



In Touch

Journeying Together:

Collaboration

Co-operation

Co-Responsibility

Thirtieth Third Sunday in OT (year A)

18th / 19th November 2023

No. 1360

Dear Parishioners

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

This Sunday is **World Day of The Poor**. This was an initiative of Pope Francis seven years ago, and has been a constant theme of his papacy. In his first major document, of 2013, *The Joy of The Gospel*, he writes: *God's heart has a special place for the poor, so much so that he himself "became poor" (2 Cor 8:9). The entire history of our redemption is marked by the presence of the poor... For the Church, the option for the poor is primarily a theological category... God shows the poor "his first mercy". This divine preference has consequences for the faith life of all Christians... Inspired by this, the Church has made an option for the poor which is understood as a "special form of primacy in the exercise of Christian charity, to which the whole tradition of the Church bears witness" ... This is why I want a Church which is poor and for the poor. They have much to teach us. Not only do they share in the sensus fidei (the community of faith), but in their difficulties they know the suffering Christ. We need to let ourselves be evangelized by them.* Writing two years later in *Laudato Si*, his encyclical about ecological issues, in the section headed *Global Inequality*, he writes: *The gravest effects of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poorest... we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.* In his message to us for today he writes of the increasing urgency for change: *We are living in times that are not particularly sensitive to the needs of the poor. The pressure to adopt an affluent lifestyle increases, while the voices of those dwelling in poverty tend to go unheard... The poor become a film clip that can affect us for a moment, yet when we encounter them in flesh and blood on our streets, we are annoyed and look the other way.* He writes about those who do try to serve the poor: *They are not superheroes but "next door neighbours", ordinary people who quietly make themselves poor among the poor. They do more than give alms: they listen, they engage, they try to understand and deal with difficult situations and their causes.*

Do please consider if you can engage with the poor in a concrete way. Supporting the food banks by your contributions is always of great value, or the gift of clothing to the Gatwick Detainees, both of which can be left at the parish office. At a more personal level you might consider hosting a refugee from Ukraine, as suggested last week, or volunteering for the SVP in Crawley, or for Refugees Welcome or the Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group. Please see our website for all these under Social Action, and for the message of Pope Francis -

<https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/>

I send my very best wishes. Yours. Fr Paul

Prayers

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

No one beyond reach

Loving God

Open our ears to hear the cries of our sisters and brothers and of the earth, our common home.

Open our eyes to the scandal of poverty and injustice in the world.

Open our hearts to feel the pain, the hurt, the hunger of one another.

Open our mouths to speak of the dignity of each person, precious in your sight.

Open our arms wide to reach out with compassion so that all distance vanishes.

Open our hearts to share your love and our hope of a world where no one is beyond reach.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord,

Amen.

(Prayer by Catherine Gorman/CAFOD)

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 – Ian Moore, John Belford, Joe Morice, D F Rigby, Revd Alex MacClean, Clarice Lloyd and Maud Enscoe.

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

Daily Readings

Monday – 1 Macc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63 Luke 18:35-43

Tuesday – 2 Macc 6:18-31 Luke 19:1-10

Wednesday – 2 Macc 7:1, 20-31 Luke 19:11-28 **(St Cecilia)**

Thursday – 1 Macc 2:15-29 Luke 19:41-44

Friday – 1 Macc 4:36-37m 52-59 Luke 19:45-48 **(St Andrew Dung-Lac)**

Saturday – 1 Macc 6:1-13 Luke 20:27-40

Next Sunday's Readings: **Christ The King (Year A)**

1st Reading – Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17 2nd Reading – 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

I was naked and you clothed me; sick, and you visited me



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>

Monday 11th December – Reconciliation service in the Church at 7.30pm

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

This Sunday, 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. Bring a picnic to share.

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

Sunday 10th December – Parish Brunch in Compass House after mass.

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

This weekend there is 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.

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.

CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal

Please donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at [CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis](#) or call [0303 303 3030](tel:03033033030) 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, Kempton, 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.

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

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

Farms to Feed Us

<https://farmstofeedus.org/>

An open database of small-scale farms and growers from around the UK selling vegetables, meat, dairy items and other produce direct to the public. Customers can access the database, look up farms in their area and what they're selling, and click through to order online directly from the farm.

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.

Latest news about fracking in Balcombe

FFBRA is appealing the recent judgment handed down by the High Court

The fight goes on. Our application for permission to appeal to the Court of Appeal has been lodged. If our appeal is successful, planning permission granted to Angus Energy to explore for oil in Balcombe will be revoked.

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.

*By Fr Henry Eikhlein, Diocesan Programme Co-ordinator
from Pathein Diocese in Myanmar*

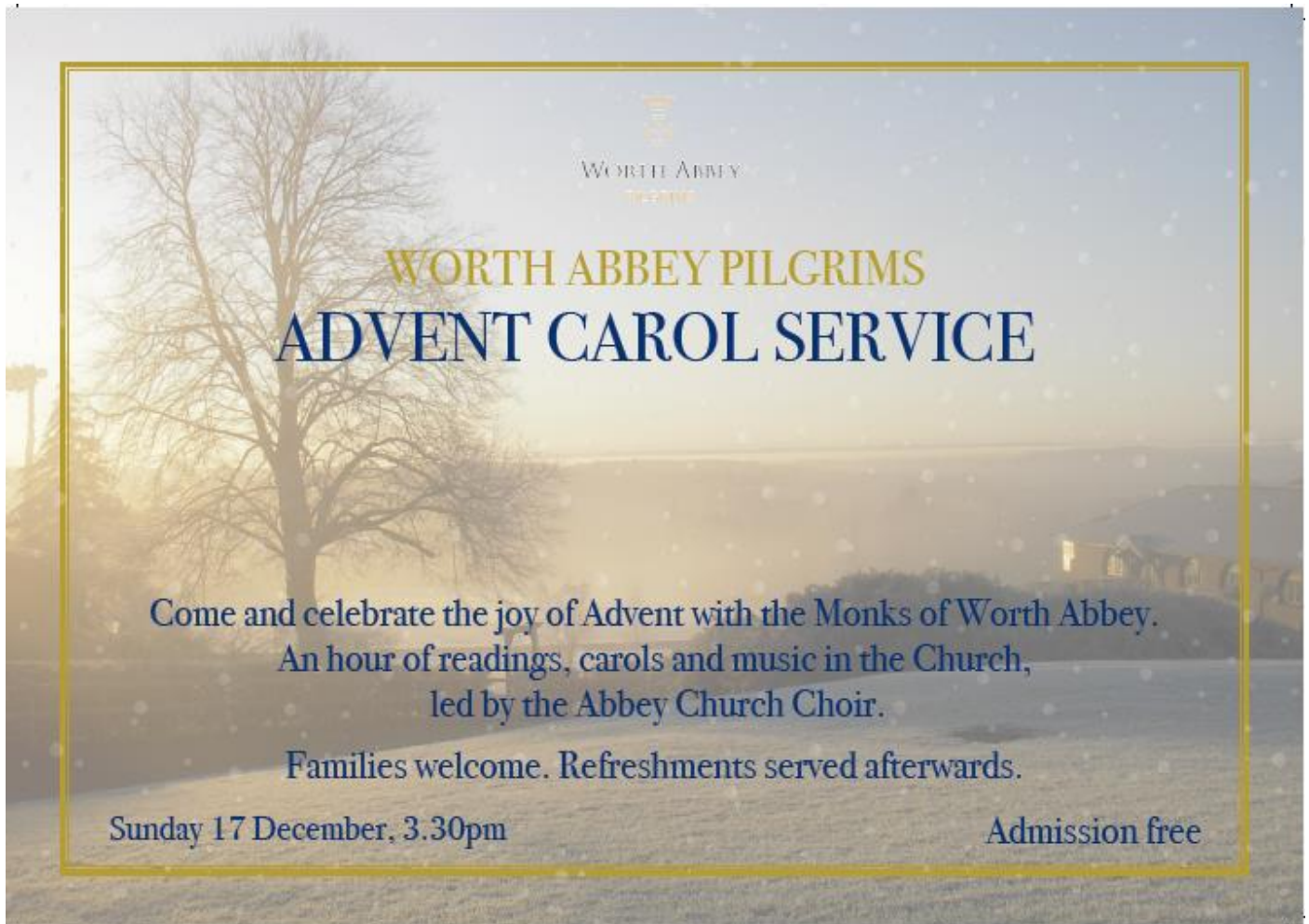
TIME OUT: Individual Self-Guided Retreat

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 ABBEY
1090

WORTH ABBEY PILGRIMS
ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Come and celebrate the joy of Advent with the Monks of Worth Abbey.
An hour of readings, carols and music in the Church,
led by the Abbey Church Choir.

Families welcome. Refreshments served afterwards.

Sunday 17 December, 3.30pm Admission free

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
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.



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