



In Touch

Journeying Together:

Collaboration

Co-operation

Co-Responsibility

**Fifth Sunday of Easter (year B)
27th / 28th April 2024
No. 1380**

Dear Parishioners

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

As I write today, Tuesday, we are celebrating the feast of St George, the patron saint of England. His cult brings some problems today, partly because the stories about him are shrouded in legend, and partly because some extreme nationalist groups seem to have adopted him as a kind of champion, perhaps because his cult was adopted by Crusader armies returning from Palestine. This is an irony, because he also features in Islamic hagiography and is honoured with the title of prophet. The common representation of him as slaying the dragon is believed to be a mistaken interpretation of an image in Constantinople of the Emperor Constantine destroying the devil under the form of a serpent. This clearly caught the popular imagination and was circulated in a work called *The Golden Legend*, in about 1260, and which was printed by William Caxton.

It is generally agreed that he was indeed a martyr who suffered in the very early 4th century, at Lydda, or Lod, in Israel, perhaps under the persecution of the Emperor Diocletian. It is not clear how he became the patron of England. He was adopted by soldiers as a patron, most notably by King Richard I (1189-99), who set himself and his army under his protection. In the following century, his feast was made a national holiday; and after the battle of Agincourt in 1415 this was held as a major feast. In 1348 King Edward III made St George the patron of the newly instituted Order of the Garter. During the 17th and 18th centuries his feast was a holyday of obligation for Catholics in England.

If you read the Tablet this week you will be aware of the controversy surrounding his celebration. In 1969 Pope Paul VI removed his feast from the calendar because of its legendary character, only to be restored by Pope John Paul II.

Perhaps his feast is simply a moment to encourage us to pray that we may regain something of the Christian faith which was ours in the past, and, given that St George himself was probably a Turk, that we may nurture a culture which will welcome those from foreign parts and value what they bring to our land.

I send you all my best wishes. 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.

We are asked to make next Tuesday, 30th April, a day of special prayer for the survivors of sexual abuse.

Please pray for vocations over the next month. Bishop Richard writes:

The journey from Eastertide to Ascension and Pentecost calls us to mission. This year, in the light of the new Pastoral Plan, the whole diocese is invited to come together, starting this Sunday, for four weeks of prayer to the Holy Spirit to grant us a missionary spirit, through the raising up of new vocations to all walks of life in the Church. Foremost among these vocations, we need priests. The priesthood is a special gift to the Church through which Christ is always present to pour out His Spirit on His people through the holy sacraments."

Have you ever thought about being a priest, or know someone who has? It's not always easy to know if God is calling you to priesthood. Our diocesan *Days of Discernment* aim to explore some simple tools for finding out, with time for prayer and an opportunity to learn more about the beautiful vocation of the diocesan priest, along with other men following the same path. Certainty is not required: the day may just be a chance for you to start thinking, to pray, and to ask questions. Our next day is on **Saturday 4th May** in Crawley, led by Fr Nicholas Harden. If you are a Catholic, unmarried male who is considering this vocation and would like to attend, please [contact](#) Fr Tristan Cranfield.

The diocesan Vocations Team have launched a special month of prayer for vocations. You can download the prayer leaflet [here](#). To find out more about vocations, [visit our website](#).

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.

Anniversaries

Please pray for the Souls of – Simon Hulme, Edwin Ryan, Barbara Geary, Althea Harris, Coral Botting, Matthew Dawson, Sheila White, Veira Flanagan and Patricia Blake.

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

Daily Readings

Monday – Acts 14:5-18 John 14:21-26 (**St Catherine of Siena**)

Tuesday – Acts 14:19-28 John 14:27-31a

Wednesday – Acts 15:1-6 Matt 13:54-58

Thursday – Acts 15:7-21 John 15:9-11 (**St Athanasius**)

Friday – 1 Cor 15:1-8 John 14:6-14 (**SS Philip & James**)

Saturday – Acts 16:1-10 John 15:18-21 (**All Martyrs of England & Wales**)

Next Sunday's Readings: **Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year B)**

1st Reading – Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48 2nd Reading – 1 John 4:7-10

Gospel: John 15:9-17

You are my friends if you do what I command you.

Parish Events

Dates for your Diary



Next Saturday, 4th May – Refreshments after mass in the Unity Room

Sunday, 12th May – Parish Brunch after mass in Compass House.

Sunday, 19th May – Family Catechesis after mass in Compass House and Unity Room.

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.

Mark and Charlie's House Group Gathering

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. Please contact Charlie Tibble c.tibble@stwilfrids.com

Next Date: **Friday, 26th April at 7.30pm.**

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.

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 Children's Royal Theatre summer musical production of *Oliver!* on **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

Worth Pro Earth – A Call to Action

Earth Day 2024

This year the 2024 Earth Day theme was Planet vs Plastics, which highlighted the critical need to cope with the ever-growing plastic pollution problem. The theme's proposed goal is to reduce global plastic production by 60% by 2040, which calls for individual action to combat this crisis. See the Earth Day

Official site for more information: <https://www.earthday.org/>

The Big Plastic Count

The Big Plastic Count took place just over a month ago in which 225,000 participants took part. The UK is still producing far too much plastic. As part of the UK Plastics Pact supermarkets promised to make all their plastic packaging reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025. If you counted all the pieces of plastic that the UK uses in one week, one second at a time, it would take you 53 years and 7 months.

The UK tops the charts for plastic waste per person globally, this is second only to the US.

The results are staggering, watch the results video and read some of the key findings at this link:

<https://thebigplasticcount.com/>

Next Steps: What Happens now?

We are all doing our bit, now it's time for the government, big brands and supermarkets to step up and finally do theirs.

Governments have now started UN negotiations for a Global Plastics Treaty, we need to keep the pressure up to make sure the treaty is as strong as it can be.

What you can do to help

You can help right now by writing to your MP directly to urge them to back a strong Global Plastics Treaty. All you need to do is fill in your postcode, and your MP will be located. You can use the pre-written template text, or you can customise the message to make it more personal, at the link below:

<https://act.greenpeace.org/page/147382/action/2#details>. Additionally there are more great ways that you can help spread the word:

1. Share the results of the Big Plastic Count, you could share the results video on your social accounts.
2. Sign Greenpeace's Global Plastics Treaty petition, show your support by adding your name.
<https://action.greenpeace.org.uk/global-plastic-treaty>
3. Host an Unwrapped events: celebrate your participation and discuss the results by hosting a results event for your community. <https://thebigplasticcount.com/unwrapped>

Babies vs Plastic

Governments and NGOs from around the world gathered in Ottawa to continue negotiating the terms of the United Nations Global Plastic Treaty on Earth Day 2024. Plastics pose serious health risks to life on Earth. Babies vs Plastics, the first of five such reports, offers an overview of some of the latest research studying the impacts of microplastics on the health of young babies and children. Follow the link below to read the report:

<https://www.earthday.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/BVP-Report.pdf>

WPE welcomes new members. We meet once a month on a Wednesday at 2 pm in St Benedict's.

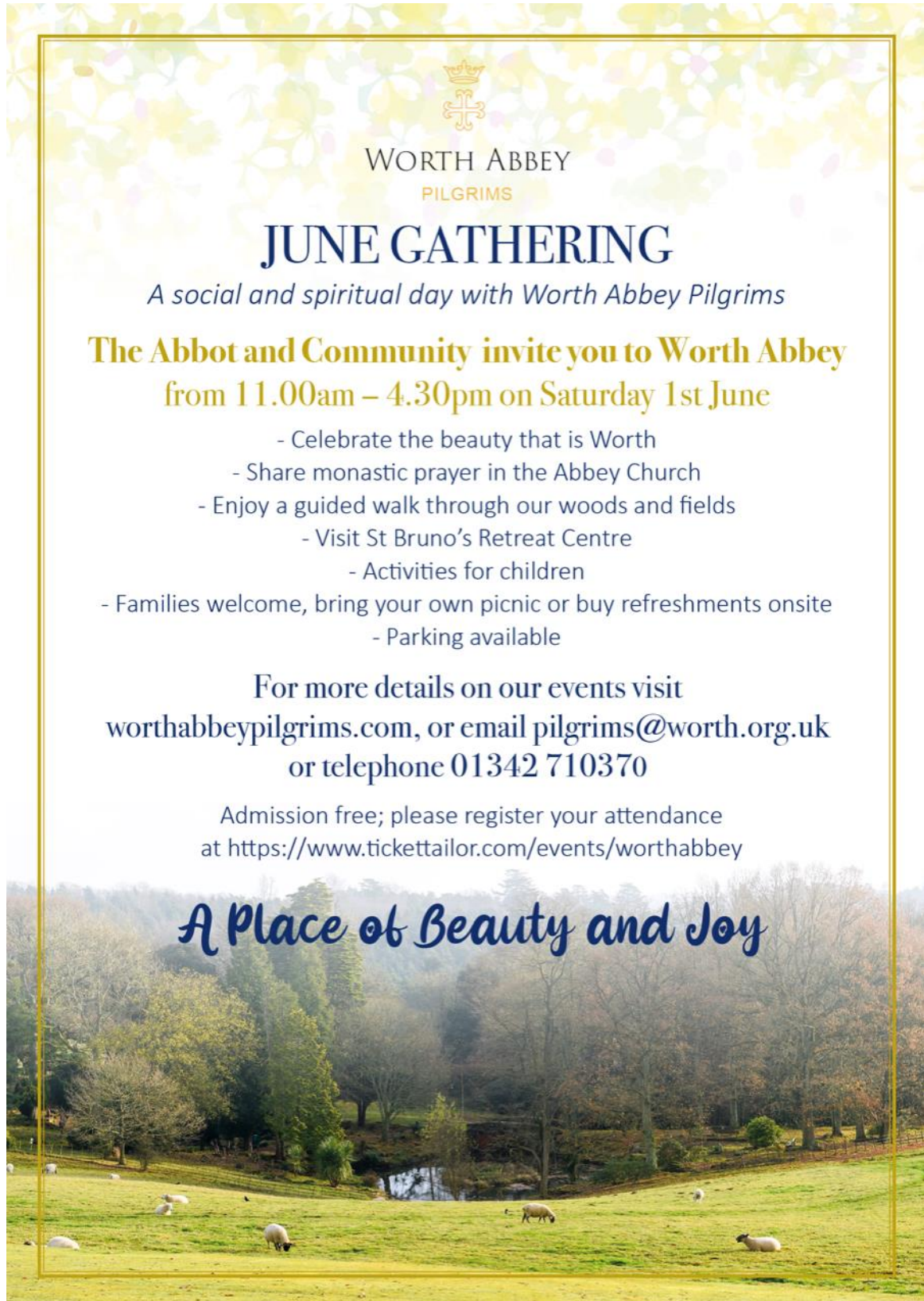
Our next meeting will be on 15th May.


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>




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
worthabbeypilgrims.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.

A Year of Encounter – A Message from CAFOD

With a UK general election due sometime this year, politicians will be looking for our votes. We have a responsibility as Catholics to make sure that parties commit to tackling issues such as poverty and injustice. Raising our voices and contacting parliamentary candidates as a parish community will send a strong signal to those standing for election in our local constituencies. *A Year of Encounter* is a joint initiative between CAFOD and St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), equipping Catholics to ask key questions of local candidates at the key moments. Please see cafod.org.uk/encounter for more information, including online sessions on

Thursday 25th April and Saturday 4th May to learn more.

CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, provides practical support to people and communities in need around the world. But as part of its mission CAFOD also encourages Catholics in England and Wales to respond to the call of the Church to promote the common good. We are all invited to play our part in creating the social conditions necessary to build a world that reflects the Kingdom of God.

Thank you once again for your support and encouragement as we work together to improve the lives of people both in our local community, and in the wider world.

Safeguarding Training – (all on Zoom)

The training is for Catechists, Group Leaders and Co-ordinators of activities within the parish, who need to know and understand the Arundel & Brighton Diocesan **Creating a Safer Environment Policy**.

We would be grateful if you could encourage relevant individuals within your team and ask them to email safeguarding@abdiocese.org.uk to register for **one** of the sessions (not all three!)

Wed 22nd May 11am-12.30pm

Tue 28th May 7pm-8.30pm

Thu 6th June 2pm-3.30pm

Thank you for your ongoing time and commitment. *Charles McCarthy*

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>

Retrouvaille Weekend

Retrouvaille England and Wales is a registered charity, the presenters are trained volunteers who given 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.retrouvaille.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