



# In Touch

Journeying Together:

Collaboration

Co-operation

Co-Responsibility

Second Sunday in OT (year B)

13<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024

No. 1366

Dear Parishioners

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

This Sunday we celebrate **Peace Sunday**. Pope Francis has written us a message for this day, which is entitled *Artificial Intelligence and Peace*. It is clearly a complex theme, and his message encourages us to be aware of both the blessings and also the dangers of Artificial Intelligence (A.I.).

Pope Francis writes: *We rightly rejoice and give thanks for the impressive achievements of science and technology, as a result of which countless ills that formerly plagued human life and caused great suffering have been remedied. At the same time, techno-scientific advances, by making it possible to exercise hitherto unprecedented control over reality, are placing in human hands a vast array of options, including some that may pose a risk to our survival and endanger our common home.*

*The remarkable advances in new information technologies, particularly in the digital sphere, thus offer exciting opportunities and grave risks, with serious implications for the pursuit of justice and harmony among peoples. Any number of urgent questions need to be asked. What will be the consequences, in the medium and long term, of these new digital technologies? And what impact will they have on individual lives and on societies, on international stability and peace?*

In a section titled *The future of artificial intelligence: between promise and risk*, he writes: *We need to remember that scientific research and technological innovations are not disembodied and “neutral”, but subject to cultural influences. As fully human activities, the directions they take reflect choices conditioned by personal, social and cultural values in any given age. The same must be said of the results they produce: precisely as the fruit of specifically human ways of approaching the world around us, the latter always have an ethical dimension, closely linked to decisions made by those who design their experimentation and direct their production towards particular objectives.* He adds that AI can only imitate certain aspects of human intelligence, and therefore is fragmentary.

He continues: *The inherent dignity of each human being and the fraternity that binds us together as members of the one human family must undergird the development of new technologies.* In particular he warns against the unregulated use of AI for waging war: *The ability to conduct military operations through remote control systems has led to a lessened perception of the devastation caused by those weapon systems and the burden of responsibility for their use, resulting in an even more cold and detached approach to the immense tragedy of war.*

Pope Francis ends with a call to prayer: *It is my prayer at the start of the New Year that the rapid development of forms of artificial intelligence will not increase cases of inequality and injustice all too present in today’s world, but will help put an end to wars and conflicts, and alleviate many forms of suffering that afflict our human family.*

Please see the full text: <https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/peace-sunday-14th-january-2024/>

This weekend we will have a retiring collection in aid of Pax Christi, the Catholic organisation which works especially for education for peace.

I send you all my very best wishes. Fr Paul

## Prayers

Please pray for Helen Maher RIP, who died recently. Please pray for her family.  
Helen's funeral will be at St Barnabas Church, Pound Hill, on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon.  
We are permitted to park at St Edward's church, Pound Hill, if necessary.

Please pray for Noella McGahan, widow of Tom, who died recently. May they rest in peace.

Please pray for Cynthia Haynes who is seriously ill in hospital.

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** – Lilian Cottrell, Jimmy Law, Margaret Harrison, Leo Leroux, Nazarine Chaplin, Keith Ellison, Albert (Davy) Davis, Revd Norman Print, Evelyn Garvan, Louise Dobson, Tim McShane, Kenneth Huggins, Joan Leslie, Hannah Philipps and Mgr Canon David Donnelly.  
**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen.**

### **Daily Readings**

Monday – 1 Sam 15:16-23 Mark 2:18-22 (**SS Maurus & Placid**)  
Tuesday – 1 Sam 16:1-13 Mark 2:23-28  
Wednesday – 1 Sam 17:32-33, 37, 40-51 Mark 3:1-6 (**St Antony of Egypt**)  
Thursday – 1 Sam 18:6-9, 19:1-7 Mark 3:7-12  
Friday – 1 Sam 24:3-21 Mark 3:13-19  
Saturday – 2 Sam 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27 Mark 3:20-21

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

1st Reading – Jonah 3:1-5, 10 2nd Reading – 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

**Gospel:** Mark 1:14-20

**I will make you into fishers of men**

### *Parish Events*

### Dates for your Diary



**This Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> January** – Brunch after mass in Compass House, from 11 am

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

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

**Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> January** – Worth Pro Earth (WPE) talk after mass in the Unity Room

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

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

This weekend, there will be a **2<sup>nd</sup> collection** for Peace Sunday (Pax Christi)  
The theme chosen by Pope Francis for the World Day of Peace:  
**'Artificial Intelligence and Peace'**.

### Invited during Lent

Lent begins on February, 14<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://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 February 23<sup>rd</sup>.



# 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.



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF  
ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON

[www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited](http://www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited)

Registered Charity No. 252878

### 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.

### **Apologies**

It has been brought to our attention that some of you have been unable to open some links from last week's In Touch.

Please find attached links for The Pastoral Plan <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/pastoral-plan> and of the YouTube video of Sherry Waddell. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3LtN2lhFLt8>

Please also see the link to the Bishop's webinar. [Bishops Webinar](#)

Please accept our apologies

### **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: **26<sup>th</sup> 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

### **Worth Pro Earth**

Jenny Edwards, member of Worth Pro Earth and a local councillor for the Green Party, writes:

As we enter the new year there are two news items in particular which Worth Pro Earth - together we suspect with many of you - will have been discussing.

As is - sadly - the norm, consensus on COP 28 is that it did not go far enough. The fact that there were more attendees representing the fossil fuel industries than there were from the 10 most climate vulnerable countries combined gave rise to dismay and cynicism. But we must remember that, incredibly, for the first time and after much debate, the parties at the Conference have come together to commit to the phasing out of fossil fuels. So, we are on the right path - at last.

However, the report on Tuesday that 2023 was the warmest year on record and that the scale of the temperature rise had taken even climate scientists by surprise was sobering. This has underlined how vital it is for all of us to hold those in power to account, and also to act as individuals in any way we can to reduce our emissions.

The Worth Pro Earth group meets monthly to consider and find ways to act on both these fronts. Taking our cue this month from 'Live Laudato Si' we are particularly drawn after the celebrations of Christmas to looking again at 'Live Simply' - one of the ways parishes are encouraged to follow the principles in Laudato Si. We will be looking at this again with some practical suggestions leading up to Lent.

Worth Pro Earth is a small group of parishioners with a particular interest in climate and ecology. We are diverse in our interest and experience and would love to hear from you if you would like to contribute in any way at all. It doesn't need to be a regular commitment as we know everyone has many demands on their time. Please email [parish@worth.org.uk](mailto:parish@worth.org.uk) with WPE in the subject line and let us know your thoughts.

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.

### **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.



## *Non-Parish Events*

### **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.

### **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](#)

### **Diocesan Justice & Peace Assembly**

**27<sup>th</sup> 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](#)

### **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](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.



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)**