **Begins again this Friday, 25th November.**

Confessions (Sacrament of Reconciliation) - Sundays 08.45am – 09.15am

(If anyone cannot come at this time, please make a special appointment with Fr Paul)

Rosary Group – Mondays in the Abbey Church after Vespers – 7:10pm until 8:00pm. Please get in touch with Rachel Davies: 07801 696354

Lectio Divina – Tuesday evenings at 8pm 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 **Final session is 30th November. Then this will begin again in the New Year.**

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

Bible Study Group – **This will begin again in the New Year.** (11.15am on Mondays in Compass House).

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

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: Charles and Ann McCarthy 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)

Safe Spaces: 0300 303 1056 **Web:** www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk/ **Email:** safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk

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.