



# In Touch

Journeying Together:

Collaboration

Co-operation

Co-Responsibility

Second Sunday of Lent (year A)

4<sup>th</sup> / 5<sup>th</sup> March 2023

No: 1330

Dear Parishioners

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

I would like to share with you this week the first part of a reflection by Pope Francis about Lent and our engagement with the Synod. The title is ***Lenten Penance and the Synodal Journey***. Here Pope Francis speaks of the Transfiguration, the content of this Sunday's gospel, and relates the story to the Synod. In particular, he reminds us that faith invites us on a journey which we share together. No one walks alone, but we need one another's support and encouragement. For this reason, we have started new house groups, which provide an excellent context in which to share our faith journeys. Do please see the various times and places of groups which you can join. Please also see Sr Jo's request for responses to the question, *How can the Parish Community help to deepen our faith?* This forms part of our parish Synod meetings which we continue to hold, and will serve to improve our pastoral engagement. Please watch out for the next. You might also like to join the lectio group on line.

Meanwhile, we offer this reflection by Pope Francis.

*Dear brothers and sisters!*

*The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke all recount the episode of the Transfiguration of Jesus. There we see the Lord's response to the failure of his disciples to understand him. Shortly before, there had been a real clash between the Master and Simon Peter, who, after professing his faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, rejected his prediction of the passion and the cross. Jesus had firmly rebuked him: "Get behind me, Satan! You are a scandal to me, because you do not think according to God, but according to men!" (Mt 16:23). Following this, "six days later, Jesus took with him Peter, James and John his brother and led them away to a high mountain" (Mt 17:1).*

*The Gospel of the Transfiguration is proclaimed every year on the Second Sunday of Lent. During this liturgical season, the Lord takes us with him to a place apart. While our ordinary commitments compel us to remain in our usual places and our often repetitive and sometimes boring routines, during Lent we are invited to ascend "a high mountain" in the company of Jesus and to live a particular experience of spiritual discipline – asceticism – as God's holy people.*

*Lenten penance is a commitment, sustained by grace, to overcoming our lack of faith and our resistance to following Jesus on the way of the cross. This is precisely what Peter and the other disciples needed to do. To deepen our knowledge of the Master, to fully understand and embrace the mystery of his salvation, accomplished in total self-giving inspired by love, we must allow ourselves to be taken aside by him and to detach ourselves from mediocrity and vanity. We need to set out on the journey, an uphill path that, like a mountain trek, requires effort, sacrifice and concentration. These requisites are also important for the synodal journey to which, as a Church, we are committed to making. We can benefit greatly from reflecting on the relationship between Lenten penance and the synodal experience.*

*In his “retreat” on Mount Tabor, Jesus takes with him three disciples, chosen to be witnesses of a unique event. He wants that experience of grace to be shared, not solitary, just as our whole life of faith is an experience that is shared. For it is in togetherness that we follow Jesus. Together too, as a pilgrim Church in time, we experience the liturgical year and Lent within it, walking alongside those whom the Lord has placed among us as fellow travellers. Like the ascent of Jesus and the disciples to Mount Tabor, we can say that our Lenten journey is “synodal”, since we make it together along the same path, as disciples of the one Master. For we know that Jesus is himself the Way, and therefore, both in the liturgical journey and in the journey of the Synod, the Church does nothing other than enter ever more deeply and fully into the mystery of Christ the Saviour. He closes, May the Holy Spirit inspire and sustain us this Lent in our ascent with Jesus, so that we may experience his divine splendour and thus, confirmed in faith, persevere in our journey together with him, glory of his people and light of the nations.*

I add my prayers to his. Do please continue to hold the RCIA group in your prayers – Pam, Ed and Mark.

With all best wishes. Fr Paul

## Prayers

Please pray for Charles Peile who died recently. Please pray for his widow, Lana, and his family.  
The funeral will be held here, at Worth, on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 11.30am



Please say some special prayers for Mervyn Thomas, RIP, and for his family.  
Mervyn has left the Parish a generous donation.

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 Peace and Justice in Ukraine**

*God of peace and justice, who change the hardened heart and break the power of violence,  
we entrust the people of Ukraine to you.*

*Protect them in this time of peril; let them know, not death, but life, not slavery, but freedom*

*You are Father of all; we are brothers and sisters*

*Give us the strength to live that truth in love, choosing peace, not war*

*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** – David Rutherford, Alex Leaney, Barry Penn, Jim Ryan, Simon Newnham, Pat O'Grady, John Walford, Shelagh Wall, Merryel Barnwell, Marty Vaughan, Mother Mary Garson, Tony Corio, Roger Brown, Stan Geal, Daniel Harrison, Rev Canon Richard Incledon, Terry Smith, John Surtees and Nancy Wilson Stuart.

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

## **Daily Readings**

Monday – Dan 9:4b-10 Luke 6:36-38

Tuesday – Isa 1:10, 16-20 Matt 23:1-12

Wednesday – Jer 18:18-20 Matt 20:17-28

Thursday – Jer 17:5-10 Luke 16:19-31

Friday – Gen 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a Matt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday – Mic 7:14-15, 18-20 Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Next Sunday's Readings: **Third Sunday of Lent (Year A)**  
1st Reading – Exodus 17:3-7      2nd Reading – Romans 5:1-2, 5-8  
**Gospel:** John 4:5-42  
**A spring of water welling up to eternal life**

### *Parish Events*

#### **Dates for your Diary**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March** – CAFOD Lenten Fast Day.

*(Please return any envelopes. If possible, could we please ask that for those that can, filling in address details would allow CAFOD to claim back Gift Aid to increase any donations. If you have not had time for this, envelopes can be handed back over the coming weeks. Or, you can donate online and via the Dona machine at the East Door. Thank you.)*

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

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March** – Family Stations of the Cross at 7.15pm. (see below)

**Every Monday throughout Lent** – Coffee for CAFOD. Lenten coffee continues from 11am-12.30pm at Cinderhill House, on Cinderhill, near West Hoathly, RH17 7BD.

**Palm Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** – Fr David will give a talk in the Unity Room after mass about Easter Services.

#### **House groups**

- Compass House at Worth on **Wednesdays at 2pm.**  
Please contact the parish office via email – [parish@worth.org.uk](mailto:parish@worth.org.uk)
- St Benedict's, Parish Office, beginning on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March** at 7.15pm. Please contact Marian or Christopher Killick - email – [marian.imhasly@gmail.com](mailto:marian.imhasly@gmail.com) or [cdk.hariton69@gmail.com](mailto:cdk.hariton69@gmail.com)
- A group in Cuckfield. Please contact Christina Fitzsimons via email – [cfitzs3287@aol.com](mailto:cfitzs3287@aol.com)
- A group in Crawley Down. Please contact Carol Morice via email – [carolmorice251@btinternet.com](mailto:carolmorice251@btinternet.com)
- An informal group in Balcombe on Friday evenings beginning on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March** from 7.30pm. A chance to chat informally about everyday life and how we approach that as Christians over a glass of wine and cheese and biscuits. Please contact Charlie Tibble on 07845 956243.

Everyone is welcome to join any of the groups.

There is a Second Collection this weekend for CAFOD Lenten Fast Day

#### **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.

### **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!***"

Please email Sara Barclay-Hudson if you are interested in tickets on [sbh0369@yahoo.com](mailto:sbh0369@yahoo.com)

### **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.

### **Fairtrade Fortnight**

With Fairtrade Fortnight about to start, 27<sup>th</sup> February – 12<sup>th</sup> 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](#)

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

Synod will carry on throughout 2023/2024.

There will be leaflets in the Narthex with 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](mailto:parish@worth.org.uk)  
or drop them into the box provided, in the Narthex after Mass (please respond by no later than **19<sup>th</sup> March**)  
Thank you

### **Worth Horticultural Society**

Spring Show and table-top sale. **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March** at The Ark, Turners Hill, 2-4.30 pm. Free Admission.

### *Non-Parish Events*

#### **LCSB Spring Talks**

The Lay Community of St Benedict (LCSB) invite us to take part in their series of Lent talks on line.

Adam Simon, the coordinator of LCSB, writes:

In the coming weeks, 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.

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

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

All online. All are welcome. Register at [www.lcsb.uk/talks](http://www.lcsb.uk/talks)

#### **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](mailto:jenny_chapman@sky.com)

**Christian Meditation Group** – 7.00pm in the Unity Room, please contact Richard by email  
[rbrownd1@gmail.com](mailto:rbrownd1@gmail.com) **Next Dates, 29<sup>th</sup> March and 26<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:parish@worth.org.uk) **Parish Office Tel:** 01342 710313 **Parish Website:** [www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:parish@worth.org.uk)  
(by Wednesday 10am)

**Safe Spaces:** 0300 303 1056 **Web:** [www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk/](http://www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk/) **Email:** [safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk](mailto: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.**