



In Touch

Journeying Together:

Collaboration

Co-operation

Co-Responsibility

Thirtieth Second Sunday in OT (year A)
11th / 12th November 2023
No. 1359

Dear Parishioners

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

At the beginning of next month, December 3rd, we will begin our celebration of Advent. This is a good moment for us all to consider carefully how we are responding to God's call to us as disciples of Jesus. A very helpful way to do this is in a small group, with other members of our parish community, perhaps meeting locally in one another's houses. The Diocese is offering us material with the next instalment of **Invited**, the online retreat which we advertise below. We need members of the parish to host groups and to lead them. Please note that this is best done by different people, so sharing the different responsibilities. Please do think about whether you can help in this way and let us know.

We have received an urgent appeal from the Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group asking for people to host refugees. They write: *'Refugees Welcome Crawley' (RWC) have been in touch to ask for hosts for homeless refugees in the Crawley area. The situation is increasingly desperate day by day and there is little RWC can offer to keep people off the streets. Once people are granted refugee status, they are no longer eligible for Home Office accommodation and often have as little as 7 days' notice to open a bank account, apply for Universal Credit, find a job and a home to rent. It is almost impossible to find somewhere affordable to live in such a short time-frame. Two refugee hosting charities link up hosts willing to offer a room in their own homes for temporary respite to refugees going through the steps needed to becoming self-sufficient. A room in a welcoming home for a pre-agreed length of time not only saves people from street homelessness but gives them a chance to start rebuilding their lives. Guidance from each charity for anyone considering becoming a host:* [Room for Refugees](#) [Refugees at Home](#)

For further information contact Cathy - Refugees Welcome Crawley

Email: rwccchair@gmail.com Phone: 07968 688380

Both organisations need funds to continue their excellent work, and volunteers, and GDWG is in need of men's informal clothing. Please see our website -

<https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/social-action/refugees/>

Please also see our website for a statement by the Bishops about the cost of living crisis:

<https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/> where you will also find information about the recent Synod on Synodality, and appeals by Pope Francis for prayer for Gaza and the West Bank and Israel. Please also see the diocesan website: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/>

And Aid To The Church In Need : [Holy Land](#)

I send you all my very best wishes. Yours. Fr Paul

Prayers

Please pray for Marie Hesketh, who died recently.

Please pray for her daughter, Sara, and her two sons, Mark and Simon.

Marie's funeral will be celebrated, here, at Worth Abbey on **Monday 13th November** at 1.30pm.

Please continue to pray for our parishioners Pamela Bagwell, Helen Sweetman, Jill Carter, Laura Rawlinson
Peter and Antee Greene, Fred Green and Hugh Hurdman.

Please pray for the people of Israel and Palestine.

*God of peace, who are peace itself
and whom a spirit of discord cannot grasp, nor a violent mind receive,
grant that those who are one in heart may persevere in what is good
and that those in conflict may forget evil and so be healed.*

Through Christ our Lord. Amen

(Prayer: Roman Missal, p.1361)

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 – John Hicklin, Michael Keating, Christine Genders, Raymond Huckstep, Brian Haynes, Philipa Edwards, Victoria Sheppard, Myrtle Buckland, Geoffrey Teal, Carolyn Pickering, Alec Ricketts, Anne Kibble, Janet McCleery, Oriel Fahey and Alicia Eborne

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

Daily Readings

Monday – **All Saints of the Order of St Benedict**

Tuesday – Wis 2:23 – 3:9 Luke 17:7-10

Wednesday – Wis 6:1-11 Luke 17:11-19

Thursday – Wis 7:22b – 8:1 Luke 17:20-25 **(St Gertrude the Great)**

Friday – Wis 13:1-9 Luke 17:26-37

Saturday – Wis 18:14-16, 19:6-9 Luke 18:1-8

Next Sunday's Readings: **Thirty Third Sunday in OT (Year A)**

1st Reading – Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31 2nd Reading – 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

You have been faithful in small things: come and join in your master's happiness



Christmas Timetable

Saturday 25th November and 2nd December – Worth Engaging Advent talks at 10.30am.

“Approaching Advent as a season of anticipatory waiting” will be the theme of the talks.

To register go to <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/worthabbey>

Sunday 17th December – Advent Carol Service at 3.30pm. Come and join the monks at Worth Abbey for the ever-popular traditional Carol Service in the compelling and peaceful surrounds of Worth Abbey Church. Experience an hour of carols, readings and wonderful music.

An opportunity to reflect on the real meaning of Christmas. Festive refreshments afterwards.

Bring you family and friends. Children are most welcome.

Sunday 24th December – Family Christmas Vigil, Mass of the Nativity. We invite our Parish families to join us for a Christmas Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve at 3pm. This will be a celebration for families with children of all ages. Children who would enjoy dressing up as nativity figures are encouraged to do so! We also ask that families bring an animal or angel to add to our crib—the children will then be invited to join the entrance procession to the crib and place this object at the altar. These animals and angels will be ‘on loan’ during the Mass and should be collected after Mass. (No live animal loans please!!)

The Mass will begin with carols at 3pm and will conclude no later than 4pm. This Christmas Vigil Mass welcomes all ages and will be family friendly in length, concept and language.

Sunday 24th December – Midnight mass starting at 10.30pm for Carols and Organ music to prepare for mass at 11pm. Mass will be followed by Refreshments in the Narthex

Monday 25th December – Christmas Day Mass at 10am

Tuesday 26th December – Friday 29th December – Mass at 5.30pm

Saturday 30th December – Parish Vigil mass at 5pm (Holy Family)

Sunday 31st December – Sunday Mass (Holy Family). Followed by refreshments.

Monday 1st January – Mother of God. Mass at 5.30pm

Dates for your Diary

This weekend, 11th November – There will be refreshments after the 5pm mass in the Unity Room.

This weekend, 12th November – Parish Brunch after mass in Compass House. Please consider if you could help to defray the costs of this with a donation. We expect to have a card reader, but cash is also welcome. But please come even if you are not able to make a donation.

15th November – We are invited to join the school at Wednesday Worship for Benediction at 4.30pm. Please occupy the seats at the back

19th November – Family Catechism sessions. (All Saints and Inspired)

19th November – 09.30am mass. Presentation of St Stephen’s Guild Silver Medal to Georges Abousleiman.

26th November – There will be a Parish Walk after mass.

3rd December – Talk promoted by Worth Pro Earth at 11am, after mass, in Compass House. Talk by John Paul De Quay, *“The light shines in the darkness”*.

Please see WPE page for details

31st December – 09.30am mass. Enrolment into St Stephen’s Guild for Kornel Klapczynski and James Cade

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: **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

LIVING WITH LOSS

13th-16th November (Simon Holland Brown Dip.Couns MBACP)

Cost: £330 per person

This retreat uses the Benedictine monastic framework of prayer to provide a spiritual and healing space where the effects of dealing with bereavement and grief can be discussed in a safe and open way. The retreat will offer both a group context to discuss experiences more generally but also has time for 1:1 accompaniment. There will also be space for silence, prayer and reflection. Bereavement can never fully be dealt with finally, but this offers a way forward within a spiritual and healing context.

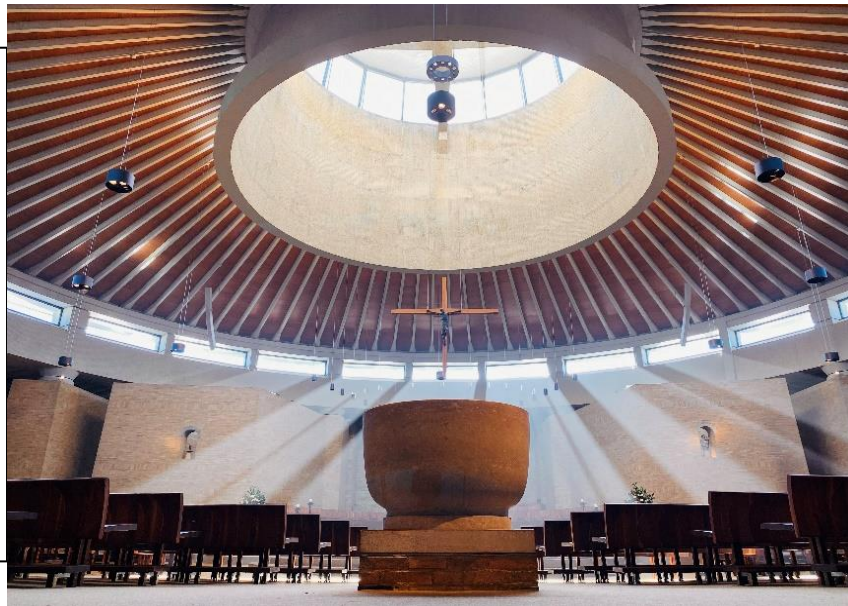
Next weekend there will be a
Second Collection for
Arundel Cathedral
Maintenance

Fair Trade Stall

We have a selection of Christmas cards and Advent calendars available for sale at the Fair-Trade stall in the Narthex after Mass on Sundays.

We've been
sent a very
beautiful
photo of
the Church
bathed in
light.

Thank you
to
Stephanie



RCIA

We have now begun our new course for those who wish to join the Catholic Church, or are considering doing so; and for those who simply wish to find out more about their faith. The course is based on programmes from Sycamore, and free discussion. Any new comers will be most welcome. The group will now meet on Sundays, after mass, at 11 am in St Benedict's, for about one hour. If you would like to join the group, or just come and see if it's right for you, do please get in touch - Geoffrey Chapman (GPC) gchapman@worth.org.uk or the parish - Parish parish@worth.org.uk; or just come and join the group on the day. We begin at the new time and place this Sunday, 12th.

CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal

Please donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at [CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis](#) or call **0303 303 3030** to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Our partner aid workers are putting in themselves at great risk and very much need your prayers. Some have already been killed during the conflict. Thank you for your prayers.

If you are planning to include CAFOD's World Gifts in your Christmas shopping, please note that purchasing the Winter Survival Kit from the CAFOD World Gifts website or catalogue this Christmas can support communities experiencing the terrible impact of this conflict as the weather gets colder.

Thank you, Kir Horner, Worth Parish CAFOD Volunteer Representative

God of peace, bearer of hope, we seek your help for the peoples of the Middle East.

Quiet the clamour of war. and guide us towards peace.

Where there is hatred and division sow seeds of calm and openness.

Where there is destruction help us to rebuild. Where children are crying bring an end to tears.

Shelter your peoples and protect them Guide them and keep them from harm.

Show us how to break down the barriers of history and fear and breathe whispers of hope.

Amen

Invited – Advent 2023

The diocese is offering us an opportunity in Advent to prepare ourselves for Christmas by meeting in house groups for prayer and discussion. Could you host a group? Could you lead a group? (All the materials you need will be provided.) The groups will begin in the week of **27th November**.

Please get in touch, and please invite your friends and neighbours.

There will also be on-line groups for those who are not able to go to someone's house.

Please ask about these. parish@worth.org.uk

Monks in the City

Pray with us

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

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

Saturday Sanctuary

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.

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

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

TIME OUT: Individual Self-Guided Retreat

11th-15th December, 2023 or 22-28th January 2024

COST: £90 per person, per night

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. 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.

For further information please go to our website www.worth.co.uk/retreats/retreat-programme/ or email retreats@worth.co.uk

Worth Pro Earth

WPE invite us to take part in this meeting: A Call to Action



'The light shines in the darkness'

Join us this Advent as we explore our ecological crisis and what it means for our lives as Christians, especially in the run up to Christmas. The talk, with discussion, led by John Paul de Quay will look at problems affecting our world, address some root causes, and look at where we can find hope in these dark times, and just maybe, look forward to something that will change the world for the better. We meet in Compass House on December 3rd after mass, at 11 am.

Do you support Fair Trade? Please explore these organisations, and also our own Fair Trade stall at Worth

We Are Fair Trade

<https://www.wearefairtrade.com/>

Tea, coffee, sugar, chocolate, jam, nuts, dried fruits, oils

Ethical Superstore

<https://www.ethicalsuperstore.com/>

Tea, coffee, sugar, chocolate, cocoa, honey, olive oil, rice

True Origin Foods

<https://trueoriginfoods.co.uk/>

Tea, coffee, chickpeas, dried fruits, jams, Marmalade, rice, nuts, honey, sugar

The 28th Conference of the Parties (COP) climate change will take place in Dubai between 30th November and 12th December this year. As Pope Francis explained in his recent apostolic exhortation *Laudate Deum*, "the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing breaking point". Global temperatures continue to rise, and instances of extreme weather are becoming more frequent and more destructive. Those who are most affected by climate change, and upon whom the impact is greatest, are poor, marginalised communities in the Global South. As the Holy Father made clear, we are not acting quickly enough, nor strongly enough, when it comes to addressing climate change. Inspired by the need to respond to such issues, Jesuit Missions is running a campaign, in collaboration with [Jesuit European Social Centre](#) and the [Jesuit Centre for Faith & Justice](#) throughout COP28. To access daily prayers, updates from COP28, regular blog posts, specialist tools for schools and parishes, and a dedicated podcast series. [Click Here](#) to visit the Jesuits' Justice at COP28 website and find out more.

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the wonders of your creation.

Thank you for guiding us, leading us, protecting us, developing us since the beginning of the creation till now. Make us grow in the awareness of the urgency of safeguarding and developing the wonders of your creations and take a concrete response to it. Help us to live and work harmoniously with your creation.

Protect us from all dangers and destruction. Amen.

Non-Parish Events

Crawley Campaign Against Racism

You are warmly invited to the 2023
CCAR Museum Exhibition.
EVERYBODY WELCOME!

Crawley Museum, The Tree, 103
High Street, RH10 1DD (at traffic
lights)

Until 25th November – Thursdays to
Saturdays 10.30am-4pm

Handel's Messiah

You are all invited to a performance of Handel's Messiah by
Exultate Choir & Orchestra, directed by
Richard Stafford, on **Saturday 16th December @ 4pm**
in Ardingly College Chapel, in aid of Help Musicians and St
Catherine's Hospice. Tickets are available on
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/exultatechoir>
(Adults £12/Under 18s £5, refreshments included)
Contact: Mandy Horton (mhorton220812@gmail.com)

CAFOD

CAFOD would like to invite you to our online event on **Saturday 18th November, 10.30am - 2.30pm** to link up live with some of our overseas partners and discuss how, rooted in faith, we can fight for a better world. From climate change to the global food crisis, the world is currently facing numerous challenges that stand in the way of each person reaching their full potential. By putting our faith into action, and raising our voices together, we can bring actual change.

So, we need you! At this online event you can:

- Hear from CAFOD's partners in Bolivia on how Pope Francis' teaching inspires their work with indigenous communities
- Look ahead to the upcoming UN COP28 climate talks in the United Arab Emirates, and discuss what urgent outcomes we need
- Find out what happened when we took our Fix the Food System campaign to the World Bank meetings in Morocco
- Learn about our plans for working with the Catholic Community during next year's General Election
- Be inspired to be one of many CAFOD campaigners across the country!

We hope to see you then! It's fine to join for just some of the event if you can't make it all.

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 Date – **29th November**.

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

Bible Study Group – 11am on Mondays in St Benedicts (Parish Office). Please contact Jenny Chapman.
Please note new time and place.

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