



In Touch

Journeying Together:

Collaboration

Co-operation

Co-Responsibility

First Sunday of Advent (year B)

2nd / 3rd December 2023

No. 1362

Dear Parishioners

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

This Sunday we begin our celebration of the season of Advent. The word “Advent” means “Coming” – i.e. the Return of Jesus at the end of time. It has been the belief of Christians from earliest times that Jesus will return to establish God’s Kingdom in its fullness and subject all things to God’s authority, and was expressed especially by St Paul, to encourage his Gentile converts to remain steadfast in hope. Writing to the Corinthians about the resurrection he says: *As all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.* (1Co 15.22-25) Paul believed that this would happen very soon, certainly in his own life time. Soon however it became clear that the time of waiting would after all be a long one, from a human perspective; but the hope which this belief enshrines is still ours today. As Paul’s reading says this weekend: *He will keep you steady until the last day, the day of our Lord, Jesus Christ.* Perhaps today more than ever we need this strong hope of the fulfilment of God’s good purpose for our world, His Creation. The anticipation of the possible collapse of the earth’s climate and the news of violent conflict in so many countries might easily make us doubt God’s control over the events of our world, and we urgently need to renew our sense of hope in God’s action on our behalf. We can do this most especially through the celebration of our Eucharist when we thank God for all He has done and continues to do for us through Jesus, and *as we look forward to his second coming.* (EP 3)

At our Eucharist this Sunday we have a special celebration when we present Rachel Davies with the Bene Merenti medal. This is an award given by Pope Francis in recognition of the special service which members of the Church give to the community. Rachel has just completed twenty-five years as the First Communion Catechist for our parish, and twenty years as our safeguarding representative and as the coordinator of Junior Church, which she continues to serve. Her fidelity and commitment is itself a huge sign of hope for our community and an inspiration for us all to emulate, most especially in a culture in which perseverance and commitment are not often evident. Countless generations of children and families owe her a huge debt of gratitude for her generosity. Thank you Rachel!

Meanwhile, please continue to keep the COP28 in your prayers. We live in a moment of unprecedented crisis over our climate. Please see the WPE page below, and please come to the talk by John Paul de Quay, *Light in Our Darkness*, in Compass House after Sunday mass, when he will speak about some of the issues involved and offer us suggestions about how we can help.

I send my very best wishes. Fr Paul

Prayers

Congratulations to Susan and Terry Scoble, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary this week. Please pray for them and their families.

Congratulations to Anna and Barney Woodward on the birth of their son, James. Please pray for him and all the family.

Please continue to pray for our parishioners Helen Maher, 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

Dear God, our Creator

You revealed your love to us and Creation once for all through the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

*By the grace of Your Creator Spirit, teach us to celebrate our faith
in the Incarnation that took place in Creation.*

*Dear Jesus, Saviour of Creation, we ask that You may be born in us, once again, as we
seek to cultivate hope for our common home. As Your followers, teach us to care for
the dignity of all human beings and all Creation, now and in the future.*

We pray for today's victims of global warming, both human and nonhuman.

We pray for more ambition in the energy transition, in this country and globally.

*We pray for our governments, and especially for those at COP28, to negotiate a global
and fair phase-out of fossil fuels.*

*And, finally, we pray for the courage to be prophets of our time, calling upon our leaders
to bear fruits of ecological justice after COP28.*

*Come Emmanuel! Make us ever more hopeful people for a hopeful planet. Let us be
part of Your light of hope to the world. Amen.*

Lord, The Word who is Life

May all the people of our Diocese grow in openness

To the power of the Holy Spirit

So that through a growth in understanding and courage,

And truly open to your call

We may bear powerful witness to all around us,

For you are Lord for ever and ever

Amen

Anniversaries

Please pray for the Souls of – Jane Stimson, Ronald Matthews, Molly Cox, Louisa Jane Thornton, Ann Botting, Doris Barber, Stephen Price, Dom Roger Bacon and Joanne Etherton.

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

Daily Readings

Monday – Isa 2:1-5 Matt 8:5-11

Tuesday – Isa 11:1-10 Luke 10:21-24

Wednesday – Isa 25:6-10a Matt 14:29-37

Thursday – Isa 26:1-6 Matt 7:21, 24-27 (**St Ambrose**)

Friday – Gen 3:9-15, 20 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Luke 1:26-38 (**The Immaculate Conception of our Lady**)

Saturday – Isa 30:19-21, 23-26 Matt 9:35 – 10:1, 5a, 6-8

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

1st Reading – Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 2nd Reading – 2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

A voice cries in the wilderness: prepare a way for the Lord

Parish Events

Christmas Timetable

This Saturday, 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>

This Sunday, 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 box below.

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

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

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

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

Abbot Mark writes:

On **Sunday 10th December** there will be short meeting after the 9.30am mass, where I would like to tell you something about some of the plans we are beginning to form for the future of Worth Abbey. Our aim will be to ensure a long-lasting environment at Worth that can support the daily demands of those who worship in the Abbey Church, as well as those who live and work in the School. Our initial Abbey focus will be on repairing and refurbishing our Abbey Church and creating a more fitting entrance to Worth Abbey, including signage which makes the various opportunities available here, such as a Parish and a Retreat Centre, more visible and more accessible.

To further our commitment to this venture, the Abbey and School have jointly undertaken the establishment of a Development Office and we will aim to begin to plan for a fundraising campaign. I would like to tell you something about our plans and to ask for your advice and insights as we at Worth begin this new phase of work between the Abbey and the School. I hope you may be able to spare a little time after mass on Sunday 10th to hear more about this.

Marriage Preparation

The next course in the parish will begin on **Sunday, 4th 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.

Message from Mary Baker

"To all my parish family, I thank you all for your support and prayers, messages and flowers during my recent illness. It has been a long journey but I am getting stronger. Thank you, Fr Paul and the Community,"
Mary

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 date: **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

Advent Groups

One Advent group will meet in Cuckfield on **Mondays at 4:00pm.**

All are most welcome, please contact: christiegrieve@gmail.com or christinafitzsimons@icloud.com for further details.

Another Advent group will be meeting in St. Benedict's on Thursday afternoons from 2.30pm. 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 or see her after mass.

There will also be a group in Horsted Keynes, please contact Abby Chapman abby@abbychapman.com

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 began 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

Lizzie Wakeling writes: "The third season of Invited, our Diocesan mission, has begun. 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!*"

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.

TIME OUT: Individual Self-Guided Retreat

11th 15th December, 2023 or 22nd -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

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.

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 ABBEY
PILGRIMS

Advent Introductions to Benedictine Spirituality

2nd December:

Spiritual Reading and the Path of Prayer –

An Advent introduction to the Benedictine practice of Spiritual Reading; a quiet, meditative encounter with the lives and witness of great Christian writers of the Church's past and present. How can reading the Christian classics deepen our encounter with God?

We will meet in the Abbey Church from 10.15am for registration and refreshments. We will then proceed to the Spencer Building, Worth School for a talk and further engagement with our theme, which will be delivered by Abbot Mark Barrett. The morning will conclude in time to attend Midday Prayer at 1pm in the Abbey Church followed by a light lunch.

To reserve your place visit www.tickettailor.com/events/worthabbey

A Place of Beauty and Joy



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

Worth Pro Earth

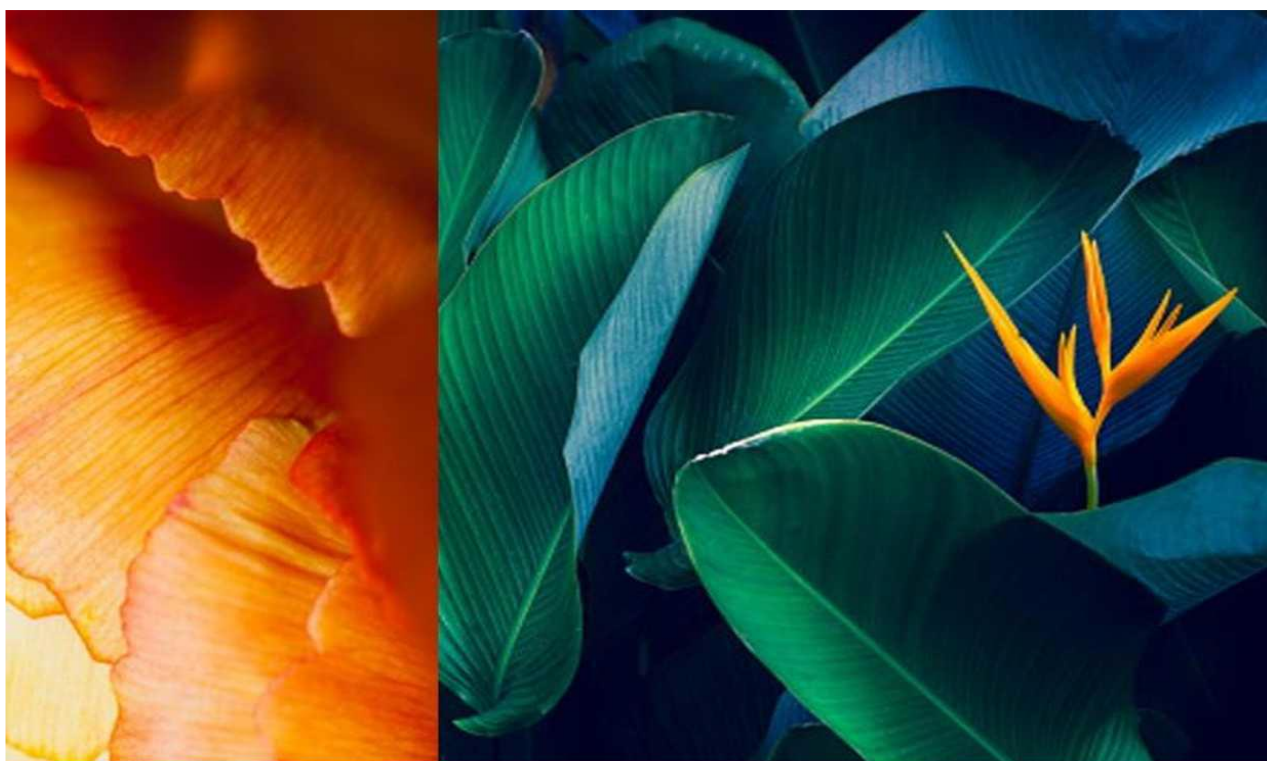
Prepare for Advent: Download your calendar

- 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 30th November and 12th December, COP28 will take place in Dubai, where leaders from around the world, 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 3rd 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.)

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.

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 if you are interested, fill in the sign-up sheet, or speak to Sophie Chapman in person!**

Non-Parish Events

Jazz at the Fitz

We are invited by the Community in Brighton to a Jazz Jamboree Orchestra this Sunday, 3rd December at 3 pm, at the Fitz Community Hub, St John The Baptist Church.

****SAVE THE DATE****

Our popular annual Justice & Peace Assembly, held at The St Philip Howard Centre in Crawley, will take place on **Saturday 27th January 10am - 1.30pm**. Further details will be released very shortly.

Called to Serve

2023-2024

What it takes to be an outstanding Catholic leader

An inspirational programme of mentoring, inset and professional development

Are you a Catholic working in a Diocesan school? Perhaps you are a Catholic, teaching in a non-Catholic setting and yet to experience the unique environment of a Catholic school community. Teaching is a very special vocation, and we'd like to offer you the opportunity to come together with Catholic teachers and leaders to step back and reflect upon this unique calling. This is a free course and aims to nurture, challenge and inspire us in our current role, regardless of remit or future aspiration.



This programme offers/will give you:

- An insight into what it means to be a Catholic teacher and leader at all levels.
- Access to current Catholic leaders (including Headteachers) in all phases as personal coaches and mentors.
- The opportunity to see Catholic education 'in action' in a number of different settings.
- The opportunity to network across all phases of Catholic education.
- A shadow placement in the Spring or Summer Term of 2024.



In return, you are asked to commit to three face-to-face days to the programme:

- ✓ Tuesday 23rd January 2024
- ✓ Wednesday 20th March 2024
- ✓ Thursday 27th June 2024

To apply, please contact Alice Mackay on amackay@boscocet.org.uk giving your name, current role and very brief reasons for wishing to join the programme.

Alternatively call: 01444 221776



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 invite us to get involved with COP28

Join us on **Saturday 9 December** as we take to the streets and call for governments to speed up action to tackle the climate crisis.

We'll be marching to call for action at the COP28 climate talks, which will be taking place at the end of a year that has seen communities worldwide facing the effects of the climate crisis. Forest fires in the Mediterranean and floods in Libya have forced countless people from their homes, while drought in East Africa has left millions struggling to access food.

[Sign Up](#)

Jenny Finlayson from CAFOD writes: *"I write to you today as we watch with hope and apprehension the unfolding crisis in the Holy Land.*

Let me first of all reassure you that, though heavily restricted, humanitarian aid is-reaching people worst hit in Gaza through CAFOD's partners who live and work in the region. Thank you, so much, to all those of you have donated or fundraised so far to resource this aid.

However, with great sadness I must report to you more deaths of staff and volunteers in our partner organisations. Please do pray for their families and colleagues as you pray for the conflict to end. Their colleagues continue to risk their lives daily, to provide life-saving help to others in great need. As the conflict enters its ninth week, we are now also asking all parishes to do what they can to support our [Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal](#).

We also invite your parish to join us in [calling for a lasting peace](#) by writing to the Foreign Secretary. Thank you to the over 6,500 supporters and volunteers who already have."

We join with the Bishops Conference in praying that: *'as we approach the Holy Season of Advent...Christ the Prince of Peace will guide all devastated by this conflict into the ways of truth, reconciliation, and respectful co-existence.'*

Right to Life request us to write to our MPs

Stop the 14-day limit on experimenting on embryos being removed

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) is pushing to remove the 14-day limit for experimenting on embryos, despite 97% of submissions from the general public to their consultation objecting to these plans.

Right To Life UK has launched an easy-to-use tool on its website that makes it easy for you to email your MP asking them to oppose a change to legislation that, if passed, would pave the way for the removal of the 14-day limit. Please visit <https://www.theyworkforyou.com/mp/> to contact your MP now.

It only takes 30 seconds.

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. **There will be no adoration this coming Wednesday 6th December**

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 **No December Group**

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

Bible Study Group – 11am on Mondays in St Benedict's (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