



In Touch

Journeying Together:

Collaboration

Co-operation

Co-Responsibility

Twenty Sixth Sunday in OT (year A)
7th / 8th October 2023
No. 1354

Dear Parishioners

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

This week is designated **Prisons Week** by our Bishops, and we are asked to pray for all prisoners and their families, and for the work of PACT, (Prison Advice and Care Trust). This is a Catholic organisation which exists to support prisoners and their families. Cardinal Vincent Nicols is the President, and Bishop Richard is the lead bishop for prisons. Their inspiration comes from Jesus' words to the thief on the cross with him: *This day you will be with me in Paradise. And, I was in prison and you visited me.*

Cardinal Vincent writes: *The Gospel message on Prisoners' Sunday reminds us that Jesus is the cornerstone of our lives and of our communities. Alongside our concern for the wellbeing of those in prison, we remember that families in our parishes and neighbourhoods may be enduring anxious worry, isolation and perhaps hardship while a loved one is incarcerated.* Bishop Richard reminds us that the number of people in prison in England and Wales is increasing. He writes: *In our communities there are more children and families who have a loved one in prison and who may be struggling with stigma, isolation and perhaps hardship as a result.* PACT inform us that at the moment in England and Wales there are 87,793 prisoners, and there are 100,084 children who have a parent in prison.

A volunteer with PACT, Sr Hilda Baxter, writes: *Recently I became a volunteer with Pact. Imprisonment can cause great stress and anxiety to those in prison and to their families. Pact facilitates Family Days when prisoners and their families can enjoy quality time together. I help on those Family Days. The prison building can be daunting and overpowering. The procedure to get inside, to the Visits Hall, can be overwhelming. Fortunately for all visitors Pact renders a wonderful service. Their Family & Visitors' Centre is outside the prison wall and all visitors can go there first to receive a warm welcome from Pact staff and volunteers and help in sorting out identification papers and other regulations. I am always inspired by the compassionate and courteous approach of Pact.* Bishop Richard writes, *The care and practical support of Pact help people in prison stay connected with their families. We know that retaining strong family bonds is a significant factor in preventing re-offending.*

Please use the prayer below, and please support the collection. (There are some envelopes by the doors which enable you to offer Gift Aid.)

Please see their website: <https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/prisoners-sunday>

I send my very best wishes. Fr Paul

Prayers

Please pray for Anne Albert, RIP, who died suddenly on Tuesday. Please pray for her family.

Our congratulations to Stella and Joe Russell on the birth of their son, Dominic.
Please pray for him and for his family

Please pray for Marie Hesketh, who is seriously ill in hospital.

Please continue to pray for our parishioners Mary Baker, Jill Carter, Laura Rawlinson
Peter and Antee Greene, Fred Green and Hugh Hurdman.

A Prayer for Prisoners' Week

Lord, you offer freedom to all people. We pray for those in prison.

Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist.

Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care.

Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime.

*Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ, in his strength
and in his Spirit, now and every day.*

Amen

Praying with creation

"Our goal is to become painfully aware, to dare to turn what is happening to the world into
our own personal suffering and thus to discover what each of us can do about it." (LS 19)

Come, O Holy Breath of God, poured out for us. Caring God, the earth and we cry out to you

Along with the earth, we ask You to free us from greed, selfishness and indifference

Along with the air, the water, the land and the wind, we ask You to help us get rid of all the pollution

*Along with the forest, birds and animals, give us the strength not to destroy ourselves and the
delicate webs that connect our ecosystems and all life together*

*Along with those on the edges of society, the unheard, the powerless, the struggling and the
suffering, we ask You the strength to be just, merciful and compassionate*

*Along with those in power and positions of authority, we ask for wisdom to be good stewards
of our common home*

*And finally, along with the whole of creation and peoples, we give You thanks for all the efforts to
restore our sister mother earth*

Amen.

(Bishop Allwyn D'Silva, Auxiliary Bishop of Bombay. Mumbai, India)

A prayer for Pope Francis

Please pray for Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, in thanksgiving for all he has done for our Church, and that
he may have the strength and courage to complete the task which God has given him.

Almighty God, look kindly on your servant Pope Francis.

You invited him to shepherd your flock. Guide and protect him in his daily work.

Inspire him in your ways to embrace Church unity.

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

Anniversaries

Please pray for the Souls of – Glen Robertson, Mary Mason, Jack Harwood-Davis,
Archbishop Cyril Cowderoy, Arthur Maynard and Patricia (Pat) MacDonald.

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

Daily Readings

Monday – Jonah 1:1-2:2, 11 Luke 10:25-37

Tuesday – Jonah 3:1-10 Luke 10:38-42

Wednesday – Jonah 4:1-11 Luke 11:1-4

Thursday – Mal 3:13-20b Luke 11:5-13

Friday – Joel 1:13-15, 2:1-2 Luke 11:15-26

Saturday – Joel 4:12-21 Luke 11:27-28

Next Sunday's Readings: **Twenty Eighth Sunday in OT (Year A)**

1st Reading – Isaiah 25:6-10 2nd Reading – Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

Invite everyone you can to the wedding

Parish Events

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day

This year's CAFOD Harvest Family Fast Day will be held on Friday 6th October.

CAFOD asks that we turn our prayers this Fast Day towards the efforts of those who bring aid to people isolated by environmental tragedy. This is something that with global warming seems to be ever increasing.

In the wake of the devastating flooding in Pakistan, CAFOD invested in partners there who were able to bring mobile medical clinics to those in need in remote and difficult to reach locations.

Please continue to be generous with your contributions, both financial and in prayer, this Harvest Family Fast Day.

£10 can fund four emergency doctors appointments.

£40 can provide food and medical care to vulnerable mothers and their new born babies.

£125 can send a mobile clinic to communities that do not have a functioning hospital nearby.

CAFOD needs your help to achieve their pledge that "no one is beyond reach."

You may want to consider giving up a meal or luxury on Friday 6th October and donating the funds saved to CAFOD. This can be done online at CAFOD.org.uk or via the envelopes you will find in the Narthex.

More text and information on CAFOD's 2023 Harvest Fast Day initiatives can be found via these short film links:

Prayer film (1min52)

Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/856339016?share=copy>

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/m-6oyBpFgq4>

Long film of the Family Fast Day story (3min30)

Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/857106480?share=copy>

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/NJr5jOvp1hU>

Short film of the Family Fast Day story (Meera's journey: From Crisis to Hope) (1min28)

Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/857102322/0e80415443?share=copy>

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/8rbKLDKBn0I>

Expert film, 10 minutes in length (Philippe Mouglin)

Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/857468264/b17d63d6b2?share=copy>

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/n2x81waGwyY>

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Yours, Kir Bennett Horner, Worth Parish CAFOD Volunteer Rep

Dates for your Diary

This Saturday, 7th October - Refreshments after 5 pm mass, and welcome to new parishioners in the Unity Room

This Sunday, 8th October - Brunch in Compass House and welcome to new parishioners, from 11am

Thursday 12th October - Mass will be with the school at 4.30pm. All are welcome.

House Group Gathering

All welcome! We have a very informal house group gathering in Balcombe on the last Friday of each month. All Worth parishioners are very welcome to come, socialise, relax, have a drink and some snacks and get to know your community better.

Upcoming dates are: **27th October**, 24th November and 29th December.

We gather from 7.30pm.

Please let Charlie Tibble know on 07845956243 if you intend to come the week before and she will send you directions

This Weekend there is a **Second Collection** for PACT (Prisons Sunday)

(Pact is a pioneering national charity that supports prisoners, people with convictions, and their children and families)

Brunch



Many of you have attended and enjoyed these, as have I!

They take place on the second Sunday of each month, from about 11am, till about 12.30, in Compass House.

They were started by Abby Chapman, who has most generously prepared and served these for over a year.

Abby would like some help with this, and wonders if anyone would offer to take a turn occasionally.

Training will be given on the job! Do please get in touch if you can help. Email - abby@abbychapman.com

Abby will be delighted to hear from you, as will I. Thank you for your generous response.



Our Lady of Walsingham

Worth Abbey Parish Community
visit to the Catholic National Shrine
and Basilica of
Our Lady - Walsingham



Slipper Chapel Shrine

England, dowry of Mary, is blessed by the Shrine being sited here in the UK diocese of East Anglia. Known and much loved, it's on a par with Knock, Lourdes and Fatima, to name a few.

Our community is considering a visit, either day trip or overnight, to the Shrine and putting together a small core project group to plan, organise and lead this visit. If you would like to help or have a skill/expertise to bring to the group, please contact me as per my details below.

Once I have a few names, I will set up a meeting to share ideas & arrangements. This meeting will be informal and either on-line (Zoom) or in person. I look forward to hearing from everyone interested and, in the meantime, ask the whole of Worth Abbey Parish Community to seek the intercession of Our Lady, Help of Christians, for the visit to be realised. Ave Maria!

Penny - 07759 023 743 - Penny28HB@aol.com

Non-Parish Events

Monks in the City

Pray with us – From 1st October

Join the monks for prayers in **St John the Baptist's Church, 2 Bristol Road, Kemptown, BN2 1AP**

Lauds (Morning Prayer): Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat – 9am

Vespers (Evening Prayer): Mon, Tue, Wed – 6pm

Midday Stillness – From 6th October

Every Friday, 12noon to 1pm, an hour of music, prayer and reflection in St John the Baptist's Church.

Saturday Sanctuary

28th Oct, 25th Nov: 10.15am – 12.15pm

Join for a morning of fellowship, input, prayer and silence. Starts in the Fitzherbert Community Hub.

Monk Talks

A series of talks from the monks of Worth Abbey introducing monastic prayer and contemplation for today.

7.30pm – 9pm in the Fitzherbert Community Hub.

17th October – Meditation and Contemplation (Fr David OSB)

14th November – The joy of praying together (Br Anthony OSB)

12th December – Discipleship and humility – Becoming real (Abbot Stephen OSB)

Gatwick Detainee Welfare Group (GDWG)

The GDWG clothing store is running out of warmer clothing for their residents. If you can help with any of the below items, these can be left at the Parish Office

Jumpers - size M-L Jackets - size M-L Trainer's - size 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

Trousers - size 32-34-36 T-shirts - size M-L Truck suits - all sizes.

Thank you.

Day Retreat for Discerning the Priesthood

Saturday 14th October at St Pius X Church in Guildford

Have you considered that Christ may be calling you to serve Him as His priest? Join the diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Tristan Cranfield, for a day of reflection, prayer, and to find out more about this beautiful and essential vocation.

Contact E: vocations@abdiocese.org.uk to register your place and find out more.

NBCW (National Board of Catholic Women)

As the Synod first session gets under way there is a lot to get involved with.

The Practicalities of Synodality: a webinar series running now on Mondays, with speakers including Dr Jessie Rogers, Prof Anna Rowlands and Sr Ngozie Frances.

<https://www.schoolforsynodality.org.uk/news/practicingsynodality-webinar-series>

Recordings will be available afterwards.

WUCWO-WWO 'Walking with the Synod' on zoom, **October 12th, 19th, & 26th.**

Anti-Slavery Day – Slavery on Your Doorstep

Wednesday 18th October

from 6.30pm - 8pm

at the Fitzherbert Community Hub,
2 Bristol Road, Kemptown,
Brighton BN2 1AP

Come and find out how modern slavery is
very much here in our local area,
and how we can respond

For we know that things can change

Responding to the Ecological Crisis.

The Franciscan Centre, Ladywell, **20th – 22nd October, led
by Jane Mellett**, suggested offering: £180 (residential), £90
(non-residential).

A weekend retreat exploring what role faith communities
have to play in addressing the ecological crisis - with
a specific focus on ecological spirituality. Jane holds a
Masters in Theology from Maynooth University and works
as the Laudato Si' Officer in Trócaire. [Book here.](#)

Creating a safer environment - sessions

Please see below upcoming dates for our 'Creating a Safer Environment' training sessions (all on Zoom).

This training is aimed at PSR's, Group Leaders, and Coordinators of activities in parishes, who also need to know the elements of our 'Creating a Safer Environment' policy. We would be grateful if you could spread the word to relevant individuals within your parishes and ask them to email Safeguarding@abdiocese.org.uk to register.

- 📅 Wednesday 11th October 10-11.30am
- 📅 Thursday 26th October 2-3.30pm
- 📅 Tuesday 7th November 7-8.30pm

Crawley Open House Sleep Out

Every year Open House hold a sponsored sleep out and this year it takes place on the night of **Thursday 26th October**, either in Crawley's Queen's Square or at home.

The main event will see a large group spending the night in the Square, but the option is there for people to do it in their homes or place of work if that suits them better.

Crawley Open House say *"We are well aware that these sleep outs offer only a tiny glimpse of the disorientation, tiredness and discomfort that too many have to endure EVERY night. However even one night on concrete under the stars can be an eye-opener for many. It is our largest fundraising event this year, and we hope to raise over £10,000 from peoples' combined sponsorship. We face unprecedented demand for our services currently, whilst seeing a marked drop in individual and community giving as a result of the cost-of-living crisis, so we hope this event will attract even more participants and support than usual"*

Sign up for your sponsorship at the campaign page

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/cohbigsleepout2023> Or

Please contact ian.wilkins@crawleyopenhouse.co.uk if you have any questions.

Liturgy of the Word with Children

Leaders' Training, **11th November** 10am–1pm at The St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley. Explore an exciting style for delivering the Liturgy of the Word with Children. Lucy Hall will be demonstrating a hands-on, tactile approach to the Gospel. Whether you have been working in this ministry for a long time or are new, come and be enthused by Lucy, and meet others who share your passion. Reserve your free place [here](#).

Engaging the Disengaged

How to accompany the non-religious person in day-to-day life, **21st November**, 6pm, online (£10).

The evangelist, speaker and author Sherry Weddell will explore how Catholics can fulfil their mission to bring everyone to Christ. The seminar is particularly relevant to people who are active in evangelisation: priests, deacons, religious, catechists, teachers, pastoral ministers and parishioners.

Find out more & book [here](#).

*If anyone would like to attend and would like the parish to pay, please let us know.

The National Board of Catholic Women

You are invited to a Webinar on **Saturday 25th November** from 11am-12.45pm.

The webinar is titled – Inspiring Women, Enabling Women to flourish in the Church.

Professor Tina Beattie will explore how we can express our creativity and share our gifts as women; encourage and support women's many different abilities and callings; celebrate our achievements and learn from our frustrations and failings.

Email: nbcw@abdiocese.org.uk to register your interest.

Worth Pro Earth

On Wednesday we celebrated the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of Pope Francis, from whom he draws inspiration for his work for ecology.

We remember in particular his encyclical, *Laudato Si, On the Care of Our Common Home*, which he wrote in 2015. To mark the close of the *Season of Creation* he gives us another document to encourage us to renew our work for the preservation of our planet, *Laudate Deum, Praise God*.

In this piece he renews his call to the whole world to heed the warning signs which we see around us which herald the collapse of our ecosystems. He writes: ***Eight years have passed since I published the Encyclical Letter Laudato Si', when I wanted to share with all of you, my brothers and sisters of our suffering planet, my heartfelt concerns about the care of our common home. Yet, with the passage of time, I have realized that our responses have not been adequate, while the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point". (LD #2)***

Commentators for the Laudato Si Movement write: In his just over 20 pages, the Pope reviews the scientific data and the undeniable evidence of the climate crisis while appealing to "all people of good will" to act urgently because, ***there are no lasting changes without cultural changes, without a maturing of lifestyles and convictions within societies, and there are no cultural changes without personal changes. (LD #70)***

Do please see the document - www.laudatedeum.online.

I ask everyone to accompany this pilgrimage of reconciliation with the world that is our home and to help make it more beautiful" the Pope tells us (LD #69).

"The world sings of an infinite Love: how can we fail to care for it?" (LD #65)

Please see a presentation of the document : [Youtube Link](#)

Please also see : [watch the movie The Letter](#) as a summary of the encyclical Laudato Si'.

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](#)

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



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

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.

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: 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)

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament – Every Sunday at 6.30pm in the Church, after vespers and on
Wednesdays from 2pm–3pm.

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 – **25th October** and 29th November.

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

Bible Study Group – 2pm on Mondays in Compass House. Please contact Jenny Chapman.

Worth Abbey Parish is committed to safer recruitment. Arundel and Brighton Diocese and Worth Abbey Parish are committed to safeguarding all children and vulnerable groups at risk within its community. The Diocese aims to embed a culture of safeguarding to prevent abuse and to provide support to individuals who have been hurt by abuse, taking the necessary actions to reduce the likelihood of further harm.

Our Worth Abbey Parish Safeguarding Reps are Charles and Ann McCarthy
Email: sg1.worth@abdiocese.org.uk