



# In Touch

Christ The King (year A)  
25<sup>th</sup> / 26<sup>th</sup> November 2023  
No. 1361

Dear Parishioners

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

This Sunday we celebrate the **Feast of Christ The King**. The history of the feast is significant for us today: As waves of nationalism and secularism were on the rise across the globe, Pope Pius XI instituted the Solemnity of Christ the King in 1925 as a reminder that Christ reigns above all earthly rulers. While temporal powers will fade away, Christ's reign and his kingdom remain eternal. Pope Francis wrote: *The kingdoms of this world at times are sustained by arrogance, rivalries and oppression; the reign of Christ is a "kingdom of justice, love and peace." For a Christian, speaking of power and strength means referring to the power of the Cross, and the strength of Jesus' love: a love which remains steadfast and complete, even when faced with rejection, and it is shown as the fulfilment of a life expended in the total surrender of oneself for the benefit of humanity.* This theme is especially reflected in our gospel reading of the parable of the sheep and the goats and the great judgement, asking us how have we responded to the needs of the poor and vulnerable in our society.

Meanwhile, following the **Synod in Rome** about Synodality which was held last month, the Bishops of England and Wales have offered a reflection on the experience and the way forward, which they entitle *Steps Towards Renewal*. They begin with words from the homily of Pope Francis at the closing mass: *The Lord will guide us and help us to be a more synodal and missionary Church, a Church that adores God and serves the women and men of our time, going forth to bring everyone the consoling joy of the Gospel.* As always, the emphasis is on the missionary activity of the Church, the proclamation of the Good News to everyone: *At the heart of the synodal process of renewal stands the person of Jesus Christ and his Gospel of Salvation. The Lord 'pitched his tent among us.'* They end with some questions which we might consider during our weeks of Advent: *How can we create and promote space and time for prayer, for spiritual communion? How do we link this with service to others?* The Redemptorist Press has produced a study guide for parishes to use: *Part of the Church, now and always - Thinking about the Synod on Synodality Report*. It is available on our website on the home page: <https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/> or ask at the parish office.

Pope Francis encourages us to dream together: *We recall that the purpose of the Synod is not to produce documents, but to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to flourish, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another and create a bright resourcefulness that will enlighten minds, warm hearts, give strength to our hands.*

What more could we wish for? Do please make use of this study guide.

I wish you happy dreams and send you all my very best wishes. Yours. Fr Paul

## Prayers

Congratulations to Mary and Vincent Hughes on the birth of their son, Samuel.  
Please pray for them all.

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 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.*

### **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** – Anne Carter, Mrs Malton, Dr Ivor Haire, Susan Law, Andy Girdwood,  
William Avery Wright, Cynthia O'Neil , John Davidson, Allan Cameron-Willson, Amy Constable,  
Revd Rupert Studd, Peter Lovell, Agnes Greenstreet and Trevor Adam.

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

## **Daily Readings**

Monday – Dan 1:1-6, 8-20 Luke 21:1-4

Tuesday – Dan 2:31-45 Luke 21:5-11

Wednesday – Dan 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28 Luke 21:12-19

Thursday – Rom 10:9-18 Matt 4:18-22 (**St Andrew**)

Friday – Dan 7:21-24 Luke 21:29-33

Saturday – Dan 7:15-27 Luke 21:34-36

Next Sunday's Readings: **First Sunday of Advent (Year B)**

1st Reading – Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8 2nd Reading – 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

**Gospel:** Mark 13:33-37

**If he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep**



## *Parish Events*



### **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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 box below.

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December** – Reconciliation service in the Church at 7.30pm

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Day Mass at 10am

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December** – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December – Mass at 5.30pm

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December** – Parish Vigil mass at 5pm (Holy Family)

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December** – Sunday Mass (Holy Family). Followed by refreshments.

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January** – Mother of God. Mass at 5.30pm

### **Dates for your Diary**

**This Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November** – There will be a Parish Walk after mass. Bring a picnic to share.

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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”*.

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December** – Immaculate Conception Mass with the school at 4.30pm.  
(There will be no 5.30pm mass)

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December** – Parish Brunch in Compass House after mass.

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December** – 09.30am mass. Enrolment into St Stephen’s Guild for Kornel Klapczynski and James Cade

### **Marriage Preparation**

The next course in the parish will begin on **Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> February** and will be the only course offered by the parish for the year. Would anyone who is planning to get married during 2024, please get in touch.

### **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.

### **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: **24<sup>th</sup> November** and 29<sup>th</sup> 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

### **Advent Groups**

One Advent group will meet in Cuckfield on Mondays at 4:00pm, starting on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November**.

We will look at the gospel reading for the 1st Sunday of Advent. All are most welcome, please contact: [christiegrieve@gmail.com](mailto:christiegrieve@gmail.com) or [christinafitzsimons@icloud.com](mailto:christinafitzsimons@icloud.com) for further details.

Another Advent group will be meeting in St. Benedicts on Thursday afternoons from 2.30pm, starting on **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November**. We will be looking at the 4 Songs of Advent from the Gospel of Luke. All are welcome. Please contact Jenny Chapman on [jenny\\_chapman@sky.com](mailto:jenny_chapman@sky.com) or see her after mass.

There will also be a group in Crawley Down, please contact  
Carol Morice [carolmorice251@btinternet.com](mailto:carolmorice251@btinternet.com)

And

There will also be a group in Horsted Keynes, please contact  
Abby Chapman [abby@abbychapman.com](mailto:abby@abbychapman.com)

### **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 **27<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:parish@worth.org.uk)

Lizzie Wakeling writes: "The third season of Invited, our Diocesan mission, launches next week. There will be more great films featuring amazing speakers and testimonies, and some excellent resources to help individuals and small groups reflect and pray.

To find out more simply head to our website <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited> where you can even download invitations for you use as you encourage others to get involved.

The Good News of Jesus Christ is too important to keep to ourselves, so use this opportunity to tell everyone that they are *Invited!*"



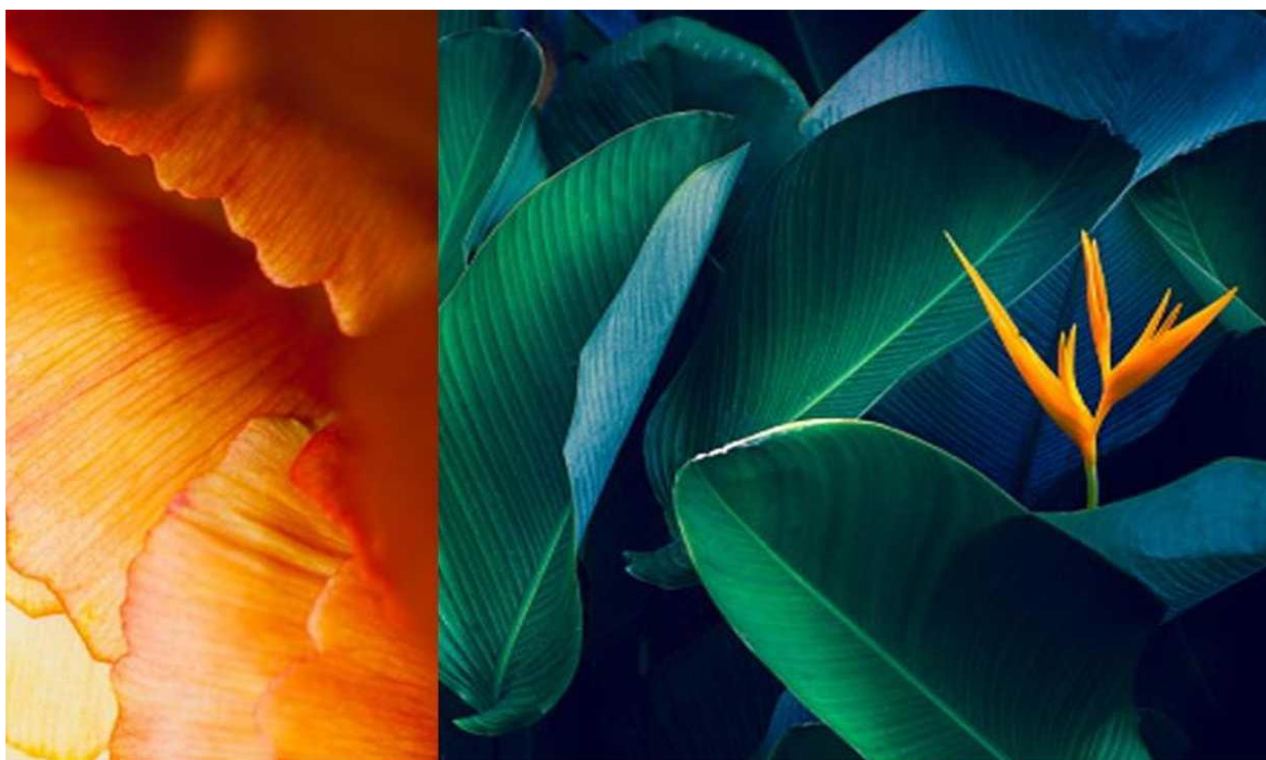
## Worth Pro Earth

### Prepare for Advent: Download your calendar

- Key liturgical dates of Advent and the most important COP events
    - A reflection for each Sunday of Advent
      - A weekly question to reflect on
    - An action to carry out each week of Advent
      - A song to pray at Christmas time
- <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/advent-calendar>

In just a few days Advent begins. It is a time of **active waiting** and **conversion**, during which we are invited to pray and act, accompanying our faith with tangible deeds that care for and repair our common home.

This year, during Advent, between 30<sup>th</sup> November and 12<sup>th</sup> December, COP28 will take place in Dubai, where leaders from around the world, including Pope Francis, will gather to make key decisions for the future of our planet. That is why we propose that you respond to the Pope's call in Laudate Deum and **send a clear message to Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, president of COP28**, by signing the petition with our requests and hopes. [Read and Sign Petition](#)



## *‘The light shines in the darkness’*

Explore our ecological crisis and what it means for our lives as Christians.

A talk by John Paul de Quay, *Journey to 2030*.

Compass House, Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11am

The talk, with discussion, 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.

### **Worth Pro Earth (Cont.)**

#### **Sussex Green Hub and Horsham Fairtrade Christmas Market Saturday November 25th**

- The next Sussex Green Hub will take the theme of an eco-friendly Christmas special. This will feature remade Christmas cards, Christmas crackers for life and other beautiful gifts such as aprons, iPad bags, craft bags, washable makeup pad removers and bunting.

- Opposite the Sussex Green Hub the Horsham [Fairtrade Christmas Market](#)

Market will be taking place at St John the Evangelist from 10am to 4pm. It's a wonderful opportunity to explore and support sustainable and ethically sourced products for Christmas.

#### **How Green is Your Christmas Dinner?**

**Monday 4th December, 7-8.30pm, via Zoom**

Book your free ticket at this [South East Climate Alliance](#) Knowledge Sharing Zoom event: "How Green is Your Christmas Dinner?" As the festive season approaches, SECA has gathered 5 expert speakers for an insightful discussion. This session will delve into the origins of our food and explore the advantages of embracing more sustainable forms of regenerative agriculture. Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable knowledge about making your Christmas dinner not only delicious but also environmentally friendly. Save the date and be part of the conversation for a greener holiday season. Book your place at the table [here](#)

#### **COP28 On-the-Ground, As-it-Happens with Al Gore 7th December**

[COP28](#), in the UAE is scheduled at Expo City Dubai from November 30 to December 12, 2023. Al Gore's '[Climate Reality Project](#)' will be on the ground in Dubai on 7th December with a 24-hour reality media event which will take us to the heart of the global response and the UN's COP 28 climate summit in Dubai. Join [24 Hours of Reality](#) for an inside look at the voices and the conversations shaping our planet's future.

### **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](mailto:gchapman@worth.org.uk) or the parish -

Parish [parish@worth.org.uk](mailto:parish@worth.org.uk); or just come and join the group on the day.

### **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**

**25<sup>th</sup> 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.

**12<sup>th</sup> December** – Discipleship and humility – Becoming real (Abbot Stephen OSB)

### **TIME OUT: Individual Self-Guided Retreat**

**11<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2023 or 22<sup>nd</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> 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/](http://www.worth.co.uk/retreats/retreat-programme/)  
or email [retreats@worth.co.uk](mailto:retreats@worth.co.uk)



## 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

# AMARE



**6.30pm-  
8.30pm  
every Sunday  
@Worth  
Abbey, in  
Compass  
House**

Youth-led Catholic social group for young people ages 16-20 (non-Catholics are welcome!) Free snacks provided! We meet every Sunday evening to socialise, play games and chat. Every other week we will have a guest speaker in to come and present a short talk. **Please email [amareworthyouth@gmail.com](mailto:amareworthyouth@gmail.com) if you are interested, fill in the sign-up sheet, or speak to Sophie Chapman in person!**



## Non-Parish Events

### **Inspiring Women: Enabling Women to flourish in the Church**

**25<sup>th</sup> November, 11am-12.45pm, online.** The National Board of Catholic Women [NBCW](#) invites you to a webinar with Professor Tina Beattie. Explore how we can express our creativity and share our gifts, celebrate our achievements and learn from our frustrations and failings.

Register your free place by [email](#) here.

### **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](mailto:mhorton220812@gmail.com))

### **Catholic Social Teaching: An Introduction**

Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) is offering an introductory course on the basics of Catholic Social Teaching and practice for those who work in charities, parishes, and schools. For more information, please see: [Catholic Social Teaching](#)

### **Course - Taking Liturgy Seriously**

**23<sup>rd</sup> November / 30<sup>th</sup> November**

Following the successful TLS1 course, a general introduction to Catholic Liturgy, our 2023 modular study course, taking place on Thursday evenings via Zoom, will focus on all aspects of Eucharist. The course is aimed at all who wish to develop a deeper knowledge of liturgy. For information, please see:

[Taking Liturgy Seriously](#)

### **CAFOD update**

Thank you to everyone who signed 'Salina's letter' this summer. Salina is the small-scale farmer from Bangladesh who is calling on the World Bank to protect the rights of farmers over their own seeds. 70,000 parishioners in England and Wales signed the letter, and a third of all parishes took part. Salina said, "I am very happy to know about 70,000 signatures along with mine." This helped CAFOD to secure initial meetings with World Bank staff, who heard the message that seeds are for all. This is a long struggle but it's a very good start. Thank you for adding your voice. Thank you and God bless

Jenny Finlayson, *Community Participation Coordinator - CAFOD*

### **\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\***

Our popular annual Justice & Peace Assembly, held at The St Philip Howard Centre in Crawley, will take place on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January** 10am - 1.30pm.

Further details will be released very shortly.

### **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](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

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.

## 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](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 Date – **29<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:sg1.worth@abdiocese.org.uk)