



In Touch

Journeying Together:

Collaboration

Co-operation

Co-Responsibility

Sixth Sunday of Easter (year B)

4th / 5th May 2024

No. 1381

Dear Parishioners

I hope that you and your families are well. I hold you all in my prayers and ask God's protection for you.

Next Thursday, May 9th, we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension, a feast which celebrates the power of God's love at work in Jesus on our behalf. In an older form of the liturgy, this was marked by the extinguishing of the Paschal candle during mass, thus signifying the end of the period of forty days during which, according to Luke's scheme, Jesus appeared to his disciples. (It is significant that St Paul did not share in these appearances, and therefore did not qualify as an apostle according to St Luke's criterion.) Today, we no longer extinguish the candle, as this can give the impression that the feast is about Jesus leaving us, his absence. In fact, of course, it is not about his absence, but about his triumph, and, as such, forms an equal part with the celebration of Easter. Both feasts celebrate his exaltation but using different symbolism. At Easter we speak of Jesus' triumph over death, and his return from the place of the dead; at the Ascension, we speak of his triumph over hostile spiritual powers – anything which might separate us from God – and his going up to heaven to share his Father's reign. In the second reading of the feast, we hear: *God raised him from the dead and made him sit at his right hand, in heaven ...He has put all things under his feet.* (Ephesians 1.20-23) Our celebration reminds us that this is all for our sake: *Where the Head has gone before in glory, the Body is called to follow in hope.* (Collect of the day) Elsewhere in the letter to the Ephesians, Paul writes: *God raised us up with Jesus, and gave us a place with him in heaven.* (2.6) In the earliest Christian liturgy the entire period of fifty days from Easter to Pentecost was regarded as one 'great Sunday,' a continuous celebration of the triumph of Jesus. Later, the liturgy adopted Luke's chronology – he is the only New Testament author who distinguishes the Ascension from the Resurrection – and divided the time, distinguishing Easter, Ascension and Pentecost. Today's feast leads into Pentecost, which we celebrate on Sunday 19th, by emphasising that Jesus sends the Holy Spirit from his place 'at God's right hand', sharing in the power and authority of the Father.

I send you all my best wishes. Fr Paul

Prayers

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

Sunday 5th May is the International Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians.

We pray in solidarity with our Christian brothers and sisters of the East, especially in the Holy Land and Ukraine. We ask the Lord to sustain them, many of whom are suffering persecution, displacement and discrimination, in their faith in the Risen Christ.

We pray that stability and peace may flourish in their lands; the place where the Gospel was first heard and proclaimed, the origins of monastic life and in the unbroken lived tradition of our common Christian faith.

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)

Anniversaries

Please pray for the Souls of – Margaret Albert, Dom Bede Hill, 'Pop' Yaldren, Joan Moody, James Mackey, Judith Whelpton, Linsey Smith, Veronica Andrea Maria Paterson, Jim Kilduff, Hilary Walker and Peter Hutchings.

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

Daily Readings

Monday – Acts 16:11-15 John 15:26 – 16:4a

Tuesday – Acts 16:22-34 John 16:5-11

Wednesday – Acts 17:15, 22 – 18:1 John 16:12-15

Thursday – Acts 1:1-11 Eph 4:1-13 Mark 16:15-20 (**The Ascension of the Lord**)

Friday – Acts 18:9-18 John 16:20-23

Saturday – Acts 18:23-28 John 16:23b-28 (**SS Odo, Maieul, Odilo, Hugh & BI Peter the Venerable**)

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

1st Reading – Acts 1:15-17, 20-26 2nd Reading – 1 John 4:11-16

Gospel: John 17:11-19

Father, keep those you have given me, true to your name.

Parish Events

Dates for your Diary



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

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).

Next 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, 31st May at 7.30pm.**

CAFOD Sudan Crisis Appeal

Millions of families in Sudan, forced to flee their homes amid conflict, now face yet another urgent crisis – extreme hunger. Please give to CAFOD's Sudan Crisis Appeal in church or at [CAFOD Sudan Appeal](#). Your donation will help CAFOD's partners to support more families with food packages and emergency cash payments as well as rebuilding water pipelines so clean water can reach communities who need it. Thank you for your generosity and prayers.

You can also text – **CAFODSUDAN** to **70450** to donate £10.

(Texts will cost the donation amount plus one standard network rate message, and you'll be opting into hearing more from us. If you would like to donate but don't wish to hear more from us, please text **CAFODSUDANNOINFO** instead)

There will be a Second Collection this weekend for the Sudan Appeal

Worth Pro Earth – A Call to Action

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 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

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](#)



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.

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

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.

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](#)

Ed Dean, our director of music, writes:

On 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*

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>

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