



# In Touch

Journeying Together:

Collaboration

Co-operation

Co-Responsibility

Second Sunday of Advent (year B)  
9<sup>th</sup> / 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023  
No. 1363

Dear Parishioners

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

The COP28 continues until Tuesday. Please pray for its success. Many experts are saying that this is our last chance to make the changes to our life style and culture which are needed for our planet to survive.

You will have heard that Pope Francis is unable to visit Dubai as he had intended because of health reasons, but he has sent the speech which he was to have given to be read by his representative.

He begins by setting out in very forthright language the gravity of the moment and the urgency that the conference reaches the right conclusion. *I am with you, because time is short. I am with you because now more than ever, the future of us all depends on the present that we now choose. I am with you because the destruction of the environment is an offence against God, a sin that is not only personal but also structural, one that greatly endangers all human beings, especially the most vulnerable in our midst and threatens to unleash a conflict between generations. I am with you because climate change is “a global social issue and one intimately related to the dignity of human life” (Laudate Deum, 3). I am with you to raise the question which we must answer now: Are we working for a culture of life or a culture of death? To all of you I make this heartfelt appeal: Let us choose life! Let us choose the future! May we be attentive to the cry of the earth, may we hear the plea of the poor, may we be sensitive to the hopes of the young and the dreams of children! We have a grave responsibility: to ensure that they not be denied their future.* He reaffirms the conclusions of scientists, and states that at the root of it all stands human greed: *It has now become clear that the climate change presently taking place stems from the overheating of the planet, caused chiefly by the increase of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere due to human activity, which in recent decades has proved unsustainable for the ecosystem. The drive to produce and possess has become an obsession, resulting in an inordinate greed that has made the environment the object of unbridled exploitation. The climate, run amok, is crying out to us to halt this illusion of omnipotence. Let us once more recognize our limits, with humility and courage, as the sole path to a life of authentic fulfilment.* He adds: *The gap between the opulent few and the masses of the poor has never been so abysmal. The poor are the real victims of what is happening: we need think only of the plight of indigenous peoples, deforestation, the tragedies of hunger, water and food insecurity, and forced migration.*

The solution, he affirms, is to establish trust among nations, *a shared awareness of being a family of nations. It is essential to rebuild trust, which is the foundation of multilateralism. This is true in the case of care for creation, but also that of peace. Let us leave behind our divisions and unite our forces! And with God’s help, let us emerge from the dark night of wars and environmental devastation in order to turn our common future into the dawn of a new and radiant day.*

Please pray for the success of the conference. Please see below the WPE page with its suggestions of what we can do to change our life styles according to the needs of our planet.

Please see [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OYpqF0z\\_ZUM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OYpqF0z_ZUM) and [Vatican documents](#)

I send you all my very best wishes.

Fr Paul

### **Prayers**

Please pray for Dominic Russell, Samuel Hughes and James Woodward who will be baptised this Sunday.  
Please pray for their parents Stella, Joe, Mary, Vincent, Barney and Anna.

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** – John Isted, Ray Smith, Margery Hemming, Dom Michael Smith, Mary (Molly) Hansford, Brian Hemming, Sean Duggan, Tom Fieldwick, Liam Dunbar, Elizabeth Shrimpton, Molly Cox and Mervyn Thomas.

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

### **Daily Readings**

Monday – Isa 35:1-10 Luke 5:17-26

Tuesday – Isa 40:1-11 Matt 18:12-14

Wednesday – Isa 40:25-31 Matt 11:28-30 (**St Lucy**)

Thursday – Isa 41:13-20 Matt 11:11-15 (**St John of the Cross**)

Friday – Isa 48:17-19 Matt 11:16-19

Saturday – Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Matt 17:9a, 10-13

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

1st Reading – Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11 2nd Reading – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

**Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28**

**There stands among you the one coming after me**

### *Parish Events*

## Christmas Timetable

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

**This 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

### Christmas break dates for Jr Church

The final Jr Church class will be on Sunday 17th December.  
We resume classes on Sunday 7th January 2024.

Rachel sends a big thank you, to Jenny Chapman and her team of bakers, who provided a most wonderful and delicious spread for the celebratory reception last Sunday.  
She appreciated all the efforts made for the special day.



### **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: **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

### **Abbot Mark writes:**

This **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December** there will be short meeting after the 9.30am mass, in The Unity Room, 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 10<sup>th</sup> to hear more about this.

### **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.

### **Advent Groups**

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

All are most welcome, please contact: [christiegrieve@gmail.com](mailto:christiegrieve@gmail.com) or [christinafitzsimons@icloud.com](mailto:christinafitzsimons@icloud.com) for further details.

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

### **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)

### **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

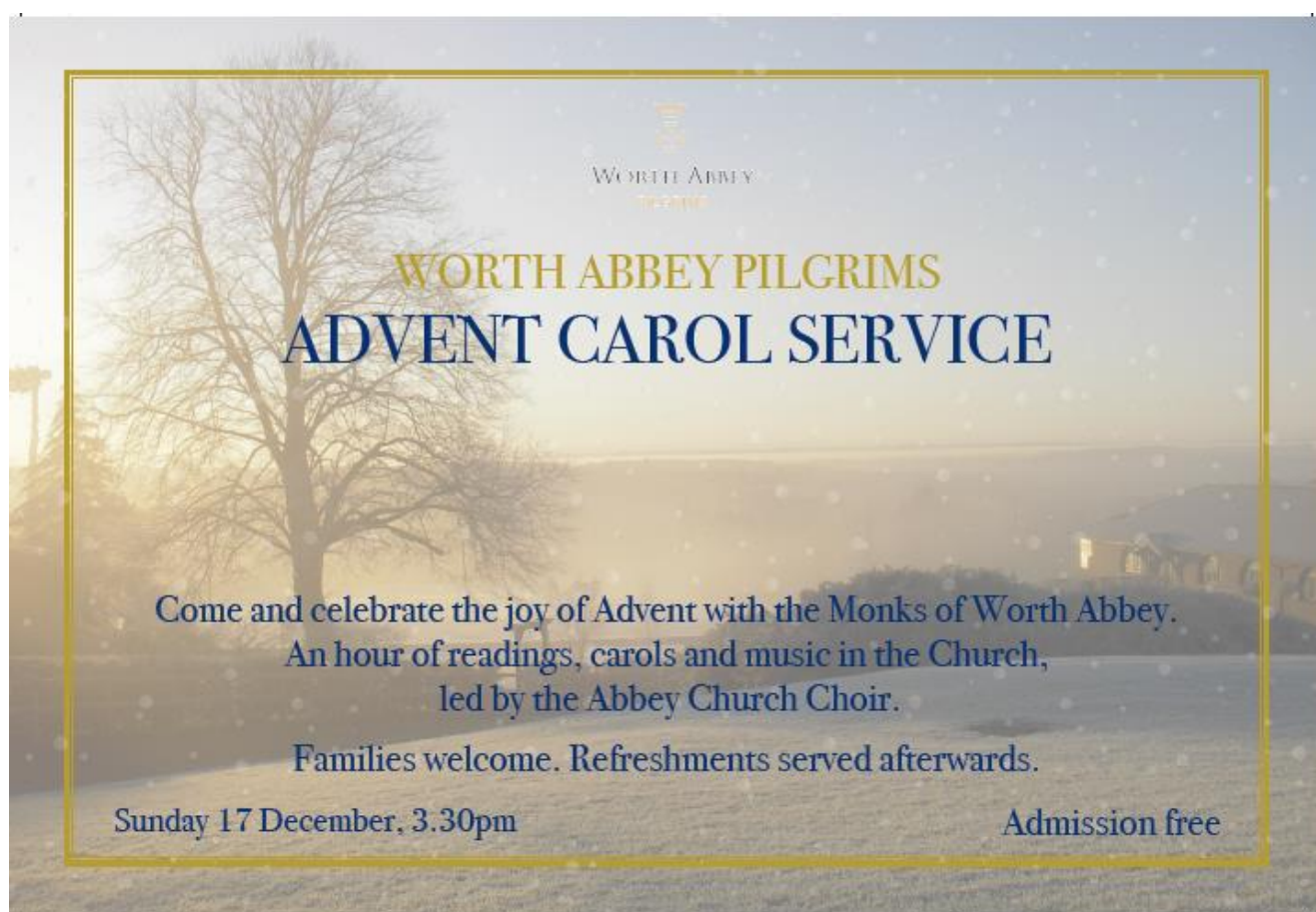
#### **Midday Stillness**

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

#### **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)



WORTH ABBEY  
PIEPIERRE

## 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

West Sussex County Council write: Recycling and waste prevention this Christmas

With this being the last edition of our newsletter before Christmas, we would like to take this opportunity to encourage residents to reduce their waste as much as they can this December. Our [website](#) has loads of information on how our team are keeping their waste to a minimum this festive season. Why not check it out for some inspiration?

We appreciate that waste cannot always be avoided which is why we would also like to remind everyone to recycle as much as possible. If you have extra household recycling, check with your local [district and borough council](#) for more information on their excess recycling policy.

Remember that you can also take your soft plastics such as films, wrappers and carrier bags to your local participating supermarkets as part of their soft plastics recycling scheme.

**Prepare for Advent: Download your calendar** <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/advent-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

### **Please also see:**

- The Archdiocese of Chicago has this wonderful [Living Laudato Si' Advent Calendar](#) with daily reflections and challenges to help us engage with the Laudato Si' Goals.  
(From Journey to 2030 newsletter)
- Sustainable Christmas ideas: 13 ways to make the festive season greener <https://www.positive.news/lifestyle/sustainable-christmas-ideas-how-to-make-yuletide-greener/>  
(From Positive News newsletter)

### **Tell supermarkets to ban bee-toxic pesticides**

Recent studies have revealed major declines in global pollinator populations, with pesticides named as a key driver. Close to 75% of the world's crops depend on pollinators for sustained production, yield and quality.

The cost of pollinating crops artificially would cost an additional £1.8 billion per year in the UK alone. Given that much of this damage is being done in the name of food production, UK supermarkets have a key role to play in reversing this worrying trend. At the very least, they must take measures to ensure that their global supply chains 'do no harm' to our already-struggling pollinators.

Much of the debate around the impact of pesticides on bees and other pollinators has focused on a class of chemicals known as '**neonicotinoids**' (1 gram is enough to kill **125 million honeybees**). After years of campaigning, the use of four neonicotinoids was recently banned in the EU and the UK and farmers here are no longer permitted to use these chemicals when growing crops (although they can still use other bee-harming pesticides). But neonicotinoids are still used elsewhere in the world. This means that many products on UK supermarket shelves will have been grown in a way which is extremely harmful to bees. **In other words, we are exporting our environmental footprint to countries with weaker standards.** UK supermarkets have huge global footprints and the power to make change. They urgently need to ban bee-toxic pesticides and support growers around the world to adopt more sustainable, non-chemical alternatives.

**Join us in asking Asda, Aldi, Co-op, Iceland, Lidl, M&S, Morrisons, Sainsburys, Tesco and Waitrose to ban bee-toxic pesticides from their UK and global supply chains.**

[Take Action](#)

## *Non-Parish Events*

### **\*\*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.

### **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))

### **Pilgrimage to Normandy**

Led by Michael Woodward, of the Lay Community of St Benedict, from 12<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2024.

Chaplain – Fr Ian Byrne. If you would like more information, please contact the parish office.



### **Retrouvaille: A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages**

**Help Your Marriage** – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 8 - 11 February 2024 or a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) - or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

**Retrouvaille – Do you need in your marriage?** Retrouvaille has helped many couples find new hope, nourishment and growth in their marriages. If you want to uncover or reawaken the love, trust and commitment that brought you together and work through difficult times in your marriage contact Retrouvaille confidential for more information about our 2024 programmes. There is no group therapy or group work. Our next programme commences with a Virtual weekend on 8 - 11 February 2024 or there is a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024. Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443, email [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) - or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

### **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](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) **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](mailto:sg1.worth@abdiocese.org.uk)