



In Touch

Journeying Together:

Collaboration

Co-operation

Co-Responsibility

Seventh Sunday in OT (year A)
18th / 19th February 2023
No: 1328

Dear Parishioners

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

Our hearts and minds are still filled with thoughts and images of the horrors and suffering of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria, which leaves us with a sense of helplessness in the face of such a disaster. Do please pray for the victims – please see the prayer below – and there is still an opportunity to send money. We provide below the link to the CAFOD website again, and, if you prefer, there are still CAFOD emergency envelopes by the doors.

One practical initiative which we are sponsoring to raise funds for the appeal is a cake sale after mass this Sunday, and after mass next Saturday, 25th. Can you help with this? Either by baking or buying cakes? Please see the details below. (There will be a card reader available in the narthex.)

Meanwhile, next week we begin our observance of Lent next Wednesday, 22nd, with masses and the distribution of ashes. Lent is a time when those who will join the Church at the Easter Vigil begin a moment of special preparation. This year we have the joy of welcoming three new members to our parish community: Pamela Bagwell, who will be baptised during the Vigil, and Edward Dean and Mark Bearman, who will be received as full members of the Roman Catholic Church. Each of them is already well integrated into our community and serving us generously in different ways. Do please take every opportunity to make them welcome, and, most especially, please pray for each of them during the coming season of Lent, that they will be filled by the Holy Spirit and receive all the strength and guidance from God which they will need as they continue their journey of faith. Please also remember to pray that we, as a parish community, may be judged worthy by God to receive new members, and be able to offer them all the support which they may need.

On Sunday, at the end of mass, we celebrate for them the Rite of Sending for Election. The Rite of Election is conducted by the Bishop in the Cathedral next weekend, and, as the name implies, celebrates that they have been chosen by God to belong to Him, as has each one of us. This Sunday we send them forth with our prayers. I will address the congregation:

My brothers and sisters, we look forward to celebrating at Easter

the life-giving mysteries of Our Lord's suffering, death and resurrection.

As we journey together to the Easter sacraments, these catechumens and candidates will look to us for an example of Christian renewal.

Let us pray to the Lord for them and for ourselves, and together come to share the joys of Easter.

We then pray for them in these words:

*Father of love and power, it is your will to establish everything in Christ
and to draw us into his all-embracing love.
Guide these catechumens and these candidates in the days and weeks ahead:
strengthen them in their vocation, build them into the kingdom of your Son,
and seal them with the Spirit of your promise.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

Please remember to use this prayer during the days of Lent.

Thank you. I send my best wishes to you all. Fr Paul



Prayers

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

This Sunday we are asked to pray especially for the unemployed. The opportunity to work, in the Christian vision, is an essential part of our human dignity because we are made in the image of God.

Please pray for those without work.

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, you wanted all who are weary to come to You for support.

Lord, I am worn out by my inability to find work.

Guide my steps to a righteous path; give me the patience to find opportunities with a future.

Calm my worries and fears as my financial responsibilities mount.

Strengthen my resolve; embolden my heart to open doors; open my eyes to see life beyond rejections.

Help me believe in me!

Let me realize other ways to bring about Your kingdom on earth.

Let me grow as a person that I may be worthy for Your greater glory.

In the name of the Father.

Amen.

A Prayer for Syria and Turkey

Almighty God, in our distress and grief help us to remember that you love us.

We do not understand why this great disaster has happened, but help us to trust you.

Loving Lord, for those who have died, give them eternal rest.

For those who are bereaved, comfort and console them.

For those who are hurt, heal and strengthen them.

Lord God, enable us to help our suffering brothers and sisters in whatever way we can.

Heavenly Father, be with us now and always.

Amen.

Please continue to pray for the success of the Synod

Lord, you have gathered all your People in Synod.

We give you thanks for the joy experienced by those who decided to set out to

listen to God and to their brothers and sisters during this year,

with an attitude of welcome, humility, hospitality and siblinghood.

Help us to enter these pages as on "holy ground." Come Holy Spirit:

may you be the guide of our journey together.

Anniversaries

Please pray for the Souls of – Oliver Burridge, Harry Simmons, Kathleen Glew, Mary Cockerill, Miriam Vinycomb, Mrs Maynard and Cornelius Faber.

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

Daily Readings

Monday – Sir 1:1-10 Mark 9:14-29

Tuesday – Sir 2:1-11 Mark 9:30-37 (**St Peter Damian**)

Wednesday – Joel 2:12-18 2 Cor 5:20 – 6:2 Matt 6:1-6, 16-18 (**ASH WEDNESDAY**)

Thursday – Deut 30:15-20 Luke 9:22-25

Friday – Isa 58:1-9a Matt 9:14-15

Saturday – Isa 58:9b-14 Luke 5:27-32

Next Sunday's Readings: **First Sunday of Lent (Year A)**

1st Reading – Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7 2nd Reading – Romans 5:12-19

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

The temptation in the wilderness

Parish Events

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 22nd February – Ash Wednesday, The beginning of Lent. Masses at 5.30pm and 7.30pm. We will celebrate Stations of The Cross **each Friday from 3rd March** beginning at 7.15pm, after vespers.

Sunday 26th February - After mass at 11am, in the Unity Room: Please join another meeting to discuss points from the Synod. You are very welcome to come even if this will be your first time. We will be considering the question - How can the parish help us to deepen our faith?

Friday 3rd March – CAFOD Lenten Fast Day

Friday 10th March – Family Stations of the Cross at 7.15pm. (see below)

SOS – Calling all bakers!



We will be holding a Cake Sale for the CAFOD earthquake appeal. Any edible donations for the sale would be greatly appreciated and Fr Paul looks forward to “testing” the products.



Cake Sale – This coming Sunday (19th) after mass and Next Saturday (25th) after mass

If you would like to donate some goodies to sell, please contact

Carol Morice (Saturday mass) carolmorice251@btinternet.com or

Jenny Chapman (Sunday mass) jenny_chapman@sky.com

Family Stations of the Cross

Please consider joining the following Lenten family activity at Worth Abbey Parish: Youth, Teen and Family Stations of the Cross on **Friday 10th March** at 7.15pm in the church followed by Fish & Chips in Compass House at 8pm. Voluntary donations taken to aid CAFOD's Lenten collection and there is a charge for fish & chips. If interested please email parish@worth.org.uk. RSVP required if joining for fish & chips.

Synod Discussion

Sunday, 27th February at 11 am, Unity Room:

You might like to prepare for this by considering the following questions:

- Why did I come out to Worth Abbey Church for Mass this morning? You could have chosen many other options.
- Why do I continue to choose to come to this Parish rather than any other?
- What do I like and find helpful for myself and my family?
- We are trying to offer more support to your Catholic Faith life and those who have a general interest in the Catholic Faith. Are there any areas that you would like addressing e.g. Understanding the Mass, Sacraments, Prayer, the Gospel message and theology/Catholic Social Teaching of the Church?
- Are there things that would help you to feel more part of the Parish Community?
- Are there social activities that you would be interested in joining?

You might like to see a video containing reflections by P Francis:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5uRUQDiI-g

You might also be interested to see three paragraphs from the National Document.

33. Running through the reports is a clear vision of how the future can be different when all the People of God – lay, Religious, clergy, bishops – act together, in their distinct roles and functions, but all as missionary disciples. A call for greater participation and collaboration is a constant. “A Church where the parish is the genuine hub of the community ... vibrant, nurturing, alive with the faith and a desire to share joy with everyone ... of a reduction in clericalism so that the laity may make a larger contribution and not merely do what Father wants, and priests lead by encouraging their flock to be fully active and to take ownership and responsibility, rather than trying to maintain personal control.”

34. Although the phrase “journeying together” featured little in the synod conversations, the term “accompaniment” received many mentions. One diocese is convinced that “an ethos of accompaniment” was key to a Church that journeys together more deeply, overcoming the subject-object relationship embedded in clericalism. Pope Francis’s highlighting of the “art of accompaniment” points to “a vision for our communities to build trust and understanding of one another’s stories, struggles and walks of faith.”

35. Many reports link a perceived failure of the Church to evangelise with the lack of participation of lay people, especially women, in the life of the Church, suggesting that the Church's mission to the world cannot be separated from its interior life. A large number of responses call on the Church “to enable greater participation of the laity in the governance of the Church by providing places and situations where their voices can be heard. Lay people “should be part of decision-making in areas that affect them in their life of faith.” Parishes that do this are singled out for praise.

Self-guided retreat at Worth Abbey

Time Out individual self-guided retreats **6th–9th March** and **5th–18th May**

Cost: £90 per person, per night (min 2 nights).

Spend a few days at Worth Abbey enjoying the rhythm of the monastic prayer and liturgy, time in reflection and the peace of the Sussex countryside. There is no set programme other than an optional daily Lectio

Divina session, the usual monastic timetable of divine office and liturgy and the opportunity for a 1:1 meeting with a member of the monastic community.

To book; E: retreats@worth.org.uk or T: 01342 710318

Lenten Coffee

Hal and Rory Clarke will host Lenten coffee for CAFOD at their home Cinderhill House on Cinderhill, near West Hoathly (RH17 7BD) on Mondays in Lent 11am-12.30pm. Come, enjoy good company, good conversation and some very un-Lenten baked goods (a non-chocolate option will always be available for those forgoing that particular treat during Lent!), and leave behind a few pence for CAFOD.

This weekly event will begin on the **first Monday of Lent, 27th February**.

Non-Parish Events

Laudato Si

Root & Branch are delighted to welcome any of your friends or brethren as our guests at **Effecting Change from Within, and to our subsequent Chat Café with our Laudato Si Animators**. There is no charge. In 2018, Kathleen was recognized as one of the "The World's 50 Greatest Leaders" by Fortune – a title given to men and women in business, government, philanthropy and the arts across the globe for their work to transform the world and inspire others to do the same.

She is passionate about the implementation of Pope Francis's cry for the earth, Laudato Si, and about strategy and organisation transformation. Her teams drive significant and lasting improvements to economic, social and environmental systems. They create opportunity through jobs and sourcing; advance the sustainability of supply chains; foster diversity, equity and inclusion; and build inclusive and resilient communities.

We in Root & Branch work to create a just, safe and inclusive Roman Catholic Church, starting with women - and not ending there. Just as we respect women and other excluded people in our Church, so we strive to heal our beloved common home.

**LAUDATO SI - Care for our Common Home - Effecting Change from Within with KATHLEEN MCLAUGHLIN
Thursday 23rd February at 8pm**

**CHAT CAFE - Laudato Si Animators - Open Forum
Wednesday 1st March at 8pm**

TO REGISTER for one or both sessions on our Home page: www.rootandbranchsynod.org

LCSB Spring Talks

The Lay Community of St Benedict (LCSB) invite us to take part in their series of five Lent talks on line. Adam Simon, the coordinator of LCSB, writes:

In the coming weeks, starting this Thursday, we are going to listen to a series of talks on the theme of being Christians in today's world, each session lasting one hour.

We have invited distinguished speakers from a variety of backgrounds, to share from their own experience, insights and reflections on how to deepen our faith through prayer together with an active response to God's invitation to live out our faith in challenging circumstances.

In addition, at the invitation of the LCSB Caring for Creation group, we are delighted that Bishop Nicholas Holtam, author of "Sleepers Wake", the Archbishop of York's Advent 2022 book, has agreed to give a talk also.

Lastly, we invite you to join us, in collaboration with Root & Branch, in hearing Kathleen McLaughlin, speaking on Laudato Si.

Theme – Being Christians in today's world. **Thursday 16th February** at 7pm

Theme – Laudato Si, Care in our common home. **Thursday 23rd February at 8pm** (as above)

Theme – Caring for Creation. **Sunday 26th February** at 6pm

Theme – Talk with the Director of CAFOD. **Thursday 9th March** at 7pm

Theme – Talk with the Head of Theology at Pembroke college in Oxford. **Thursday 30th March** at 7pm

All online. All are welcome. Register at www.lcsb.uk/talks

Parenting for Faith

A new online course starting for those with babies and toddlers. The course is for 5 weeks from 23rd February – 23rd March at 8pm. Each session will last for approximately 45 minutes and on zoom (no need for babysitters)

The aim of the course is to help parents discover that they are perfectly positioned to show their children the reality of a life with God and to empower them to have their own vibrant two-way relationship with Him. Through the easily accessible and relaxed input you will receive help to introduce faith in simple steps. If you are expecting a baby, just had one, or are at the toddler group stage then sign up and bring some friends.

To register, visit <https://www.celebratetrust.org/>

Reflect this Lent with CAFOD

With Lent starting soon, find ways to reflect more deeply and nourish your prayer life during this special season
[lent-prayers](#)

Solidarity with farmers

Thank you for contacting the World Bank urging them to end policies that restrict small farmers' seeds rights. They replied! It's fantastic that we got their attention, but now we need them to act. Our partner from Bangladesh explains why seed sovereignty matters to us all.

[watch the video](#)

Crawley Interfaith Network

Poetry: The language of religion

CIFN writes – *"If you are able, you are welcome to join us for the next Crawley Inter Faith Network activity which takes place at:*

*The Longley Room, Crawley Community Action, The Orchard, 1-2 Gleneagles Court, Brighton Road, Crawley, West Sussex. RH10 6AD on **Tuesday 28th February** 19. 30 hrs.*

The format for this event will include the presentation of one of BBC Radio 4's Beyond Belief programmes, of the same title, in which representatives of different Faith Communities express profound ideas about faith, through poetry. There will be the opportunity to exchange thoughts and ideas which arise from the broadcast and if you wish, you are welcome to offer examples of poems and other literature that seeks to express deep and meaningful imagery that reflects strongly held belief."

CAFOD's Syria Programme

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Syria and Turkey with a second one following soon after.

Strong aftershocks continued over the course of the day. Over 20,000 people have died and many more have been injured. Our Emergency Response Team are currently assessing needs on the ground and we expect this number to rise significantly. Many need emergency food, water, shelter and winter kits such as blankets and heating materials.

CAFOD has been working in Syria for years providing support to millions of people who rely on humanitarian support due to the conflict. As we approach the 12 year anniversary of the conflict, we know that for our sisters and brothers in Syria this is yet another devastating crisis to face.

Please **join us in prayer** for the people of Syria and neighbouring countries who have been affected by this earthquake. And for our local experts who are on the ground working tirelessly to assess needs and respond.

Find out how you can help. [CAFOD Emergency](#)
(There are emergency appeal envelopes by the doors)

A Gap Year opportunity

Are you 18-30, or do you know someone who is? Do you want to develop a wide range of skills including leadership while learning about global justice and inspiring others to use their faith in action? CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, believes in equipping and inspiring young adults to contribute to a more just and peaceful world.

Step into the Gap is a fully funded year of volunteering, with food, accommodation, stipend and training within a UK placement plus a Rome and Assisi pilgrimage.

Visit the CAFOD website for more information: cafod.org.uk/gapyear

Day of Reflection for Ministers, led by Bishop Richard

**Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Eucharist
led by Bishop Richard, 11th March at 11am-4pm
at Christ the Prince of Peace, Weybridge.**

Fully Booked

The day will include theological talks, Eucharistic Adoration, and Mass.
To register your free place [please click here](#) or [contact Catherine Christmas](#), our Liturgy & Music Adviser.

Mental Health Training

The Diocese is pleased to be able to offer a range of courses to empower anyone involved in ministry to walk alongside those who struggle with mental health issues. We will be delivering MHFA England Accredited Awareness, Champion and First Aid Courses in a variety of locations as well as online to make them accessible for everyone. Suitable for Catechists, Welcomers, Ministers of Consolation, in fact anyone who speaks to anyone else in the community! The first course takes place on **Saturday 25th February** in Guildford. Email E: formationevents@abdiocese.org.uk for more information.

Diocesan Youth Work Training Course

Do you want to help young people to grow in faith? Why not sign up for our Youth Ministry Training Days? Taking Place on **25th February** and **25th March**, you will learn how to effectively engage with teenagers to help them know the love of God. For Confirmation Catechists, Youth Group Leaders or anyone interested in setting up a youth group. Contact E: lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk for more information.

Baptism Catechists Day

Saturday 18th March, 9.30am-1.30pm at
The St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley.

A morning for those interested in developing the Church in the home. Attendees will explore the potential that preparation for the sacrament of baptism offers. Catechists, sponsors, and parents are welcome. [Click here](#) to book your free place.

Sussex Chorus - Dvorák Stabat Mater

The Stabat Mater is a 13th century Christian hymn to Mary, portraying her suffering as Christ's mother during his crucifixion

Saturday 25th March at 7.30 pm at St Andrews Church, Burgess Hill, RH15 0LG

Tickets £15 and £6 (under 16s and students)
available from

Sussex Chorus – 01444 412579 Burgess Hill Help Point Eventbrite.co.uk

Sussex Chorus is always pleased to welcome new members to our friendly Choir with rehearsals every Monday (7:15 to 9:15 pm), term time at St Paul's Catholic College, Burgess Hill, RH15 8GA

Men's Way of the Cross

Friday 31st March starting from Christ The King church in Eastbourne and walking through the night over the cliffs to Birling Gap.

Join for a prayer over the South Downs Beachy Head trail to rediscover yourself and reflect on your God given purpose on this earth.

To find out more please go to – <https://menswayofthecross.co.uk/>

Liturgy of the Word with Children

Training for Liturgy Leaders, **Saturday 13th May** at 9.30am-1pm at
The St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley.

Why do we have a Liturgy of the Word for Children? How can we deliver it at an appropriate level, what resources are there and how can we use this to help families develop their faith at home?

[Click here](#) to find out more and register your free place.

Grandparents Annual Pilgrimage Day

For Grandparents and all those who fulfil this role in so many different ways.

Wednesday 14th June from 11am - 3pm.

This is always a joyous day of celebration with Bishop Richard and friends from across the Diocese. Booking can be done by emailing – formation@abdiocese.org.uk

Mass for Engaged Couples

Friday 16th June at 7pm at Arundel Cathedral

Join Bishop Richard for a special Mass celebrating the momentous journey of discernment that is engagement towards the lifelong commitment made by couples preparing for marriage.

Mass will be followed by refreshments in the Cathedral Centre.

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](#)

The Laudato Si Movement invite us to an international zoom meeting:

We are very happy to be celebrating the Movement's 1st Global Encounter this Saturday. It will be held on February 18th at 12pm Los Angeles / 3pm NYC / **8pm London** / 9pm Rome / 11pm Nairobi, and you will be able to follow it on [Zoom](#).

At this gathering, which will be repeated every 4 months and is organized by our **Global Membership Council**, you will be able to hear inspiring stories from our sisters and brothers in Colombia, Argentina, Vietnam, the United States, Hungary and Tanzania.

In addition, Analisa Ramsahai from our Trinidad and Tobago chapter, the new Secretary of the movement's **Board of Directors**, will share with us information about the great [global encounter in Assisi on Pentecost 2025](#) (the great year of the "Double Anniversary of Laudato Si'" - 10 years of the encyclical and 800 years of the Canticle of the Creatures) and other exciting news.

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



Confessions (Sacrament of Reconciliation) – In the Church, 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 Next Dates, 29th March and 26th April.

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

Bible Study Group – 11.15am on Mondays in Compass House. Please contact Jenny Chapman.

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 Email – sg1.worth@abdiocese.org.uk 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.