



In Touch

Journeying Together:

Collaboration

Co-operation

Co-Responsibility

Fourth Sunday of Easter (year B)
20th / 21st April 2024
No. 1379

Dear Parishioners

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

This coming Sunday is known as Good Shepherd Sunday, because on this day we read in St John's Gospel, cp 10, how Jesus refers to himself as the good shepherd, "who lays down his life for his sheep". The day is also known as Vocations Sunday, when we are all encouraged to pray for vocations. We may think especially of vocations to the priesthood, and we certainly need more of these in our Church; but we remember that every Christian has been called by God to some service within the Body of Christ, and everyone's vocation is a precious gift, both to the one who receives it and to those whom he or she is called to serve. Pope Francis has written a reflection for this day with the title, *Called to sow seeds of hope and to build peace*. To recognise and accept our vocation, and to respond generously to God, is our path to fulfilment and happiness. He writes: *Each year, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations invites us to reflect on the precious gift of the Lord's call to each of us, as members of his faithful pilgrim people, to participate in his loving plan and to embody the beauty of the Gospel in different states of life. Hearing that divine call, which is far from being an imposed duty – even in the name of a religious ideal – is the surest way for us to fulfil our deepest desire for happiness. Our life finds fulfilment when we discover who we are, what our gifts are, where we can make them bear fruit, and what path we can follow in order to become signs and instruments of love, generous acceptance, beauty and peace, wherever we find ourselves. This Day, then, is always a good occasion to recall with gratitude to the Lord the faithful, persevering and frequently hidden efforts of all those who have responded to a call that embraces their entire existence.*

He thinks especially of young people: *To young people, and especially those who feel distant or uncertain about the Church, I want to say this: Let Jesus draw you to himself; bring him your important questions by reading the Gospels; let him challenge you by his presence, which always provokes in us a healthy crisis. More than anyone else, Jesus respects our freedom. He does not impose but proposes. Make room for him and you will find the way to happiness by following him. And should he ask it of you, by giving yourself completely to him.* Please see full article [papal message](#)

Do please consider the requests below for help in our parish and think if these acts of service might be part of your vocation to serve our community here at Worth.

I send you all my very best wishes.

Yours. Fr Paul

Prayers

Please pray for Robin Williamson, who died recently. May he rest in Peace.
Please pray also for his wife Priscilla and for his sons and grandchildren.
Robin's funeral will be held, here at Worth, on Monday 29th April at 2pm.

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

A Prayer for Vocations

*God our Loving Father, you called each of us by name through the Sacrament of Baptism to holiness.
Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, you made us the temples of the Holy Spirit.
Help us to listen to the cry of our Lord Jesus from the Holy Cross 'I thirst' and respond to the call 'Go out to the
whole world and proclaim the good news to all the nations'.
Guide us in every step we take in life and lead us in every decision we make in responding to your call.
Make us and mould us into the living images of Christ your Son, who was always close to those in need.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord,
Amen.*

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 and of Russia and Ukraine

*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.*

Please pray for the people of Gaza, especially for Christians there. Their parish priest, Fr Romanelli, writes: *"The situation continues to be extremely grave and worsens by the hour. Our Christians have faith and hope in the Essential, in Jesus Christ. Despite everything they pray for peace every day and offer their suffering and hardships for a ceasefire and the release of the hostages."*

Amen.

Anniversaries

Please pray for the Souls of – Alan Twigg, Paddy McGrath, Ellen Morice, Paula Rawlins, Tom Neve, Andrew O'Brien, John Ferguson, Irene Cooper, Fleur Burrridge, Bert Powell, Basil Genders, John Biles, Nora Ann Richey-Brown, Nick Kirby, George Botting, George Sharman, Pat Seal, Joan Rich, David Moore, John Albert, Paula Bateman, Michael Grech, Marisol Burrridge, Helene Stoppani, Fr Alban Brooks, Peta Orr, Salvo Xerri, Mildred Young, Fr Anthony Porterfield, Abbot Dominic Gaisford, Elizabeth de Saventham, Nicholas Burrridge, John Willson, Dom Kevin Seasoltz, Sheila Wheeler, Edward Lighburn, Maureen Royds-Jones, Jim Rochford, Eric Corke, Don Cooper, John Nott, Jean Eicher and Nina Pokultinis.
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen.

Daily Readings

Monday – Acts 11:1-18 John 10:1-10
Tuesday – Acts 11:19-26 John 10:22-30 **(St George)**
Wednesday – Acts 12:24 – 13:5a John 12:44-50
Thursday – 1 Pet 4:5-14 Mark 16:15-20 **(St Mark)**
Friday – Acts 13:26-33 John 14:1-6
Saturday – Acts 13:44-52 John 14:7-14

Next Sunday's Readings: **Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year B)**
1st Reading – Acts 9:26-31 2nd Reading – 1 John 3:18-24
Gospel: John 15:1-8
I am the vine; you are the branches.

Parish Events

Dates for your Diary



This Sunday, 21st April – Youth Ministry Catechism groups continue.

Sunday, 7th July – Parish picnic, after mass.

Saturday, 21st September - This year the Catechists' Day will be held again at Worth Abbey & School. This year we are inviting Catechists and those involved in Children's Liturgy and all forms of adult formation. The theme will be in response to the Pastoral Plan: Call to Mission - are we Equipped for Mission? More details in the summer.

Charlie Tibble's House Group Gathering

Next Date: **Friday, 26th April at 7.30pm.** Please contact Charlie Tibble c.tibble@stwilfrids.com

Eucharistic Ministers

Would anyone kindly volunteer to become a Eucharistic Minister for the Sunday Mass? We hope to reintroduce the chalice for the congregation soon, perhaps for Corpus Christi, and we will need more Ministers. Training will be provided. Thank you.

Offertory Procession

We hope to involve members of the congregation in the offertory procession at Sunday mass. Would you like to take part? Please let us know.

Severina D'Souza writes: *"I would like to thank all the parishioners for their prayers and support during my hospitalization/illness since last year February and also thank you very much for visiting me at the hospital and then at home with the holy communion, thanks to the Monastic Community for the prayers and support. Best wishes, Severina"*

Parish Events Group (PEG)



"Please (Sara) - I want some more!"

Mr Bumble may not have been happy to oblige, but PEG is! I am delighted to confirm that we have 40 tickets for the matinee performance of the Festival Theatre summer musical production of *Oliver!* on **Friday 29th August**.

The list is now open for anyone interested in booking. Ticket prices have yet to be finalised but will be no more than £45. The PEG ticket covers theatre seats, door-to-door luxury coach, and of course - Food, Glorious Food (and fizz)!

The annual PEG summer theatre trip has been running for nearly 10 years and is always a sell-out. If you haven't been before, book early as our loyal PEG regulars will definitely bag a seat!

Contact: Sara Barclay-Hudson sbh0369@yahoo.com

This weekend there will be a Second Collection for World Day of Prayer for Vocations
The Education of Future Priests

Worth Pro Earth - A Call to Action

UK Oil and Gas Planning Application for Broadford Bridge, March 19th 2024

Good to see West Sussex Council are still refusing oil exploration applications. This week they refused UK Oil and Gas's application to extend their planning consent at its Broadford Bridge site near Billingshurst. The much-hyped Weald shale oil bonanza continues to fizzle out.

The Broadford Bridge site was first granted planning permission in 2013. It was drilled in 2017 but there were problems with the borehole and no commercial quantities of oil have been extracted. Since then, planning permission has been extended in 2017, 2018, 2020 and 2022. This was the fifth application for an extension.

Councillors voted 7 to 4 against extending the planning consent.

This is good news; however, we should be mindful that the oil company have six months to decide whether or not to appeal the decision. So it won't be until 20th September 2024 that we will really know that this planning application has reached the end of the road. We should remember that in the case of Balcombe's oil well, West Sussex Planning Committee refused Angus Energy's application on 10th March 2021, then Angus Energy appealed on 3rd September 2021 and we continue to fight that application.

Balcombe Oil Well Update

We thought we would have heard by now whether or not we will be allowed to challenge the Judge's decision in the Court of Appeal. But we still have not heard anything. As soon as we do, we will let you know.

Our application was submitted on the 31st October 2023. While our application is being processed, Angus Energy will not be able to return to flow test the well in Balcombe.

The Food Project

Welcome to our early April Green Christian E-News! As we leave Lent behind us, when some of you may have been inspired to fast from one thing or another - chocolate, sugar or other indulgences - we've news of a new initiative: the Food Project. What do faith and food have to do with one another, you might ask? Well - lots, to be honest. In our church contexts, in our daily lives and in scriptural teaching we find much to do with food. And it's not just about fasting - though a reminder of the need for self-discipline is often helpful, to me at least! We're thinking about things like food and community, food poverty and our calling to share our table with the hungry, and the ethics of our food systems in terms of animal welfare, creation care and food justice. We hope you'll join us on this journey of exploration and encouragement.

[A new series of workshops](#)

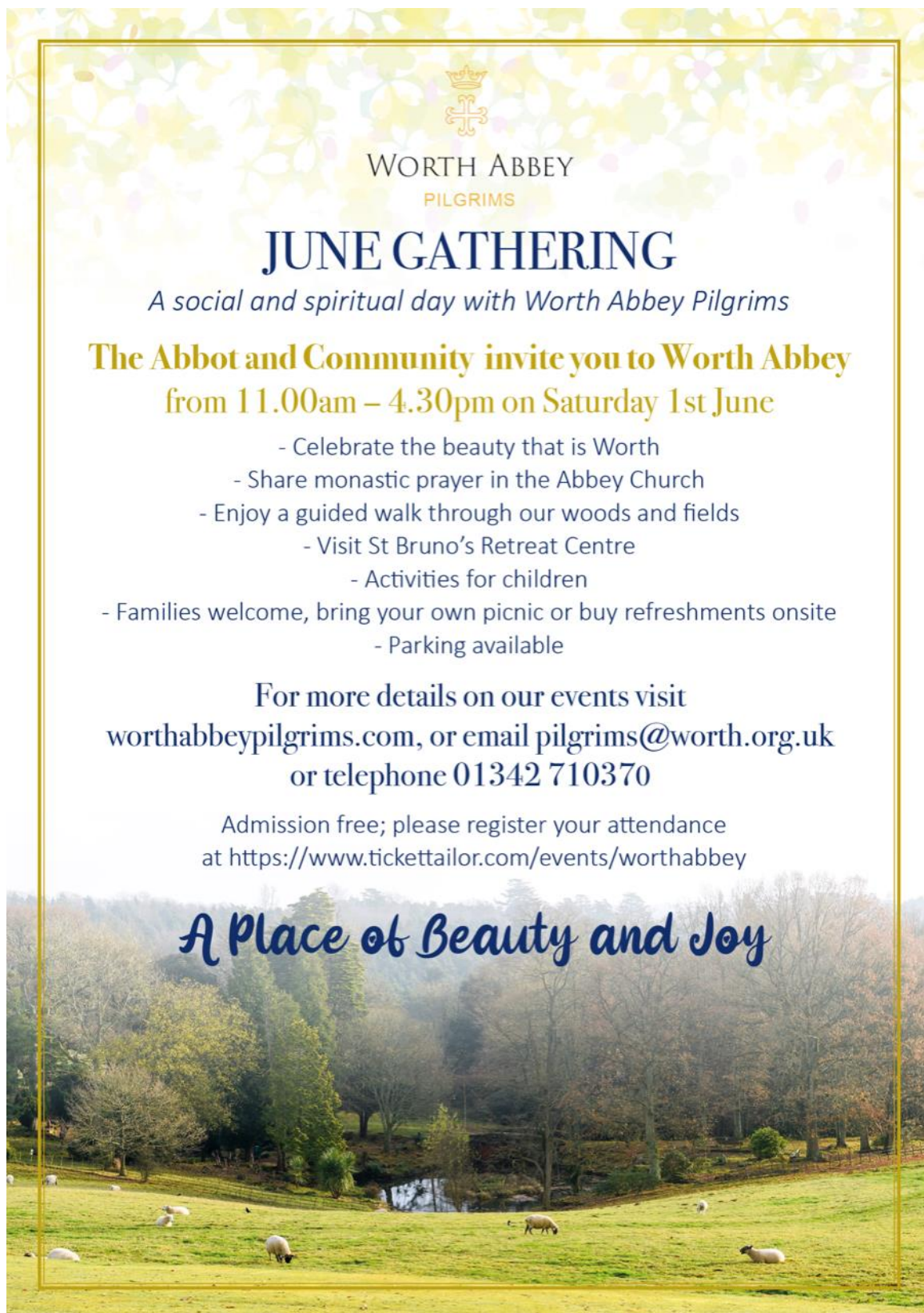
WPE welcomes new members. We meet once a month on a Wednesday at 2 pm in St Benedict's. Our next meeting will be on 15th May.


Creator God, we thank you for the wondrous gifts of creation. Inspire us to take only what we need, so that your people may benefit equally from the gifts you give us all. Amen

Worth Abbey Pilgrims June Gathering (see below poster)

We are delighted to let you know about the next upcoming event in the Worth Abbey Pilgrims calendar of events. Our **June Gathering**, on **Saturday 1st June**, is a social and spiritual day at Worth Abbey and we invite you to join us from 11.00am -4.30pm. The event will offer you an opportunity to come and enjoy the beauty of Worth, by participating in our guided walks, monastic prayer, music, and a visit to our Retreat Centre. We will provide activities for children and if you don't wish to bring your own picnic, we will have refreshments available to purchase.

For planning purposes please can I ask you to register your attendance at
<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/worthabbey>

The poster features a decorative background with a pattern of yellow and green leaves. At the top center is a gold crown above a gold cross. Below this, the text 'WORTH ABBEY PILGRIMS' is written in a serif font. The main title 'JUNE GATHERING' is in a large, bold, blue serif font. Underneath, it says 'A social and spiritual day with Worth Abbey Pilgrims' in a smaller, italicized serif font. The invitation text 'The Abbot and Community invite you to Worth Abbey from 11.00am – 4.30pm on Saturday 1st June' is in a bold, gold serif font. A list of activities follows in a blue sans-serif font. Contact information is provided in a blue serif font. The bottom of the poster shows a photograph of a green field with sheep grazing, with trees and a small stream in the background. The entire poster is framed by a thin gold border.


WORTH ABBEY
PILGRIMS

JUNE GATHERING

A social and spiritual day with Worth Abbey Pilgrims

**The Abbot and Community invite you to Worth Abbey
from 11.00am – 4.30pm on Saturday 1st June**

- Celebrate the beauty that is Worth
- Share monastic prayer in the Abbey Church
- Enjoy a guided walk through our woods and fields
 - Visit St Bruno's Retreat Centre
 - Activities for children
- Families welcome, bring your own picnic or buy refreshments onsite
 - Parking available

For more details on our events visit
worthabbepilgrims.com, or email pilgrims@worth.org.uk
or telephone 01342 710370

Admission free; please register your attendance
at <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/worthabbey>

A Place of Beauty and Joy

Would anyone be able to join a group in your home area who could watch out for anyone who may not be able to attend mass for any reason?

We hope it will help to keep an open door to the parish for those who cannot be physically present, either by taking Holy Communion into their home or by simply making a social visit.

Do please get in touch if you can help.

Thank you very much.

Would anyone be able to help with parish catechesis?

You may remember that the Diocese has the ideal that every parish should offer its members some appropriate form of catechesis (religious formation), from “cradle to grave”. We still have a long way to go! But we have made a start, with groups from the age of six to nine, and twelve to sixteen; but we would love to start the intermediate group for children between nine and twelve years old. The groups meet for an hour after Sunday mass, from about 11 am till 12 noon, on the third Sunday of the month during school terms. We will provide materials for your meetings with the children.

The only thing you will need is a love of that age group and the enthusiasm of the Holy Spirit!

Do please get in touch if you can help.

Non-Parish Events

Liturgy of the Word with Children Leaders' Training

Saturday 18th May, 10am-1pm at The St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley.

Following on from the success of our previous Children's liturgy training we are repeating the training. Please join us for a morning exploring an exciting style of delivering the liturgy of the word for children. Lucy Hall will be demonstrating a hands on, tactile approach to wondering about the Gospel. Whether you have been working in this ministry for a long time or if you are new, come to be enthused by Lucy and to meet others who share your passion. [Click Here](#) to sign up.

Catechists and Youth Group Leaders

The Diocesan Youth Adviser is keen to provide support to anyone who works with young people in our Church communities, and to do this she wants to hear more about what your needs are.

To enable this, she has created a very quick questionnaire that will take two minutes to complete.

You can find it here [forms](#)

or E: lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk

Big Church Festival

25th – 26th May. A Christian music festival in the heart of our Diocese. Join with 30,000 people from across the UK and beyond to worship together on the Wiston estate in West Sussex. With Mass on Sunday morning being celebrated by our very own Bishop Richard.

Save up to 52% by booking with this link <https://bigchurch.group/2024/catholics-at-big-church-festival>

Youth 2000 Retreat

Taking place at Sacred Heart Parish, Wimbledon, SW19 4LU, on

Saturday 11th May, this Youth 2000 retreat offers young adults (16-35) from across London and way beyond the opportunity to come together and explore what it means to be in relationship with God.

This jam-packed, one day retreat offers the opportunity to encounter Jesus in the Eucharist, grow in relationship with him and His Mother, and form friendships with other young adults from the local area.

Tickets can be purchased from <https://www.youth2000.org/events>. There will be a number of ticket options for clergy – please contact events@youth2000.org if you would like to join them for all or some of the day. The team would be especially appreciative of any priests who could go in the evening to hear confession.

Retrouvaille Weekend

Retrouvaille England and Wales is a registered charity, the presenters are trained volunteers who give their time as a gift. The Retrouvaille vision is to make the programme available to all couples who want to work on their marriage, regardless of their financial circumstances.

The next in-house programme is at the Focolare Centre, Welwyn Garden City, on
Friday 14th – Sunday 16th June.

Their ministry also needs support from priests who may be able to help in presenting a weekend. If you would like to see what happens on a weekend, please contact Caroline and Michael L'Estrange, co-ordinators at Retrouvaille England & Wales on candmretrouvaille@icloud.com or via www.retrouvaile.org.uk

Pilgrimage to Normandy

Led by Michael Woodward, of the Lay Community of St Benedict, from **12th – 21st September.**
Chaplain – Fr Ian Byrne. If you would like more information, please contact the parish office.

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

Nighttime 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 2.30pm-3.30pm in the main Church.

Rosary Group - Mondays in the Abbey Church after Vespers - 7:10pm until 8:00pm. Please contact Rachel
Davies: 07801 696354.

Lectio Divina - Tuesday evenings at 8pm via Zoom. Please contact Jenny Chapman
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 . Forthcoming dates are 22nd May, 26th June and 24th July (this one will be held in St
Brunos)

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 the Parish Office.

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