



In Touch

Journeying Together:

Collaboration

Co-operation

Co-Responsibility

Seventh Sunday of Easter (year B)

11th / 12th May 2024

No. 1382

Dear Parishioners

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

This weekend we mark **World Communications Day**. We are invited to contribute to a collection to support the work of the Catholic Communications Network, which provides facilities and training for those working in the apostolate of the mass media. Today we hear much about the dangers of artificial intelligence and fake news. Pope Francis, in his message for this day, quotes from Guardini: *“We are constantly in the process of becoming. We must enter into this process, each in his or her own way, with openness but also with sensitivity to everything that is destructive and inhumane therein”*. Pope Francis continues: *At this time in history, which risks becoming rich in technology and poor in humanity, our reflections must begin with the human heart. Only by adopting a spiritual way of viewing reality, only by recovering a wisdom of the heart, can we confront and interpret the newness of our time and rediscover the path to a fully human communication. In the Bible, the heart is seen as the inward place of our encounter with God. No doubt, machines possess a limitlessly greater capacity than human beings for storing and correlating data, but human beings alone are capable of making sense of that data.*

Meanwhile, CAFOD ask us to take part in their campaign to reduce or abolish the debts of the most highly indebted countries. They write: *Many of the world’s poorest countries have been plunged into a new debt crisis. Despite facing significant poverty burdens, countries are having to make huge repayments on high-interest loans to wealthy banks, institutions and governments, leaving them unable to properly fund essential services. This debt burden also leaves countries less able to cope with the increasing effects of climate change. In many countries, debts are being paid at the expense of hiring doctors and teachers, building schools, hospitals and sewage systems, preparing for floods or coping with droughts. The Bible teaches us that money lending is about accompanying vulnerable people, not about profiteering. But in our current global system, powerful banks make huge profits from the vulnerability of poorer nations. Pope Francis has declared 2025 a ‘Jubilee year’, which in the Church is historically a time for cancelling debt and restoring equality. As we prepare for the Jubilee year, and approach a general election, we’re calling on political parties to address this by passing a ‘Debt Justice Law’ if they form the next government.*

Please see how you can help in this campaign : [New Debt Crisis](#)

I send you my very best wishes. Fr Paul

Prayers

Please pray for the young people of our parish who will be confirmed during the month of May:

This Sunday, 12th - Niamh Chapman, Elsie Tibble and Emilio Grossman; and

on Friday, 26th - Tristan Van Assche and Sacha Waring.

Please pray also for their families and do congratulate them.

Please pray also that we, the parish community, may be able to support them in their journey of faith.

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

A Prayer for World Communications Day

*O God, whose word is truth and in whose light, we see light,
guide those who tell the story of our times through word and image.*

Make them seekers after truth and advocates of human dignity.

*Grant discernment to all who rely on their labours,
and, as we confront the pain and promise of this world,
awaken in us a sense of wonder at your presence
and of longing for your peace.*

*We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.*

Amen

May, the month of Mary

This month, use our rosary reflections, family prayer ideas and Marian prayers to ask Mary's intercession for Sudan. <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/pray-the-rosary/prayers-for-the-month-of-may>

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)

Anniversaries

Please pray for the Souls of – Sam Bryant, Stan Bogacz, Pamela Kennedy, Wendy Horton, Mrs Neve, Anita Weston-Burt and Charles Wilson.

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

Daily Readings

Monday – Acts 19:1-8 John 16:29-33

Tuesday – Acts 1:15-17, 20-26 John 15:9-17 (**St Matthias**)

Wednesday – Acts 20:28-38 John 17:11b-19 (**St Pachomius**)

Thursday – Acts 22:30 23:6-11 John 17:20-26

Friday – Acts 25:13b-21 John 21:1-19

Saturday – Acts 28:16-29, 30-31 John 21:20-25

Next Sunday's Readings: **Pentecost (Year B)**

1st Reading – Acts 2:1-11 2nd Reading – Galatians 5:16-25

Gospel: John 15:26-27, 16:12-15

The Spirit of truth will lead you to the complete truth.

Parish Events

Dates for your Diary



This Thursday, 9th May – The Ascension (Holy Day of Obligation) Parish Mass at 7.30pm. Mass with the school at 4.30pm (no 5.30pm mass).

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

Next 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, 31st May at 7.30pm.**

This weekend there will be a Second Collection for
World Communications Sunday

Church Closure

From **Monday 15th July – Friday 2nd August** the church will be closed for necessary Maintenance.

We expect the Unity Room will be available.

We will keep you updated.

News from the Abbey bookshop

Copies of the new Sunday Missal, with the new translation of the Scripture readings, are available: please see

[New Sunday Missal](#)

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.

Worth Pro Earth – A Call to Action

Green Up – Fairer World Lindfield

A New Initiative where we invite you to come along to connect, inspire, educate and share knowledge. Our next discussion topic is “Resilience in the face of climate crisis”. Come along to discuss ways to build resilience. Everyone welcome.

Tuesday 14th May 7pm-8.30pm at The Stand Up Inn, Lindfield

Plantlife’s No Mow May is back.

Provide a feast for pollinators, tackle pollution, reduce urban heat extremes and lock away atmospheric carbon below ground. See the website and sign up. [NoMowMay](#)

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 event: 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

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.

Running Well

We have just received this good news from Julian Gabriel about the work of his charity, **Running Well**, about his progress in the last months.

Julian writes: *"This is going to be our busiest year yet and we are both excited and extremely grateful to be able to help so many more people get access to clean water. I am also pleased to be able to report that Fr. Stephen is in very good spirits. He sends his very best wishes and thanks to everyone in the parish for the support that we are still able to give by helping improve the lives of the communities in his and the surrounding parishes. Everyone at Running Well is also extremely grateful for the support that we continue to receive from the Worth Uganda Friendship committee, the parish and of course its donors."*

Please see the attached links from Julian. [April Update](#)

If anyone would like to become a donor, please get in touch with the office or with Ali Ambridge
alisonstooks@hotmail.co.uk

Ed Dean, our director of music, writes:

This Sunday, 12th May we will start singing the Sanctus (Holy, Holy) and Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) from Mass VIII. These chants are popular in other parishes both nationwide and worldwide, and they complement the 'de Angelis' Gloria which we sing regularly here at Worth Abbey.

We will be singing these for three weeks running in order for everyone to gain familiarity with them; if you are currently unfamiliar with these chants, you may find it useful to listen recordings of them – or even sing along to them. Recordings can be found on both the Abbey website and also the Worth Abbey Parish website.

Sanctus and Benedictus from Mass VIII ('de Angelis'): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rvAd0tp0Urs>

Agnus Dei from Mass VIII ('de Angelis'): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1obGtH4dZw>

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*

Call for UK to stop arming Israel.

Israel has begun to attack Rafah in the southern part of Gaza, one of the most densely populated areas on Earth. Hundreds of thousands could be killed – yet the UK government is still allowing arms to be exported to Israel.

This must stop. The UK has a responsibility to prevent civilians being killed and injured. Allowing the export of weaponry and military technology is contributing to the suffering.

We need you to [urge your MP to push for an end to arms sales](#) as a crucial step to stopping the suffering in Gaza.



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



Worth Abbey Pilgrims invite you to their **June Gathering**, a social and spiritual day on Saturday 1st June, from 11.00am -4.30pm. Explore the beauty of Worth and join one of our walks through the Estate, guided by members of the monastic community, learn more about Lectio Divina, or enjoy some time in Worth Abbey's Retreat Centre with Fr Peter, Director of St Bruno's. Purchase refreshments or bring a picnic to enjoy in the beautiful surroundings. After lunch and Midday Prayer, join us for a talk by the Abbot of Worth, Abbot Mark Barrett, or sign up to a historic tour of Worth School's buildings and afterwards join-in a Benedictine Chant session led by Worth Abbey's Director of Music, Edward Dean. Benediction at 3:30pm will be followed by afternoon tea and Mass at 5pm. Families welcome; lots of activities for children.

Admission and parking free. Please register your attendance at

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/worthabbey> Join us for some or all of the day's activities. Visit <https://worthabbeypilgrims.com> for more information.

News from our Diocese and from our Bishops

Bishop Richard issued his third Pastoral Plan for the Diocese "[The Word Who is Life: The Call to Mission](#)" in January. As part of the plan, church communities currently forming deaneries will become a moderated parish "community of communities". They write: "It is in the interests of us all – and all those people who so badly need to hear the good news, and all the generations of future disciples yet to be born – that we make real the vision our Bishop has set before us: the vision of our parishes as 'communities of saints [and] schools of discipleship'... The world needs the good news; we are the frail earthen vessels to whom he has chosen to entrust it to at this particular moment. We are the ones who have been sent." Please pray for the success of the Bishop's vision for our Diocese. It is not yet clear how our own parish will be affected by the changes, but we will keep you informed as it becomes clearer.

News from the Bishops of England and Wales

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales ([CBCEW](#)) have issued a pastoral reflection on gender. The document, called *Intricately Woven by the Lord*, emphasises that all are welcome in the Church, but says that the sexual identity of an individual is not a purely "cultural or social construction." We are all created in the image of God, with a dignity given to us by our creator. The bishops stress that leading people to the fullness of life in Christ is a journey rooted in truth as well as compassion. They write: *Accompaniment is crucial to the journey of faith, and we wish to emphasise that everyone is welcome in the Church. It is vital that as followers of Christ we imitate the boundless mercy and compassion of God as we deal with the complexity of another's life. But this needs to be done with a clear understanding of the Catholic vision and understanding of the human person and a holistic view of human sexuality.* You can read the bishops' pastoral reflection [here](#). To find out more visit the [CBCEW website](#).

The Rwanda Bill

Bishop Paul McAleenan, Lead Bishop for Migrants and Refugees for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW), joined the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and leaders from a number of Christian churches, to highlight their shared commitment to caring for the most vulnerable while paying tribute to all those who "live out Jesus' call to feed and clothe the poor, and to welcome the stranger, at times in the face of opposition and prejudice." In a separate statement issued by the CBCEW, Bishop Paul said: *"The passing of the Rwanda Bill [on Tuesday night] fails to address the urgent need to ensure that there are more safe and legal routes by which asylum seekers and refugees can reach the UK. I once again call on our government for a more compassionate approach to migration; one that seeks to protect vulnerable lives and support those fleeing persecution and hardship."* For more information please see [CBCEW](#) & [Vatican News](#)

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

Mental Health Awareness Seminar

Saturday 15th June 10-4pm in Burgess Hill. Cost £30

Being aware of the challenges and signs of the struggle many people have with their mental health is becoming more and more important in our modern world. We are pleased to announce that in association with Mental Health England we are running a one-day course in mental health awareness. The course has been heavily subsidised by the Diocese.

For registration, please follow the link via the QR code.



or through the attached booking link [Mental Health Awareness Seminar \(15-Jun-2024\) · ChurchSuite Events](#)

If you wish to discuss your engagement with this event before booking please contact Simon South, Diocesan Advisor E: simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk

Grandparents Pilgrimage to West Grinstead

Wednesday 26th June 11am-3pm

A day of sharing and prayer with other Grandparents led by Bishop Richard, to include Mass, Benediction, Rosary, tours of the secret chapel and lots of chat.

Please bring a packed lunch and a travel mug if possible. Arrival from 10.30am for refreshments. As always please car share, if possible, as parking is limited. Places can be booked through this link [Grandparents Pilgrimage to West Grinstead \(26-Jun-2024\) · ChurchSuite Events](#)

Celebrating the Feast of St Joachim and St Anne

Saturday 20th July 3-4pm at Arundel Cathedral
Pope Francis calls us to this annual celebration for Grandparents and the more senior members of our community. A time to savour the fruits of family life and the wisdom of experience.

Please join us for Mass celebrated by the Bishop, followed by refreshments afterwards in the Cathedral centre. If you wish to discuss your engagement with this event before booking, please contact Katherine Bergin, Diocesan Advisor E: katherine.bergin@abdiocese.org.uk

Santa Marta Group – Modern slavery & human trafficking presentation

Saturday 29th June 11-1pm at St Peter's Hall, Shoreham

By kind invitation of Bishop Richard Moth all are invited to attend a presentation and discussion on Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking – Communities and Parishes. In 2014 Pope Francis instructed Cardinal Vincent Nichols to lead the work of the Santa Marta Group as an important mission for the Catholic Church. It now has partners in over 40 countries; from acorns oak trees grow. Places can be booked through the attached link [Santa Marta Group - Modern slavery & human trafficking presentation \(29-Jun-2024\) · ChurchSuite Events](#) If you wish to discuss your engagement with this event before booking please contact Tessa Ricketts, Diocesan Advisor E: tessa.ticketts@abdiocese.org.uk

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