



# In Touch

Journeying Together:

Collaboration

Co-operation

Co-Responsibility

Fifth Sunday in OT (year B)  
3<sup>rd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
No. 1369

Dear Parishioners

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

Last week we shared some material published by the Holocaust Memorial Trust for Holocaust Memorial Day. This week I would like to share material published by a Jewish organisation, Jewish Voice for Peace. This is a group based in the United States which looks at Jewish life and culture from a perspective which is different from that of the Israeli government and that of the U.S. In anticipation of the Memorial Day they wrote an article entitled ***This Holocaust Remembrance Day, Never again is now.*** **They write:** *As we approach International Holocaust Remembrance Day, we are confronted with a devastating truth: What we vowed never to allow to happen again is happening, right now.*

*Today, Gaza is a shell of its former self. Entire neighbourhoods have been wiped from the face of the Earth, replaced by a grey wasteland unfit for human life: bustling markets and crowded cafes, libraries home to thousands of precious books, bakeries filled with the smell of fresh bread — all of it turned to ash.*

*This Saturday, Israel and the U.S. will share solemn words about the Holocaust. They will tell us that we must never again allow this kind of evil to occur — even as both countries stand trial, respectively, for carrying out and complicity in the genocide of Palestinians.*

*One of the worst truths of the Holocaust is that such horrors can happen. It is entirely possible for a genocide to be carried out while the world watches, and it's happened more than once since the world vowed "never again."*

I share this with you all because it is a Jewish perspective which is rarely heard in our news today, because this is largely dominated by the official accounts from the Israeli and U.S. governments. I invite you to look further at Jewish Voice for Peace on their website.

[Jewish voice for Peace](https://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/)

Please note that much of the material is quite harrowing.

Please pray for the peoples of Israel and Palestine.

I send my best wishes to you all. Fr Paul

## **Prayers**

Please pray for Fr Stephen who died on Saturday.  
His funeral will be celebrated here at Worth on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am

Please pray for Jean Adams, who died peacefully at home on Monday. May she rest in peace.

Please pray also for Kath, her daughter, and all her family.

We will celebrate Jean's funeral at Worth on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> February at 11 am.

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** – Ernest Walker, Rosemary Jansen, Violet Ferguson, Dom Hugh O'Neill, Dom Oliver Brayden, Michael Godfrey, Elizabeth Fresne, Edgar Stanford, Josephine Chamberlain, Eda Dunbar, Joan Witham, Jim McClusky, Fra Andrew Bertie, Angus MacDonald, Eddie Flanagan, Beatrice Green, Bruce Lagden, Anne Powys-Lybbe.

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

### Daily Readings

Monday – 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13 Mark 6:53-56

Tuesday – 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30 Mark 7:1-13 **(St Paul Miki & Comp)**

Wednesday – 1 Kgs 10:1-10 Mark 7:14-23

Thursday – 1 Kgs 11:4-13 Mark 7:24-30

Friday – 1 Kgs 11:29-32, 12:19 Mark 7:31-37

Saturday – Songs 8:6-7 Luke 10:38-42 **(St Scholastica)**

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

1st Reading – Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46 2nd Reading – 1 Corinthians 10:31 – 11:1

**Gospel:** Mark 1:40-45

**The leprosy left the man at once, and he was cured**

### *Parish Events*

#### **Rt. Rev. Dom (Richard) Stephen Ortiger, OSB (1940-2024)**

The Funeral Mass of Fr Stephen Ortiger will take place at Worth Abbey on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am**, and will be followed by a reception.

(The funeral will be livestreamed for those who wish to attend virtually)

We know that many friends of Fr Stephen may wish to attend his funeral, so to assist the organisation of the day, please indicate your attendance by completing [this](#) form.

Parking arrangements will be in place which you will notice as you arrive at Worth Abbey.

### **Dates for your Diary**



**This Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February** - refreshments in the UR after 5 pm mass.

**Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> February** - brunch in Compass House at 11 am.

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

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March and Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March** - Worth Abbey Pilgrims, Lent talks. 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, 12<sup>th</sup> February 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.

### **House Group Gathering**

Next Date: **23rd February**

**Venue will be** - Java & Jazz - so that those in the group can join the CAFOD pizza fundraiser if they wish.  
(Please see CAFOD Lent page below)

### Marriage Preparation

The next course in the parish will begin on this **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.



# 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

### **Invited during Lent**

Lent begins on **14<sup>th</sup> 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](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 **23<sup>rd</sup> February**.



WORTH ABBEY

PILGRIMS

## Lent Talks

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March

Worth Abbey

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### **9<sup>th</sup> March:**

*Half-Way Home*

– The Mid-Point of Lent

### **16<sup>th</sup> March:**

*Looking Towards Easter*

– The Season of Lent as prelude to Easter

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11.00am	Arrival and Coffee in the Abbey Church
11.30am to 12.30pm	Abbot Mark's Presentation, Spencer Building, Worth School
12.30pm to 1.00pm	Reflection and prayer in the Abbey Church
1.00pm	Midday Prayer
1.15pm	Light Lunch (optional)

To reserve your place visit [www.tickettailor.com/events/worthabbey](http://www.tickettailor.com/events/worthabbey)

*A Place of Beauty and Joy*



### **Worth Pro Earth – A Call to Action**

Last Sunday John Paul de Quay gave us a talk about ecological conversion, at the invitation of the Worth Pro Earth group. He told us that humanity needs a new paradigm, a new way, to view the world; one which puts God, not ourselves, at the centre, and which can then embrace the truth that everything in God's Creation is interconnected. He quoted from the encyclical by Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*, beginning at #1: *Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. "Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs". We are part of Creation, sharing life together with every element, but we have forgotten our origins. This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life...We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters.*

For this reason, we need conversion to a new way of living and a new way of experiencing life. *"The external deserts in the world are growing, because the internal deserts have become so vast". For this reason, the ecological crisis is also a summons to profound interior conversion. It must be said that some committed and prayerful Christians, with the excuse of realism and pragmatism, tend to ridicule expressions of concern for the environment. Others are passive; they choose not to change their habits and thus become inconsistent. So, what they all need is an "ecological conversion", whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them. Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.* Please look at the website of Journey To 2030 (<https://journeyto2030.org/>), and please consider joining the WPE group. Do please get in touch with us through the parish office.

### **Fairer World Lindfield**

Have a new initiative called "Green Up!".

You are invited to come along to connect, inspire, educate and share knowledge on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February** from 7pm – 8,30pm at The Stand-Up Inn, Lindfield.

The next discussion topic is "What is a green corridor?"

Everyone Welcome.

*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*

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 **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.

### CAFOD Lent

Kir Bennet Horner, our CAFOD representative, writes: The Lenten Season arrives early this year. We can already advise you of our Parish plans for CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day 2024, which falls on **Friday 23rd February**.

CAFOD asks that you focus your prayers this Family Fast Day towards subsistence sea fishermen in Liberia. Many die due to the lack of basic tools such as life-vests, GPS and compasses. CAFOD is addressing this problem with your support. Rather than only giving something up this Lent, why not consider taking action. Here are some options...

#### CAFOD WORTH PARISH LENTEN EVENTS

**\*\*Pizza dinner fundraiser on Friday 23rd February 6.30pm at Java & Jazz in Forest Row for both teenage and adult parishioners, and Worth School students and faculty.\*\***

**\*\*Friday Coffee for CAFOD mornings 10.30-12.30 during Lent beginning 16th February at Cinderhill RH17 7BD\*\***

On CAFOD Family Fast Day itself, 23rd February, at 6.30pm a fund-raising pizza dinner will be held at Java & Jazz restaurant in Forest Row. This event will be hosted jointly by Worth Parish and Worth School's CAFOD Young Leaders.

We hosted a similar event only for teenagers (age 11+) in the Autumn. That event proved successful and so we will repeat it. Teenagers will have their own space in which to meet, lead and enjoy this CAFOD Lent Fast Day fundraiser event.

However, Parish and Worth School adults will now also be invited to this upcoming Lenten pizza event (we promise to keep both teens and adults well separated!!).

The Tibbles, whose February House Group meeting falls on the 23rd February, are kindly shifting their venue to Java & Jazz so that those in their group can join this CAFOD pizza fundraiser if they wish.

Logistics are as follows:

Friday 23rd February 6.30pm - Java & Jazz Restaurant, Forest Row

Pizza buffet including beverage & ice cream

£17 per person (£5.50 will go to CAFOD)

RSVP asap to [parish@worth.org.uk](mailto:parish@worth.org.uk)

We hope that you can join us. The pizza flows generously, the company is good and the CAFOD work your attendance will support is excellent. We thank Parishioner and Java & Jazz owner, John Gallagher, for his kind sponsorship.

If an evening event isn't your bag, please consider attending one of our Lenten Friday Coffee for CAFOD mornings. Parishioners of ages are welcome. These will be held by Hal & Rory Clarke beginning on Friday 16th February from 10.30am to 12.30pm and on every Friday during Lent at Cinderhill House, West Hoathly RH17 7BD. We are very grateful for the Clarke's generous endurance in hosting what has become a Worth Parish Lenten tradition over the past 10 years. If you have yet to show them your support, this is the year to do so.

Many thanks to Worth Parish for your loyal support to CAFOD in its many forms.

### West Sussex County Council write concerning clean air and wood burning

We're members of the [Sussex Air](#) partnership. Pressures on household finances may have tempted more people towards burning wood in the belief that it's cheaper or more environmentally friendly. But, did you know that burning wood releases more harmful carbon emissions than oil or gas?

New evidence shows that it actually:

- Harms your wallet: wood burning is almost always more expensive than other forms of heating.
- Harms your health: lighting fires in our homes is the largest source of harmful small particulate matter air pollution in the UK.
- Harms the planet: wood burning creates more harmful CO<sub>2</sub> emissions compared to other forms of heating and we cannot reproduce trees fast enough to offset the CO<sub>2</sub> emitted by burning wood.

Find out your personal air pollution footprint compared to the UK national average by using this [Clean Air Calculator](#). For details on how we're working to improve air quality across the county visit [Our website](#).

If you are thinking of purchasing a new stove, do ensure it is Defra approved. Under the Clean Air Act 1993 all Defra approved stoves have to pass tests to confirm that they are capable of burning an authorised coal or other solid fuel, but can also cleanly burn unauthorised fuels such as wood. Surprised by what you learned? Please do share it with your friends and family to help protect your health and the planet.

[Learn facts about wood burning](#)

## *Non-Parish Events*

### **Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Eucharist**

On **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> 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 **16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 **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.

### **Crawley Interfaith Network (CIFN)**

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

Please contact Ashwin Soni on [ashel@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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](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) 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](mailto:rbrownd1@gmail.com) Next Dates – 28<sup>th</sup> February, 27<sup>th</sup> March, 24<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:jenny_chapman@sky.com) 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](mailto:sg1.worth@abdiocese.org.uk)