



In Touch

Journeying Together:

Collaboration

Co-operation

Co-Responsibility

Third Sunday in OT (year B)
20th / 21st January 2024
No. 1367

Dear Parishioners

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

On Thursday of this week we began the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity. I am sorry that we are unable to have a joint celebration of the week at Worth this year, but maybe we will be able to arrange something for Pentecost, which is another moment for prayer for Christian Unity.

We pray for unity because this is what Jesus did - *that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.* This was clearly his wish. He founded only one Church, which, alas, sin has divided. Please do pray especially during this week for the unity for which Jesus prayed.

The organisers of the Week have chosen the Parable of the Good Samaritan for their theme. This year the materials have been prepared by the Churches in Burkina Faso. They write: *In choosing this passage of Scripture for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the Churches of Burkina Faso have invited us to join with them in a process of self-reflection as they consider what it means to love our neighbour in the midst of a security crisis. Communities in the British-Irish context may be less vulnerable to acts of mass violence than in Burkina Faso, but there are still many living with the memory and/or the threat of serious violence, centred on issues of identity and belonging. There are also groups within communities, including people from ethnic minority backgrounds and people seeking asylum, who feel particularly vulnerable to violence or being displaced by the threat of violence.*

Our neighbours in Burkina Faso call us to reconnect to God's dream for us – a dream of a unity formed of ties of love and compassion. This challenges us not only to reflect on the learning from our ecumenical journey so far, but to widen our vision. What can we learn from people of other faiths, from those whose backgrounds are most different from our own, and what do we need from each other?

Please join this ecumenical community of prayer. Please see their materials:

<https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2024/>

God of life,

You have created us to have life, and life in all its fullness.

Help your wounded Church to be a source of hope and healing.

As we follow Jesus' way with determination, may we lead others to you.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

I send my best wishes. Yours. Fr Paul

Prayers

Please pray for Cynthia Haynes who died in hospital on Wednesday, 17th. R.I.P.

Please pray also for her family. We will advertise the time of her funeral when we know it.

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

Anniversaries

Please pray for the Souls of – Althea Davis, Joseph Clarke, Fred Enscoe, Martin Wilkinson, Dom Peter Beazley, Josephine Wright, Irene Mitchell, Betty Jones, Michael Stimpson and Paul Rubridge. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen.**

Daily Readings

Monday – 2 Sam 5:1-7, 10 Mark 3:22-30

Tuesday – 2 Sam 6:12b-15, 17-19 Mark 3:31-35

Wednesday – 2 Sam 7:4-17 Mark 4:1-20 (**St Francis de Sales**)

Thursday – Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22 Mark 16:15-18 (**The Conversion of St Paul**)

Friday – 2 Sam 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17 Mark 4:26-34

Saturday – 2 Sam 12:1-7a, 10-17 Mark 4:35-41

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

1st Reading – Deuteronomy 18:15-20 2nd Reading – 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

Unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority

Parish Events

Dates for your Diary



This 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

Sunday, 28th January – Worth Pro Earth (WPE) - A talk by John Paul de Quay promoted by the Worth Pro Earth Group: *Saving our Common Home*, at 11 am in the Unity Room. (Please see separate box)

Wednesday, 14th February – Ash Wednesday. Parish mass with ashes at 7.30pm (there will also be usual mass at 5.30pm)

Save the Date

Worth Abbey Pilgrims' programme of events for 2024 will commence on

Saturday 9th March and **Saturday 16th March** with their **Lent Talks** at Worth Abbey.

The talks will follow a similar format to the popular, "Preparing for Advent", talks which were very well attended in December 2023. More details and booking information to follow but please save the dates.

We expect the Abbey church to be closed for maintenance of the lighting system between **Monday, 12th February** and **Friday, 16th February**. During this time the regular liturgy will be celebrated in the Unity Room. Please enter by the East door.

Invited during Lent

Lent begins on **14th February, Ash Wednesday**, when there will be mass for the parish with ashes at 7.30 pm. (There will also be the usual mass at 5.30 pm.)

The Diocese is offering another series of online talks in their retreat, *Invited*.

Lizzie Wakeling writes: "*We are delighted to host a series of sessions this Lent to help everyone deepen their faith. There will be five meetings taking place*". For further information please see the Diocesan website:

www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited.

Would anyone be able to host or lead a meeting? Please get in touch.

We will also be offering Stations of the Cross on Fridays, at 7.15 pm, beginning **23rd February**.

On **Wednesday, 24th January**, we are invited to take part in Benediction with the school during their Wednesday Worship, which begins at 4.30 pm. Please occupy the free seats at the back of the church, so that the school can take their usual places. Thank you.
(Mass will take place, as usual, at 5.30pm)

WPE - Talk

Worth Pro Earth invite us to a talk by John Paul de Quay – **Saving our Common Home. Why should Christians care about the environment?** John Paul writes: *Join us as we look into what it means to be a human being, how we are connected through ecology and technology, and look at some of the issues facing our global family today including climate change, biodiversity loss, and slavery. We will then propose how we as Christians are called to tackle the root causes of these varied problems.*

Please join us on **Sunday, 28th January** in the Unity Room at 11 am, after mass.

John Paul runs the Journey to 2030 project and the Ecological Conversion Group Charity. He is environmental lead for Arundel and Brighton in a voluntary capacity.



Invited

LENT 2024



Our Invited Mission continues in Lent 2024

offering a programme for small groups, online conversations and individual engagement. The material will discuss '**Discipleship**' as we reflect on how we continue to conform our lives to the Lord.

The resources are designed to call us into **deeper relationship with Jesus**, and are therefore most suitable for those who have already made the decision to follow him. *If you don't feel ready for that yet, why not watch our Advent 2023 season first? It will help you understand who Jesus is and just how much he loves you.*



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.

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



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON

www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited

Registered Charity No. 252878

Worth Pro Earth – A Call to Action

Following some rather dire predictions about global warming, in reaction to COP28, WPE proposes ten **Action Points** for January: Energy Saving Ideas

1. Turn down your thermostat by one degree
2. Switch off your heating when leaving the house for a few hours
3. Fit draught-proofing strips to windows/doors and a brush strip over your letterbox
4. Fit a hot water cylinder jacket to your water tank
5. Keep furniture and curtains away from radiators to feel warmer
6. Avoid drying clothes on radiators which will block out the heat
7. Silver foil placed down the back of a radiator will reflect the heat back in the room
8. Turn off the lights when you're not using them, change the bulbs for LED bulbs
9. Use your washing machine on a 30-degree cycle
10. Dry your clothes on racks instead of using a tumble dryer

Do let us know how you find these proposals.

Please see the separate box concerning the talk by JP de Quay – *Saving Our Common Home*. Sunday 28th January, after mass, in the Unity Room.

Meanwhile, 17th to 24th January is **Energy Saving Week**.

Please see **Tick Zero** <https://tickzero.com/watch-the-films/> "Tick Zero is Cambridge University's climate mitigation course: 16 hours of lectures condensed into six films of 9 mins.



Saving our Common Home

Why should Christians care about the environment?

A talk by John Paul de Quay, *Journey to 2030* organised by Worth Pro Earth.

The Unity Room, Worth Abbey. Sunday January 28th at 11am

Join us as we look into what it means to be a human being, how we are connected through ecology and technology, and look at some of the issues facing our global family today including climate change, biodiversity loss, and slavery. We will then propose how we as Christians are called to tackle the root causes of these varied problems.

John Paul runs the *Journey to 2030* project and the Ecological Conversion Group Charity. He is environmental lead for Arundel and Brighton in a voluntary capacity.

*All powerful God,
you are present in
the universe
and in the smallest
of your creatures.
You embrace with
your tenderness all
that exists.
Pour out upon us
the power of your
love,
that we may
protect life and
beauty.
Fill us with your
peace, that we
may live
as brothers and
sisters, harming
no one.
O God of the poor,
help us to rescue
the abandoned
and forgotten of
this earth,
so precious in
your eyes.
Amen*

Non-Parish Events

Diocesan Justice & Peace Assembly

Saturday, 27th January, 10am-1.30pm at The St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley, RH10 6RP.

This year's assembly will address violence and abuse in our homes, families and wider community, with speakers from Restored, Lifecentre and Pax Christi.

Doors will open at 9.30am with refreshments available. To register for your free please [J & P Assembly](#)

Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Eucharist

On **Saturday 10th February** Bishop Richard will lead a day of reflection and formation for Ministers of the Eucharist at St Michael's, High Salvington, Worthing from 11am - 4pm.

The day will include theological and practical talks, Eucharistic Adoration and mass.

Please register using the link: <https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/diqacwqd>

Vocations Weekend for Women (20's & 30's)

The theme will be "Discerning God's call in your life" and will be held from **16th - 18th February** in Liverpool. The weekend is organised by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). Jesus invites each of us to 'Come and See' - this weekend will give the opportunity to explore the vocation to religious life and to reflect on God's call to you.

If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them.

For more information contact Sr Lynne fcj at fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com
or visit our website <https://www.fcjsisters.org/>

Lourdes Pilgrimage

Applications to join our special 50th Anniversary Lourdes pilgrimage are now open!

We take more than 700 pilgrims to Lourdes to visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes each year. Our group includes pilgrims who are sick, disabled, frail or elderly and need our help to make the journey. Our pilgrimage is 'Love in Action', we journey to Lourdes to serve each other and to renew our commitment to walk with Jesus Christ with the help of Our Lady and St Bernadette.

2024's pilgrimage will mark both the 50th Anniversary of the diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage, and the 20th Anniversary of our Redshirts youth programme, both of which have helped so many people encounter God's love. Our hope for 2024 is that new and former pilgrims may hear Our Lady's invitation to 'Come to Lourdes in Procession'. The anniversary celebrations will be open to the whole diocesan family; to find out more visit our website. To make your application please click on the button below.

[50th anniversary Lourdes Pilgrimage](#)

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.

Crawley Interfaith Network (CIFN)

CIFN and Spirit of Peace present "Tree of Life" on **Thursday 15th February** at Crawley Museum, 103 High Street, Crawley, RH10 1DD from 7pm - 9pm. With Refreshments.

Please contact Ashwin Soni on ashel@hotmail.co.uk or 07833 252551 for more information, or see poster in the Narthex.

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