

Jubilee Year 2025



Pilgrims of Hope

In Touch

Sixth Sunday in OT (Year C)
15th / 16th February 2025
No. 1414



Dear Parishioners

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

On Tuesday of this week, we celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, which has been designated the **World Day of the Sick**. Pope Francis has written a message for us, reflecting on the Jubilee Year call to be “pilgrims of hope”. He asks, *How can we be strong, for example, when our bodies are prey to severe, debilitating illnesses? In these situations, we sense our need for a strength greater than our own. We realize that we need God’s help, his grace, his Providence, and the strength that is the gift of his Spirit.* He suggests that God remains especially close to those who suffer. *We experience the closeness and compassion of God, who, in Jesus, shared in our human suffering. God does not abandon us and often amazes us by granting us a strength that we never expected and would never have found on our own.* He affirms that suffering can even be a gift, because it makes us *aware that hope comes from the Lord.* Only in the Resurrection of Jesus does our life find its full meaning. *The risen Lord goes so far as to walk beside us as our companion on the way... we can share with him our anxieties, concerns and disappointments.* At the bedside of the sick, he says, we learn hope. *How often, by our closeness to those who suffer, do we learn to have faith! How often, when we care for those in need, do we discover love! We realize that we are “angels” of hope and messengers of God for one another.* These moments are *rays of light to be treasured; even amid the dark night of adversity, they give us strength, while at the same time teaching us the deeper meaning of life, in love and closeness.* He concludes: *Dear brothers and sisters who are ill or who care for the suffering, in this Jubilee you play an especially important part. Your journey together is a sign for everyone: “a hymn to human dignity, a song of hope”.*

In the context of the feast of Our lady of Lourdes and Jubilee Year of hope, it is good to remember to do whatever we can to oppose assisted suicide. The Bishops and others have consistently affirmed that what we need is good hospice care for the end of life. Thank you all who contributed last week to St Catherine’s Hospice. Do please see the Bishops’ appeal -

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide/> And also the text of the statement by Pope Francis : <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/world-day-of-prayer-for-the-sick/>

I send my very best wishes. Yours. Fr Paul

Jubilee Year Appeal

In this year when we are called to be “Pilgrims of Hope”, Pope Francis asks us to engage especially with prisoners, the sick, the young, migrants and the elderly. Many of you will already care for those in need. Could you please let us know of ways in which others can take part in this valuable work? (For prisoners, we can think of immigration detainees, at Gatwick Airport.) Do please share your ideas and experience so that others can take part. I look forward very much to hearing from you. Fr Paul

Prayers

Please continue to pray for our parishioners Jenny Harrison, Sheila Charman, Hal Clarke, Jenny Chapman, Gillian Maher, Krysia Smith, Maureen Evans, Pamela Bagwell, Terry and Susan Scoble, Sue Pearson, John and Sue Rutherford, Demelza Waring, Liz Hicklin, Helen Sweetman, Jill Carter and Laura Rawlinson.

A Prayer for the day of the sick, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

*To Mary, Mother of Mercy and Health of the Infirm,
we entrust the sick, healthcare workers and all those who
generously assist our suffering brothers and sisters.
From the Grotto of Lourdes and her many other shrines throughout the world,
may she sustain our faith and hope,
and help us care for one another with fraternal love.*

A Prayer for Our Earth

*All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this Earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the Earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. AMEN
(Pope Francis published this prayer in *Laudato Si'* and is meant for sharing with all who believe in our Creator God.)*

The Jubilee prayer

*Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.
May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.
May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. AMEN*

Please pray for Peace around the World

*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 – Martin Harewood, Marjorie Beck, Gwen Brophy, Clare Crossman, Oliver BurrIDGE, Harry Simmons, Kathleen Glew, Mary Cockerill and Miriam Vinycomb.

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

Daily Readings –

Monday – Gen 4:1-15, 25 Mark 8:11-13

Tuesday – Gen 6:5-8, 7:1-5, 10 Mark 8:14-21

Wednesday – Gen 8:6-13, 20-22 Mark 8:22-26

Thursday – Gen 9:1-13 Mark 8:27-33

Friday – Gen 11:1-9 Mark 8:34 – 9:1 (**St Peter Damian**)

Saturday – 1 Pet 5:1-4 Matt 16:13-19 (**The Chair of St Peter the Apostle**)

Next Sunday's Readings: **Seventh Sunday in OT (Year C)**

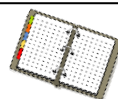
1st Reading – 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23 2nd Reading – 1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

Parish Events

Dates for your Diary



This Sunday, 16th February – Family formation continues.

Wednesday, 5th March – Ash Wednesday. Mass at 5.30pm.

Monday, 14th April (In Holy Week) – Parish service of reconciliation, from 7.15pm

Saturday, 12th July - We will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Dedication of our Abbey church, and we hope that you will all be able to join us for this event. Details will follow soon.

Sunday, 13th July - We will have our parish picnic after the 9.30 mass. Please make a note of these dates in your diaries.

Sunday, 7th September – After mass, a talk by Martin Brown of CAFOD, about the Jubilee year.

Saturday, 20th September - Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Diocese and the Universal Jubilee Year, for families and friends, on the Ardingly Showground. Free tickets will be distributed through parishes in the New Year.

Charlie and Mark Tibble'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 at c.tibble@stwilfrids.com

Next Date: **Friday 28th February 2025 at 7.30pm**

Would anyone be willing to take over the parish social media. Please get in touch with the office. Thank You.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 5th March. CAFOD write:

Ash Wednesday is fast approaching. We would like to invite you to join us as we seek to draw closer to God and our global family through reflection and prayer this Lent.

In this Jubilee year we'll be sharing hope-filled stories from across the world, as we reflect on the readings of the day and seek to respond in action and prayer.

Join us on this journey by signing up for our daily Lent emails. [CAFOD online Lent Calendar](#)

CAFOD Fundraiser- Brighton and Hove 10k

This year, our parishioner George Fitzsimons, will be doing CAFOD's 'Big Lent Walk' again.

He is also going to run the Brighton and Hove 10k on 6th April to raise funds.

Please help him reach his target.

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/georges-big-lent-walk-and-run>

If there are any other runners in the Parish who might like to join him, he'd love their company and his email address is george@fitzsimonsonline.com.

Thank you from CAFOD

CAFOD would like to thank you all for your generous support for CAFOD Family Fast Day.

You raised a total of **£328.64**.

Worth Pro Earth



Positive News Newsletter

Get your weekly fix of good news delivered to your inbox every Saturday, [signing up to the positive news email newsletter](#). One story making the headlines this week:

Bee-killing pesticide was outlawed in the UK.

A pesticide blamed for wiping out bee colonies has been banned for emergency use in the UK for the first time in five years – a move welcomed by ecologists but opposed by farmers. Cruiser SB – a neonicotinoid pesticide – is used on sugar beet to kill aphids, which spread a plant disease known as virus yellows. It's also fatal to bees and is banned in the EU. The UK has approved its emergency use every year since leaving the bloc, but this week the new government rejected an application from the National Farmers' Union and British Sugar to use the pesticide. "Bee populations have been absolutely decimated over recent years with the use of neonicotinoids fingered as a serious cause," said Greenpeace UK's policy director, Doug Parr. "Now that the doom-loop of annual 'emergency' authorisations of these bee-killing chemicals has been broken, hopefully this marks the beginning of their recovery." The ban was criticised by sugar beet farmers who have no direct replacement for Cruiser SB.

Sussex Green Hub - Advance Notice

Saturday 22nd February, United Reformed Church, Springfield Road Horsham, RH12 2RG 10am-2.30pm

In January Sussex Green Hub launched their Home Energy-Saving Help Desk to help everyone reduce energy use, save money, and lower their carbon footprint. The drop-in service will be offering expert advice on energy saving, retrofitting, and renewables. The following services will be available:

Horsham Community Fridge (10am-11am)

Giving away excess food from local businesses, supermarkets and allotments.

Horsham Repair Cafe (10am-2.30pm)

Our repairers fix electricals, mechanical items, toys, textiles, and more! Booking is essential, book [here](#).

Refill Shop (10am-2.30pm)

Overhead Oat Milk Powder Sachets and Refill Service, please bring your own containers.

Eco-Friendly Personal Hygiene and Cleaning Products (10am-2.30pm)

As well as our refill service for Faith in Nature, Bio-D and Ecolife products, we also stock Ocean Saver laundry sheets and capsules.

Recycling Education Station (10am-1.30pm)

Not sure if something can be recycled? Just bring along a bag of items, and they'll point you in the right direction.

FREE Eco Craft Making (12pm-2pm)

Come and get creative. All materials are provided, it's free and there are refreshments too!

For more information check out their website [Sussex Green Hub](#)

Rising to the challenges of reuse

The circular economy is a system where materials never become waste and nature is regenerated. In a circular economy, products and materials are kept in circulation through processes like maintenance, reuse, refurbishment, remanufacture, recycling, and composting. The circular economy tackles climate change and other global challenges, like biodiversity loss, waste, and pollution, by decoupling economic activity from the consumption of finite resources.

By kickstarting a reuse revolution, we have an opportunity to tackle plastic pollution, ease pressure on our natural resources, and make strides towards net zero. Five years of the Global Commitment has shown the scaling up of reuse is critical if we are to tackle plastic pollution. Start-ups like REPOSIT – who are delivering a scalable packaging service that works for all stakeholders – show how return, refill and reuse can become the norm. Watch the full film to learn how REPOSIT is delivering a packaging service that works for all stakeholders. [Ellen Macarthur Foundation](#)

WPE welcome new members. We meet once a month on a Wednesday at 2pm in St Benedict's. Our next meeting is on **Wednesday, 26th February at 2pm**. Please get in touch if you would like to attend.

Right To Life

Right to life have summarised their concerns over the proposed Assisted Suicide Bill:

Assisted suicide committee bias - Committee stage of Kim Leadbeater's assisted suicide Bill has begun, raising serious concerns about its conduct.

- The Committee has been 'stacked' with a higher number of MPs who support the Bill.
- Nearly twice as many witnesses supported assisted suicide than the number who opposed it.
- Important voices have been excluded, including the Government's chief Suicide Prevention Strategy Advisor, the British Geriatrics Society and a number of disability rights groups, senior palliative care doctors and legal experts with relevant expertise.

MPs must be aware of the serious issues in the scrutiny of Kim Leadbeater's Bill. It's vital they know your concerns and vote against it at Third Reading.

Please act now and visit <https://righttolife.org.uk/ASBillAction> to write to your MP – it takes just 30 seconds!

Apologetics Course

We are hoping to launch an apologetics course at Worth after Easter.

The aim of the course is to address the questions of various groups of people, from lapsed Catholics and Protestants to doubters and seekers alike.

Christian apologetics is an interesting resource often not utilised effectively enough by many churches.

There is a treasury of good argumentation to defend Christian beliefs and we hope to use a book called "The reason for God" by the late Tim Keller as the basis.

Keller was qualified to speak on such things due to his huge success in reaching many thousands of people through his ministry over five churches in New York city, one of the most secular and sceptical places on earth. His writing engages with people's real concerns and blocks to belief and as such, provides a relevant and vibrant way to engage people on the basis of our faith.

I envisage that the course will be run remotely over 7 weeks and, in each week, we will address one of the first seven chapters of his book. I have written a study guide and facilitator notes to help run these sessions.

I'm looking for anyone who's interested in facilitating the course to get in touch with me via Father Paul.

The audience we are trying to reach may include friends and relatives of members of the parish, parents with children in Catholic schools and anyone else who we feel might benefit from it. Timings and group size are still to be determined, but I would think groups of less than 10 would be suitable to allow people to discuss and think more deeply.

It is different to Alpha in the sense that it is less focused on arguing for a certain denomination of Christianity, goes deeper in those areas that people question and as such could be described as very ecumenical, transcending any denominational differences but focusing on those areas which all Christians agree on.

With very best wishes to you all, Jamie Parsons

Grow your Family in Faith and Joy

Two events at Worth School

Arrange childcare and join Mike and Alicia for an opportunity to reconnect, refocus and pray in the peaceful setting of Worth Abbey.

Event 1: Teens, Tweens and Screens. Sunday 9th March, 2pm-5pm (£25 donation per couple)

Event 2: leaving a Spiritual Legacy. Monday 10th March, 7.30pm-9pm (£10 donation per attendee)

For more information see <https://messyfamilyproject.org/uk-tour-2025/>

Abbey Events

Vivaldi's Gloria

Take part in an afternoon of beauty and joy as Worth Abbey Choir prepares and performs Vivaldi's Gloria alongside a professional orchestra on **Saturday 1st March**.
Guests keen to sing are invited to arrive for 1:30pm, and those keen to listen to the performance are invited to arrive for refreshments from 3:15pm; the concert will begin at 3:45pm.

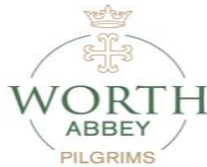
If you would like to sing, please register your interest as soon as you are able by emailing Edward Dean (Abbey Director of Music) at edean@worth.org.uk

If you would like to attend the concert, please contact Kelly O'Hara (Assistant to the Abbot) at kohara@worth.org.uk

Further information about the day will be sent to guests who register by email at least two weeks in advance of the event.

Timings

Welcome	1.00 - 1.30pm
Rehearsal for singers	1.30 - 3.15pm
Refreshments for all	3.15 - 3.45pm
Concert	3.45 - 4.30pm



LENT TALKS at Worth Abbey

***77 Years an Altar Server* by Michael Weston-Burt on Sunday 23rd March
at 11.00am in the Unity Room of the Abbey Church**

Join Michael on his nostalgic journey from the traditional Latin Mass of post-war Britain of the 40's, through the challenging changes of Vatican II in the 60's, to our modern English Mass of today, at Worth Abbey, viewed through the eyes of a server who throughout was "up there", on the Sanctuary, always "part of the action!"

Please join us in the Unity Room after Mass for this very special event.

***Finding God in the Everyday* by Fr Martin McGee on Saturday 5th April
at 10.30am in the Spencer Building of Worth School**

Fr Martin will draw upon the teachings of the Rule of St Benedict to help us meet Christ in the everyday moments of our lives. He will share insights from the lives of the nineteen Algerian martyrs and encourage reflection on how the Lord meets us in our daily experiences.

Join us for this enriching talk by Fr Martin McGee and discover how to find God in the everyday

TIMINGS:

10.30am Arrival and Coffee in the Abbey Church
11.00am Fr Martin's Talk, Spencer Building, Worth School
12.00pm Light Lunch (optional at a cost of £5)
1.00pm Midday Prayer

If you are interested in attending please let Kelly O'Hara know by emailing kohara@worth.org.uk or calling 01342 710370

A Place of Beauty and Joy

Non-Parish Events

You Can Help Your Marriage

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse?

Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long 'i') helps couples through difficult times in their marriages.

There is no group therapy or group work.

This programme has helped 10s of 1000s of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about Retrouvaille, or to register for the next programme commencing via Zoom on **27th February to 2nd March**.

Call or text 0788 7296983 Email info@retrouvaille.org.uk www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Visit from World Apostolate of Fatima

Have you ever been to Fatima? We invite you to come for a taster day. Our parish has been chosen as the only church in our Diocese for a visit from the National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, along with relics of Saints Jacinta and Francisco. The day includes a procession and mass, prayer, veneration of relics, adoration and video presentation. There will be items for sale, and you are welcome to all or part of the day. **Saturday 1st March**, 09.45 until 16.45 at St Peter's Church, Shoreham-by-Sea, BN43 5WG

(Tea/coffee available; please bring a packed lunch)

Email: adurvalley@abdiocese.org.uk for more information

Theology & Integral Ecology

New Approaches to our Planetary Crisis, **24th – 25th April**, Oxford (Cost: £35-£75).

A conference seeking to deepen and extend theological approaches to the contemporary planetary crisis through examination of the integral ecology paradigm. It will feature a prestigious line-up of speakers.

[Click Here](#) to find out more.

Applications for Lourdes 2025 now open

Applications for this summer's Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

(25th -31st July by air or own transport, 24th July-1st August by coach/jumbulance)

are now open on the diocesan website: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/lourdes/home>

Our pilgrimage to Lourdes is one of the most significant pastoral events in our annual Diocesan calendar. Pope Francis has declared 2025 is a Jubilee year, the Lourdes theme is 'With Mary, Pilgrims of Hope'. We are invited to set out on our pilgrimage journey with our Lady and St Bernadette, in the 'hope born of grace, which enables us to live in Christ.' (Pope Francis, *Spes non Confundit* 2025)

Lourdes is a place of renewal, unlike tourists, visiting a popular attraction, we are pilgrims, making the journey together, we laugh together, break bread together, and we enter a space in which we can be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in ways that, perhaps, we would never have thought possible before.

Jubilee for Youth – Pilgrims of Hope

Rome 28th July – 4th August 2025

A pilgrimage for young adults aged 18-30 to celebrate this special year of forgiveness and reconciliation. Join with other like-minded people, as we travel to the beautiful city of Rome for opportunities to hear from, and pray with, Pope Francis on the theme of Hope. Including flights, half-board hotel and entry to events, the Diocese is offering this trip for only £995. Contact [\[formation@abdiocese.org.uk\]](mailto:formation@abdiocese.org.uk) to find out more.

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: [Families and young children](#)

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 9am – 1pm Mon-Fri

Nighttime emergencies only: 01342 710331

Any cheques to be made payable to – Worth Abbey Parish

Payments can be made via online banking - Account – 61076892 Sort Code – 40-05-20

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 (Please check Website)

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.

Also, 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

Next Dates – 26th February, 26th March and 23rd April.

Vigil for Vocations - (1st Friday). After Compline 8.30pm - 9.00pm.

Bible Study Group – 11am on Mondays in St Benedict's (Parish Office). Please contact 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

Please report any concerns about safeguarding directly to the Diocese, or, in an emergency, call the police on 999.

If you are concerned about the welfare of a child or adult at risk, do not delay in contacting the police.

Telephone 999 if a child or an adult is believed to be in immediate danger.

If you need to contact our Safeguarding Office you can do so here:

T: [01293 651148](tel:01293651148) E: safeguarding@abdiocese.org.uk