



In Touch

Journeying Together:

Collaboration

Co-operation

Co-Responsibility

First Sunday of Lent (year A)

25th / 26th February 2023

No: 1329

Dear Parishioners

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

I hope that you had a good beginning to your celebration of Lent. Although we can sometimes feel that Lent is a rather dreary time when we give up the things which we enjoy, its name suggests something very different. The word *Lent* is connected with *lengthen* – i.e. the lengthening of the days, spring time and growth. I am sure that this is how God wishes us to welcome it – a moment when we can open our hearts to the warmth of his love and accept the challenge of growth and a deeper spiritual maturity. In the parish this year we offer various activities to help us make progress. I especially invite you to take advantage of the house groups which are being formed. There is still time get in touch if you would like to join one. Small groups in which we can share our faith and “walk together” on our Christian journey are one of the best ways to accept one another’s support and encouragement, and a significant opening for God to speak to us. We also offer Stations of the Cross, a traditional form of prayer in Lent, and you will also see below several opportunities to stimulate your personal spirituality. You might also join the Lectio Divina group on line. I would especially draw your attention to our Synod discussion group this Sunday after mass, when we are invited to think about how can the parish help us to deepen our faith. (Please see below.)

The origin of Lent is a time of special preparation of those who will be baptised at Easter, in which the whole Church takes part with the catechumens, supporting them with our prayers. Please pray for Pamela, Edward and Mark in these final weeks of their preparation. We are also invited to reflect on our own vocation as baptised Christians, on the new life which God has given us and continues to give. At mass on Sunday we have the joy of welcoming two new parishioners into our family through the sacrament of baptism: Elsie Legras and Lowenna Quin. Do please make them welcome, with their parents, Elodie and Chris, and Esme and Kyle, together with their guests who will attend. We will all have the opportunity to renew our baptismal commitment during the service.

Finally, our CAFOD representative, Kir Bennett Horner, writes to us about Lenten activities which they have organised.

CAFOD Lenten family fast day

In addition to giving up something this year, why not also consider DOING something.

Perhaps you could fundraise for an important cause? CAFOD provides scores of suggestions on things that you can do to help fundraise on their behalf. Examples include everything from selling your old unwanted jewellery on eBay to holding an Xbox gaming marathon for your children! Please see this link for ideas.

<https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/A-Z-of-fundraising-ideas>

Two CAFOD fundraisers that we have organized on behalf of Worth Parish this Lent are:

- Monday morning coffee sessions for CAFOD at Hal and Rory Clarke's home, Cinderhill House (RH17 7BD), 11am-12.30pm **every Monday in Lent beginning 27th February**.
- Youth, Teen and Family Stations of the Cross at 7.15pm **10th March** in the church to be followed by a fish & chips supper at Compass House at 8pm. The Stations of the Cross-meditation material has been provided by CAFOD. Fish & chips will cost £10 and 20% of this fee will be donated to CAFOD. The entire family is welcome to join their "youth" or "teen" at this event!

Additionally, CAFOD's Family Fast Day will be held **this Friday 3rd March**. The focus of prayer and funds on this Lenten Fast Day is towards impoverished areas suffering the effects of climate change. CAFOD is providing education and tools that allow these areas to adapt, defend themselves from the by-products of climate change, and most importantly still produce enough food.

Your prayers and participation are greatly appreciated. Please consider using your Lenten journey this year to get more involved in these good acts and beyond. (You will be given a CAFOD envelope at masses this weekend.)

Thank you on behalf of CAFOD

Kir Bennett Horner, Worth Parish CAFOD Volunteer Rep

Our sincere thanks to Kir for her work on our behalf.

I send you all my best wishes for a good and holy Lent. Fr Paul



Prayers

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

Lenten Prayer

*Plant in us, Lord, seeds of solidarity, so that, rejoicing in your gifts,
we may cherish your presence in each other and all creation.*

Root us, Lord, in compassion and justice.

Pour your Spirit down like gentle rain, softening our hearts, washing away division and selfishness.

Cultivate in us, Lord, attentiveness to your call.

Give us hope to dream of a better world and strength to play our part to make it a reality.

*Grow in us, Lord, your ways of peace and courage, so that in this time of Lent,
we may bear witness to your love, revealed to us in Jesus.*

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 – Stephen Loftus, Josephine Burr ridge, Audrey Lane, Kitty Adams,
Karen Rozum, Roy Hemming, Anthony Francis Rowland, Albert Mason, Peter Reeve, Rose Fleetwood,
Bert Rayson, Lina Talbot, Mary Renouf, Maurice Geal and Aaron Martin.

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

Daily Readings

Monday – Lev 19:1-2, 11-18 Matt 25:31-46

Tuesday – Isa 55:10-11 Matt 6:7-15

Wednesday – Phil 3:8-14 Matt 5:13-16 **(St David)**

Thursday – Esth C:12, 14-16, 23-25 Matt 7:7-12

Friday – Ezek 18:21-28 Matt 5:20-26

Saturday – Deut 26:16-19 Matt 5:43-48

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

1st Reading – Genesis 12:1-4 2nd Reading – 2 Timothy 1:8-10

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

His face shone like the sun

Parish Events

Dates for your Diary

This 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? (see below)

Friday 3rd March – CAFOD Lenten Fast Day

Friday 3rd March – **Stations of the Cross** will be celebrated each Friday at 7.15pm, starting on 3rd March. (after vespers).

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

Cake Sale



We will be holding another 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 Saturday (25th) after mass

If you would like to donate some goodies to sell, please contact Jenny Chapman jenny_chapman@sky.com

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**.

Easter Sunday at Worth

The Pilgrims invite you to the blessing and unveiling of the Icon Cross in the Quiet Garden after Mass on Easter Sunday.

There will also be festive refreshments and chocolate after Mass!

Families are especially welcome and Rachel and her team will be putting on a special Junior Church for children. More details to follow.

Cake Sale

Thank you so much for your very generous donations and purchases at our cake sale.

The total amount collected was **£334.81**

Along with the previous week's collection for the earthquake fund, you donated a total of **£420.44**. As you can see above, more lovely cakes on sale this coming Saturday

PEG Theatre Trip 2023

'The Sound of Music' leaves Austria for Chichester! The Parish Events Group is considering re-instating the annual summer theatre trip to Chichester in July, after a 3-year absence due to Covid.

During that time, costs have risen significantly but if there is sufficient interest, I will make the arrangements for another great afternoon of top-notch entertainment followed by fine food and fizz!

I am hoping to keep the PEG ticket price within £45 which will include coffee and croissants on departure, luxury coach to/from the theatre, mid-range tickets for the performance and, as always with PEG, food and fizz on the way home! If the weather behaves, we can 'picnic in the park', otherwise we can have a sing song in the coach on the way home while tucking in to ***Some of My Favourite Things!***"

From the Laudato Si Movement

Lent is a special time for reflection and action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Each year, God reminds us of his infinite love and compassion for us and all of creation. This Lent, we invite you to take another step in your journey of ecological conversion. Through a [Lent Calendar](#), we will invite you to reflect and act on issues related to our social and ecological sins each week. As we reflect on the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us "become painfully aware" (LS 19) of all that must die within us in order to truly commit ourselves to a more just and sustainable world.

House groups

4 groups have now been confirmed

- One group will meet in Compass House at Worth beginning this **Wednesday 1st March** at 2pm. Please contact the parish office via email – parish@worth.org.uk
- One group will meet in St Benedict's, Parish Office, beginning on **Thursday 9th March** at 7.15pm. Please contact Marian or Christopher Killick - email – marian.imhasly@gmail.com or cdk.hariton69@gmail.com
- There will also be a group in Cuckfield. Please contact Christina Fitzsimons via email – cfitzs3287@aol.com
- And another group in Crawley Down. Please contact Carol Morice via email – carolmorice251@btinternet.com

Everyone is welcome to join any of the groups.

Fairtrade Fortnight

With Fairtrade Fortnight about to start, 27th February – 12th March, why not stock up on Fairtrade products including tea, coffee, sugar and chocolate.

Caroline Howells writes: "*Monday is the start of Fairtrade fortnight.*

Chose Fairtrade now and help save our favourite foods. Did you know cocoa, bananas and coffee could soon be much more difficult to find on our shelves? Climate change is making crops like these harder and harder to grow. Combined with deeply unfair trade, communities growing these crops are being pushed to the brink. More of us choosing Fairtrade means extra income, power and support for those communities, as they work to build sustainable and prosperous futures.

Please remember when shopping that 'Fairtrade' is the gold standard of ethical trading and the world's most trusted and best-known food certification scheme. 'Fairtrade' certifies products and ingredients. They independently check that their standards have been met by the farmers, workers and companies that are part of product supply chains. In order to reassure consumers that this has happened, they license the use of the 'Fairtrade' mark on products and packaging to signal this.

As many of you know, our stall carries a large selection of Divine chocolate. Divine is the only chocolate company in the world which is 100% 'Fairtrade' and owned by cocoa farmers. While 'Fairtrade' ensures farmers receive a better deal for their cocoa and additional income to invest in their community, company ownership gives farmers a share of Divine's profits and a stronger voice in the cocoa industry.

Chose 'Fairtrade' this Fairtrade Fortnight and beyond; choose to fight for climate justice, for farmers on the front line of climate change, for our planet and for future generations.

We look forward to seeing you".

Our Sincere thanks to Caroline for her dedicated work to this cause.

CAFOD Earthquake update

Dear all, thank you for praying and donating to help families affected by the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria. As the search and rescue work comes to an end, the local experts you support are already actively helping people in the worst-affected areas. Your donations are being used to help provide shelter, food, and water to those in need, as well as blankets and heating materials to help people cope with the freezing temperatures. See how your donations are helping families in Turkey and Syria.

[Turkey/Syria News](#)

Synod Discussion

Sunday, 26th 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=f5uRUQDiJ-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.

Worth Abbey Parish - How can the Parish Community help to deepen our Faith?

Following on from above, Synod will carry on throughout 2023/2024.

There will be leaflets in the Narthex with the above questions for you to fill in and return.

Please kindly send your responses to the questions to the Parish Office Email: parish@worth.org.uk or drop them into the box provided, in the Narthex after Mass (please respond by no later than **19th March**)

Thank you

Non-Parish Events

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/>

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 – 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

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](#)

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.

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.”

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.

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 voluntaries:

<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

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.