



In Touch

Journeying Together:

Collaboration

Co-operation

Co-Responsibility

The Epiphany of the Lord (year B)

6th / 7th January 2024

No. 1365

Dear Parishioners

I hope that you all enjoyed a good celebration of Christmas and New Year, and that you found the liturgies here at Worth refreshing and that they brought you a real sense of renewal. Our thanks go to all those who worked hard to make our celebrations moments of joy. We remember especially our musicians, readers, welcomers and all those who offered hospitality.

On January 2nd Bishop Richard issued a new edition of the **Diocesan Pastoral Plan**. It is now available on line for everyone to read - please see the Diocesan website, www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/pastoral-plan. The plan is entitled 'The Word Who is Life: The Call to Mission'. Bishop Richard comments: *As society becomes more secular our parishes must be ever-clearer beacons of light guiding people to Christ. The new Plan highlights how our community of faith can embrace this important time of renewal, forging diocesan parishes into communities of saints and strong, lively, and welcoming schools of discipleship.* The plan envisages structural changes in our parishes to be undertaken during the course of the next two years, with parish communities being grouped together for better collaboration. The overall thrust of the plan is to build a Church which has a more effective missionary thrust. They write: *Mission calls us outward, beyond the safety of that with which we are comfortable. We are called to be more closely conformed to Christ, that as His disciples we may bring the Good News to our brothers and sisters. This is a call that is made upon all the baptised, each according to their state in life, that we may use the gifts we have been given at the service of Christ and of our brothers and sisters, both near and far.* (1.6)

There will be a **webinar with Bishop Richard** when he will explain more of the details to us. This will take place on Wednesday, January 10th at 7.30 pm. Please do join this. Everyone's help is needed to construct the Christian Community of the future. Please use the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86457734895>

For more ideas about a missionary Church, please see the webinar with Sherry Waddell - : <https://youtu.be/3LtN2lhFLt8> She offers some surprising statistics and a new analysis of where we are as a Church in England.

This weekend we are asked to contribute to a 2nd Collection for the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, and for all the churches for which he is responsible. He writes:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

May the Lord give you peace!

Charity and prayer animate the entire extended family of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, especially during times of extreme hardship. Many lives were saved and much suffering was alleviated thanks to your support in these recent appeals: Covid-19, Gaza 2021; the Beirut port blast; and the Syria and Turkey earthquake

In all of these situations we heard and answered the cry of the poor. Once again, their cry is heard in the Holy Land because of the war that has been raging now for many weeks.

The current crisis has caused not only death, destruction and hunger in Gaza, but also high unemployment, especially in the Bethlehem area, and other social issues all over the Holy Land. We are facing a crisis that affects countless families from different religions and all our institutions including schools, hospitals and parishes. In Gaza, our material resources have been extended beyond our walls to include our suffering neighbours and to those who took refuge in other locations. The spirit of coordination was evident as local players also extended a helping hand. We share practically everything from food and water to medicines and supplies. We have learned in this difficult time that to rebuild the physical world we must build and protect trust between people.

Hundreds of people from all over the world have contacted us and have helped us to offer concrete support. We know what we need to do, as we have done with all our heart in previous crises, and we will undoubtedly do it again. Please help us to make a concrete difference and to build the necessary environment so that, in this society scarred by hatred, we may again sow the seeds of trust, of hope and of love.

Be assured of my prayer and gratitude for each of you!

In Christ, + Pierbattista Card. Pizzaballa (Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem)

I commend this urgent appeal to your generosity, and send my prayers and very best wishes to you all. Fr Paul

Anniversaries

Please pray for the Souls of – Jack Mantelow, Stanley Pitt, Joy Argent, Veronica Lamarche, Ambrose Rigby, Eve Dodwell, John Edward Clarke, Faith Shine, Mrs Duncan, May Lane, George Church, Paul Rubridge, Donald Nicolson, Muriel Price, Marie Rogue, Patricia Langridge, Richard Wilson, Frances Mary Webb, W G Wallis, Albert Laithwaite, Henry Hyslop, Emmie Walford, Basil Hull, Vivian Trowbridge, Alistair Stone, Elizabeth Figg, Josette Previtt, Joseph Loftus, Tom Harrison, Reginald Ball, Ken Cooper, Julia Herrick, Mary Needham, Marguerite Pointer, David Gesden, Philip Curran, Philip McNulty, Paul Bonner, Max Morris, Geoffrey Seager-Berry and Adolphe Morice.

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

Daily Readings

Monday – Isa 55:1-11 or 1 John 5:1-9 Mark 1:7-11 **(The Baptism of the Lord)**

Tuesday – 1 Sam 1:9-20 Mark 1:21-28 or 1 Sam 1:1-8, 9-20 Mark 1:14-20, 21-28

Wednesday – 1 Sam 3:1-10, 19-20 Mark 1:29-39

Thursday – 1 Sam 4:1-11 Mark 1:40-45

Friday – **St Benet Biscop**

Saturday – 1 Sam 9:1-4, 17-19, 10:1a Mark 2:13-17

Next Sunday's Readings: **Second Sunday in OT (Year B)**

1st Reading – 1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19 2nd Reading – 1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20

Gospel: John 1:35-42

We have found the Messiah

Prayers

Please pray for Helen Maher RIP, who died recently. Please pray for her family.

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

In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year “Pilgrims of Hope”, 2024 has been designated a Year of Prayer by Pope Francis.

*“Prayer unites us; it makes us brothers and sisters.
It is in prayer that our hearts find the strength not to be cold and insensitive in the face of injustice.
In prayer, God keeps calling us, opening our hearts to charity.” (Pope Francis)*

*God of peace, may your kingdom come.
May fear strike no longer, let pain fade away,
may earthly power be challenged, when it plunders the poor,
and tramples on hope.
God of peace, may your kingdom come.
Help us put away the weapons of war, help us destroy the tools of destruction,
let earthly power be challenged, when it plunders the poor,
and tramples on hope.
God of peace, may your kingdom come.
Teach us to follow the ways of justice, teach us to walk the paths of truth,
let integrity challenge the power that plunders, when it tramples the poor
and pours scorn on our hope.
God of peace, may your kingdom come.
Bring peace sweet as honey, bring peace like a shield,
and may we be the challenge to earthly power that plunders
and tramples on hope.
God of peace, may your kingdom come.
Amen.
(Linda Jones/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*

Parish Events

Dates for your Diary



This Saturday, 6th January – refreshments after mass in the Unity Room

Wednesday, 10th January – webinar with Bishop Richard about the new Diocesan Pastoral Plan at 7.30 pm
(<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86457734895>)

Sunday, 14th January – brunch after mass in Compass House, from 11 am

Sunday, 21st January – next meeting of the Family Catechism groups, parents and All Saints in Compass House, and Inspired in the Unity Room

Saturday, 27th January – Diocesan Justice and Peace Annual Meeting, 10 am till 1.30 pm, at the St Philip Howard Centre

Junior Church

Classes resume this Sunday 7th January.

This weekend, there will be a **2nd collection** for the Churches under the care of the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem in the Holy Land and beyond.

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.

Next Date: **26th January**. 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

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.

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.

Non-Parish Events

Pilgrimage to Normandy

Led by Michael Woodward, of the Lay Community of St Benedict, from **12th to 21st 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? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their 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. 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 8th – 11th February 2024** or a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on **14th – 16th June 2024**, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

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](#)

or use our QR code



Parish Priest: Fr Paul Fleetwood (Mobile: 07764 260216)

Parish Office Email: parish@worth.org.uk Parish Office Tel: 01342 710313 Parish Website: www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk

Secretary: Maria Stribbling, available 9.15am-1.15pm Mon-Fri

Night time emergencies only: 01342 710331

Any cheques to be made payable to – Worth Abbey Parish

In Touch: If you would like anything to appear in 'In Touch', please contact Maria Stribbling at parish@worth.org.uk **(by Wednesday 10am)**

Safe Spaces: 0300 303 1056 **Web:** www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk/ **Email:** safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk

If you are unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, or if you have any prayer intentions, please let Fr Paul know.

REGULAR EVENTS IN THE PARISH

Mass Times - Saturday: 9.00 am (Concelebrated) and 5.00 pm (First Mass of Sunday),
Sunday: 9.30 am

Daily Mass: 5.30 pm (Concelebrated), Holy Days of Obligation: 7.30 pm;

Feast Day: 5.30 pm



Confessions (Sacrament of Reconciliation) – In the Church, Sundays 08.45am – 09.15am.
(If anyone cannot come at this time, please make a special appointment with Fr Paul)

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament – Every Sunday at 6.30pm in the Church, after vespers and on Wednesdays from 2pm–3pm.

Rosary Group – Mondays in the Abbey Church after Vespers – 7:10pm until 8:00pm. Please get in touch with Rachel Davies: 07801 696354.

Lectio Divina – Tuesday evenings at 8pm via Zoom. Please contact Jenny Chapman jenny_chapman@sky.com Next meeting will be on the **16th January**. If you would like to join us please contact Jenny Chapman by email or speak to her after Mass any weekend.

Christian Meditation Group – 7.00pm in the Unity Room, please contact Richard by email rbrownd1@gmail.com **Next Dates** – **24th January**, 28th February, 27th March, 24th April.

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. jenny_chapman@sky.com Next meeting Monday **15th January**. Please contact Jenny chapman if you think you might like to join the group.

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