

Jubilee Year 2025



Pilgrims of Hope

In Touch

**3rd Sunday of Easter (Year C)
3rd / 4th May 2025
No. 1424**



Dear Parishioners,

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

Over the past week the Church has been mourning for Pope Francis; and not only the Catholic church, but Christians of every denomination and country, and men and women of every faith and none, have paid tribute to this great leader who was God's gift to the Church.

He was remarkable in many ways, perhaps beginning with his origins as the first Pope from Latin America. He never forgot his roots as a pastor in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and reminded the universal church of the option for the poor, which remained a central theme throughout his papacy. This was first defined at the Conference of the Latin American Bishops at Medellin in 1968, largely under the inspiration of the Peruvian priest, Gustavo Gutierrez, whose work among the poor in Lima led him to understand that this option for the poor is God's option and is at the heart of the ministry of Jesus. Pope Francis followed closely in his footsteps in his first major document, *The Joy of The Gospel*. He wrote (n48) *Today and always, "the poor are the privileged recipients of the Gospel" and the fact that it is freely preached to them is a sign of the kingdom that Jesus came to establish. We have to state, without mincing words, that there is an inseparable bond between our faith and the poor. May we never abandon them... I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security.*

Francis is also lauded as the first Pope to dedicate a major work to the subject of ecology – *Laudate Si – On Care For Our Common Home*. He acknowledges here the inspiration of his patron, St. Francis: *He shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace.* He urges us all to become mystics who see the natural world as the reflection of God's beauty and goodness which He shares with us. Francis speaks of the ecological debt which is owed by the global north to the global south: *The deterioration of the environment and of society affects the most vulnerable people on the planet: Both everyday experience and scientific research show that the gravest effects of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poorest.* In the cry of the earth we must hear the cry of the poor. Christians must realise that *our responsibility within creation, and our duty towards nature and the Creator, are an essential part of our faith.*

Perhaps the greatest achievement of Pope Francis was the Synod on synodality, which has been described as the biggest consultation in human history. Bringing together all members of the Church, it expressed his desire to re-invigorate the acceptance of the theology of the Second Vatican Council, emphasising the image of the Church most favoured by the council, the *Pilgrim People of God*. Leadership within the Church is one of God's many charisms which He gives us, and, as all gifts, is given for the service of all its members. Everyone belongs equally, and everyone has gifts to share.

Finally we should remember the call to mission which Francis makes: *I dream of a "missionary option", that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for her self-preservation.* Mission is the reason for our existence as Church. In his final document, *Dilexit Nos*, about the love of the heart of Jesus, he wrote (n209): *Mission, as a radiation of the love of the heart of Christ, requires missionaries who are themselves in love and who, enthralled by Christ, feel bound to share this love that has changed their lives. Their greatest concern is to share what they have experienced. They want others to perceive the goodness and beauty of the Beloved through their efforts, however inadequate they may be. Is that not the case with any lover?*

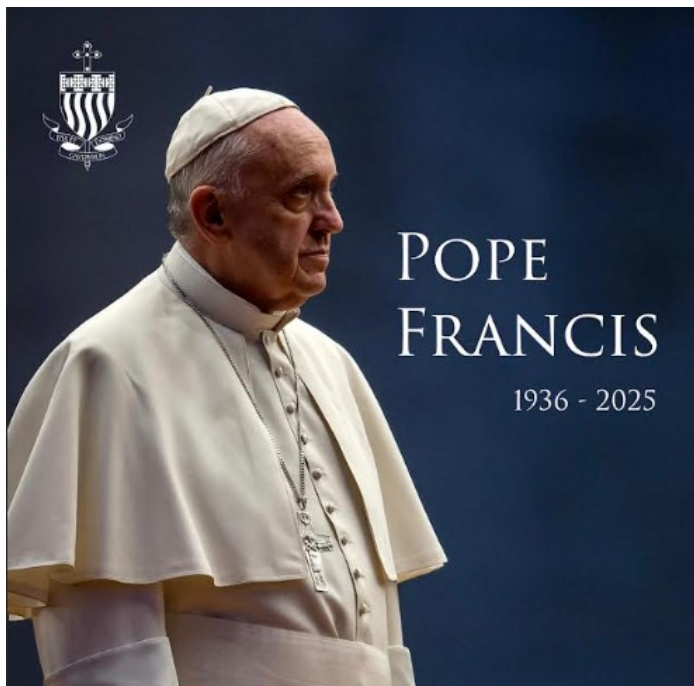
Please pray that we may all be inflamed with this love and the desire to share it.

I send my very best wishes.. Fr Paul

<p>MASS TIMES at Worth Abbey: Sundays- 9.30am (family Mass, with choir) Mondays to Fridays- 5.30 pm Saturdays- 9am & 5pm (First Mass of Sunday), Feast Days 5.30pm Days of Obligation, <i>see website</i></p>	<p>Inside this week's In Touch... ✓ Prayers for Pope Francis and the Conclave, page 2 ✓ NEW! Tributes to Pope Francis, pages 3,4 ✓ Dates for your Diary, page 5 ✓ NEW! Worth Parish Community Billboard, page 6 ✓ Social Action Activities for Parishioners, page 7 ✓ Parish Activities, with Easter Celebrations collage, pages 8,9 ✓ Other Activities/ Announcements, pages 9,10</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Prayers</u></p> <p>Please pray for the young people of our parish who will be confirmed at Arundel Cathedral on Friday, May 2, and for their families: Nicolas Bullen, Jude McSharry, Adam Kaszycki, Kornel Klapczynski, and Finn Lehane. Congratulations to them all!</p> <p>Please pray for our parishioners, Mike Carter, who is in hospital and recovering from surgery. And, continue praying for Rowena Leaney, Beryl McNulty, Lin Eade, Jelly Labto, Sheila Charman, Hal Clarke, Gillian Maher, Krysia Smith, Pamela Bagwell, Terry and Susan Scoble, Sue Pearson, John and Sue Rutherford, Demelza Waring, Liz Hicklin, Helen Sweetman, Jill Carter and Laura Rawlinson.</p> <p>Please pray for Helen Sweetman who died on Wednesday. Helen lived and worked at Worth as a school matron for 45 years. Please also pray for the soul of Pope Francis who died on Easter Monday. May the Lord reward their fidelity. Let us also pray for the souls of Jim Rochford, Eric Corke, Don Cooper, John Nott, Jean Eicher, Nina Pokultinis, Simon Hulme, Edwin Ryan, Barbara Geary, Althea Harris, Coral Botting, Matthew Dawson, Sheila White, Veira Flanagan, Patricia Blake, Margaret Albert, and Dom Bede Hill, whose anniversaries are this week. <i>Eternal rest grant unto them, oh Lord. May they rest in peace.</i></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Prayer for Pope Francis, 1936 - 2025</u></p> <p><i>Gracious God, You know our needs even before we ask, and heed our faltering prayers, spoken and unspoken. Hear our voice above the murmurs of sorrow-- it is the voice of confusion seeking your still small voice of calm. Hear our voice as we give thanks for your faithful servant for it is the voice of praise joining with sadness & joy. Hear our voice as we pray for the future for it is a voice of hope longing to see your Church made whole.</i></p> <p><i>Hear our voice as we watch with those who deliberate, for it is the voice of humility asking for their wisdom and discernment. Hear us as we pray in solidarity with the poor, for it is the voice of peace searching for justice. O God, hear the voice of the voiceless, for it is the voice of silence crying out from the cross through whom your Spirit may be heard and your will be recognised. For Jesus Christ's sake, Amen. - A. Shilson-Thomas/CAFOD</i></p> <p>A novena in memory of Pope Francis: https://www.usccb.org/resources/novena-pope-francis-ENG.pdf</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MASS READINGS: (4-11 May)</u></p> <p>Sun - 1st Reading - Acts 5:27b-32, 40b-41 2nd Reading - Revelations 5:11-14 <i>Gospel - John 21:1-19 Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish</i></p> <p>Mon - Acts 6:8-15 John 6:22-29 Thu - Acts 8:26-40 John 6:44-51</p> <p>Tue - Acts 7:51 – 8:1a John 6:30-35 Fri - Acts 9:1-20 John 6:52-59</p> <p>Wed - Acts 8:1b-8 John 6:35-40 Sat - Acts 9:31-42 John 6:60-69</p> <p>Next Sunday - 1st Reading – Acts 13:14, 43b-52 2nd Reading – Revelation 7:9, 13a, 14b-17 <i>Gospel – John 10:27-30 I give eternal life to my sheep</i></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">PRAYERS FOR THE CONCLAVE</p> <p>WE can pray for the cardinals as they prepare to elect a new pope. There are 135 cardinal electors. "Adopt a Cardinal," will match you with a cardinal elector, and provide guidance on how to pray until the end of conclave. https://praycardinal.com/</p> <p>Also Pray More Novenas has begun a novena for the intention of the conclave. You print them or sign up to get the prayer delivered daily to your inbox. Click: https://www.praymorenovenas.com/novena-for-the-papal-conclave</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Prayer for the Election of a Pope <i>(Roman Missal)</i></p> <p>O God, eternal shepherd, who govern your flock with unfailing care, grant in your boundless fatherly love a pastor for your Church who will please you by his holiness and to us show watchful care. 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.</p>

Statement on the death of His Holiness, Pope Francis (1936-2025)

The **Diocese of Arundel and Brighton** is deeply saddened by the death of His Holiness Pope Francis. We give thanks for the Holy Father's ministry and witness and entrust his faithful soul to the Father of all mercies.



Elected to the papacy in March 2013, Pope Francis was an unwavering advocate of the poor and marginalised.

A powerful proponent for the value and sanctity of every human life, the Pope was vocal in his denouncement of human trafficking, which he referred to as a "global scourge". He designated February 8 as the International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking and worked steadfastly to raise awareness of the illegal practice, promoting the work and mission of Papal anti-trafficking charity, The Santa Marta Group, which operates internationally to end the criminal trade.

In 2021, Pope Francis launched arguably one of the most prominent initiatives of his 12-year papacy, the Synod on Synodality; a four-year undertaking centred on the themes of Communion, Participation and Mission. More than 1,000 people from our Diocese contributed to the "local phase" of the Synod, with the fruits of the Synodal Path offering an opportunity for Catholics across the world to journey together to create a Church that "plants dreams, draw forth prophecies

and visions, [and] allows hope to flourish." More recently, the Holy Father announced that 2025 was to be a Year of Jubilee with the theme "Pilgrims of Hope", with three churches in our diocese designated as special places of pilgrimage where Holy Year Indulgences can be gained.

Despite his advancing years and the frailties of age, Pope Francis travelled widely, meeting world leaders, lay people, religious, and members of clergy living in countries far beyond Europe and the Western World. Speaking after a visit to Singapore in September 2024, the Pope highlighted the particular joy he experienced meeting children "who follow the Gospel and become salt and light [and] witnesses of hope", with his love of young people also in evidence during the World Youth Days he attended.

Operating within an increasingly violent and polarised global landscape, Pope Francis worked tirelessly and vocally in the pursuit of peace, dispatching Vatican envoys across the world to deliver aid and spiritual support to people and communities in need, while urging governments and world leaders to bring an end to conflict and violence, particularly in the Middle East, Ukraine, and Sudan.

Equally galvanising was the Pope's stance on Care for our Common Home, and his concern for environmental stewardship. In 2015, he published *Laudato Si'* – the first of two encyclical letters on the climate crisis – calling on people of all ages and backgrounds to redouble local, national, and international efforts to safeguard and protect the planet. Writing *Laudate Deum* in 2023 he reiterated the need for people across the world to act, highlighting that "there are no cultural changes without personal changes." Locally, a number of diocesan parish communities and schools answered the Pope's call by adopting CAFOD's LiveSimply programme, caring for God's creation, and standing in solidarity with our global family.

Speaking earlier today Bishop Richard Moth said: "As we mourn the death of Pope Francis, we can also be deeply grateful for his life of service to the Universal Church. Bringing his experience of the Church in South America, informed and enlightened by his life as a member of the Society of Jesus, he called us all to the simplicity of life, a renewed openness to the gift of mercy, a deeper understanding of the dignity of the human person and a respect and care for creation. The work of the Synod, that has marked the more recent years of his papacy, is sure to inform the life and mission of the Church in the proclamation of the Gospel and his faithful dedication, even as he lived with failing health, is an example to us all. May he rest in peace."

As the Church mourned the passing of Pope Francis, some Worth Abbey Parishioners were able to pay their last respects in person, praying for our Parish family while in Rome.



Prayer for Francis

O God, faithful rewarder of souls,
grant that your departed servant Pope Francis,
whom you made successor of Peter
and shepherd of your Church,
may happily enjoy for ever in your presence in heaven
the mysteries of your grace and compassion,
which he faithfully ministered on earth.
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.

Eternal rest, grant unto him O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him.

May he rest in peace.
Amen.

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God rest in peace.
Amen.

Psalm 120

I lift up my eyes to the mountains:
from where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the Lord
who made heaven and earth.

May he never allow you to stumble!
Let him sleep not your guard.
No, he sleeps not nor slumbers,
Israel's guard.

The Lord is your guard and your shade;
at your right side he stands.
By day the sun shall not smite you
nor the moon in the night.

The Lord will guard you from evil,
he will guard your soul.
The Lord will guard your going and coming
both now and for ever.

Canticle of Simeon (Nunc Dimittis)

(Luke 2:29-32)

At last, all-powerful Master,
you give leave to your servant
to go in peace, according to your promise.

For my eyes have seen your salvation
which you have prepared for all nations,
the light to enlighten the Gentiles
and give glory to Israel, your people.

Dates for Your Diary

Saturday, 3 May – **Worth Parish Gathering** with Refreshments in the Unity Room after the 5pm mass.

Tuesday, 6 May – **Hope Flowers** School for Peace and Democracy in Bethlehem event (*more details below.*)

Wednesday, 7 May – Please note there will be no Blessed Sacrament adoration from 2.30-3.30pm on this day.

Monday, 12 May – **Worth Parish ‘Tea and Chat’**, at Compass House, 2-4pm.

Wednesday 28 May – **Christian Meditation**, at the Unity Room, 7-8pm. Contact Richard rbrownd1@gmail.com.

Saturday, 12 July – Celebrations for the **50th anniversary of the Dedication of our Abbey church**.

Sunday, 13 July – **Worth Parish picnic** after the 9.30 mass.

Hope Flowers School for Peace and Democracy speaker event, on **May 6, 7-8:30pm**, at Kensington Unitarians, 112 Palace Gardens Terrace, London W8 4RT. Come and hear about this groundbreaking school and the latest news from the Holy Land. Ibrahim Issa, Director of Hope Flowers School in Bethlehem will be speaking in the event to engage potential friends of their school.

For over 35 years, Hope Flowers School has been a pioneer in constructive peace education for children in conflict areas, focusing on those aged 5 to 14 who have been traumatised by conflict, and exposed to poverty and malnutrition. It **provides human rights education**, and trains women and youth on **peaceful conflict resolution**. It empowers students to develop their capacity for independent, creative thought, as well as compassion. Its **Child Protection Programme is central to tackling trauma**, supporting children through specialized trauma counsellors.



The event is supported by the charity Spirit of Peace. Entry is free, but donations for Hope Flowers School are welcome. Book via: bit.ly/IbrahimKensington or <https://wegottickets.com/event/656318/>

Whether or not you can come, they welcome any financial support for their work. Please donate via the QR code or via https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=ARA4TW8TT7WBQ

Worth Parish ‘Tea and Chat’, Monday 12th May, 2-4 pm

You are warmly invited to the first **‘Tea and Chat’**. The idea is to have an informal get-together for parishioners to allow us to catch up with old friends and to make new ones. This is an experiment. We will see how many people are interested. Our motivation is to bring parishioners together and to strengthen our wonderful community at Worth. There is no charge. We would just be pleased to see you. There will be cake, biscuits, and drinks on offer! You can contact: Christina Fitzsimons (cfitzs3287@aol.com 07721010577) or Carol Morice (carolmorice251@btinternet.com).



A Worth Community Pilgrimage to Vézelay, France

We are delighted to announce a Worth Community Pilgrimage to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of La Basilique de Vézelay in Burgundy, **from October 26th to 30th, 2025**. This trip is organised by Chris Wyles and supported by Worth Abbey Pilgrims, Worth Society, and Worth Parish.

Located southeast of Paris, Vézelay offers an opportunity to experience a place of profound spiritual beauty. During the pilgrimage, Worthian and experienced guide Christopher Kelly will guide us through the Abbey, showcasing its stunning architecture and symbolic use of light. He will also organise visits to other notable sites of interest in the area. To register your interest, please email Vezelay@worth.org.uk or visit [Worth Pilgrims - Vezelay October 2025](https://www.worthpilgrims.org.uk/vezelay-october-2025) to reserve your place. Also see this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Q0tATBLRtE&t=22s> for more details.

Ticket Inclusions (£130.00): 🍽️ Welcome meal 🗺️ Guided tours & workshops 🍽️ Celebration final evening meal
Travel and Accommodation: Participants will be coming from various areas and may like to choose their own place to stay in Vézelay, so we ask that you please make your own transport and accommodation arrangements.

Worth Parish Community Billboard

A Tapestry of Faith: 60 Years, 60 Faces, One Parish Community

Marking Worth's 60 years we're featuring members whose stories are threads in the rich tapestry of our shared journey.

#4 Rachel Davies



Born under dramatic skies in the American Midwest, Rachel's arrival into the world was as certainly memorable. Her "very Frensh" (Rachel's spelling) mother and "frightfully British" father had emigrated from post-war Europe seeking new opportunity, but when Rachel's mother became seriously ill late in pregnancy, a kind neighbour rushed her to a local doctor. With care and luck, both mother and child were saved—and Rachel became the first of eight siblings, all delivered by the same dedicated obstetrician.

While her family eventually returned to Europe, Rachel stayed to finish her degree at Saint Mary's College in Indiana. After graduation, a visit to her family in London led to meeting Howard Davies—and on their very first date, he took her to Worth Abbey to meet Abbot Victor and all the monks. That day would prove fateful: not only would Rachel and Howard marry at Worth in 1984, but Worth Abbey Parish would become her spiritual home for decades to come.

After moving to Sussex in 1996 with their four children, Rachel became involved in Junior Church and, by 2000, the First Holy Communion programme, a role she held with dedication until 2023. She has served as Parish Safeguarding Representative, a Eucharistic Minister, a Welcoming Team member, and has contributed to Alpha and Relit courses, Rosary, and House groups. She is currently a member of the Parish Leadership Team.

Rachel reflects that her involvement in parish life has helped deepen her faith—and foster lasting friendships: "This connection with the parish has supported me in my faith and helped it to mature."

A prayer, saint, or bible verse that inspires you? <i>"Let nothing disturb you, Let nothing frighten you, All things are passing away, God never changes, Patience obtains all things, Whoever has God lacks nothing, God alone suffices." – St. Theresa of Avila</i>	What activities do you enjoy? <i>Music, reading, having coffee with a friend, time with my family.</i>	What plate of food brings you the best memories? <i>Fruit crumble- my mother made apple crumbles often, topped with her homemade custard.</i>
A cherished memory of being part of this parish community? <i>Watching the children I taught each year make their First Communion - so special.</i>	What are your hopes and prayers for the future of our parish? <i>An increase of young families and children thriving in the Parish Community, many friendships developing and a great increase in their faith and love for each other.</i>	

#5 Kornel Klapczynski



Though just 13, Kornel brings a rich blend of cultures and passions to our parish. Born in England to Polish parents, Anna and Lukasz he's the eldest of three siblings—and the proud owner of a cat named Coco. His early years were spent in Crawley and Ruislip before his family settled in the village of Handcross. Kornel now studies at St Paul's Catholic College, where he's a thriving Year 8 student.

Music is a big part of Kornel's life—especially jazz. He plays both the saxophone and piano, and his love for rhythm is matched only by his enthusiasm for sport. Whether it's tennis, skiing, cycling or swimming, Kornel approaches it all with energy and joy.

Since moving to Handcross in 2019, Kornel has become an active part of our parish. He joined the altar serving team right after his First Holy Communion, and he continues to serve faithfully. After his first year, he earned the Bronze Medal for altar service—an honour he wears with quiet pride. "Serving at Mass helps me feel more connected to it," he shares.

Kornel's quiet confidence and generous heart are a blessing to our community. He's also part of 'Inspired,' a family formation group for teenagers, where he continues to deepen his faith and prepare for Confirmation. "Faith has helped me through lots of stressful and challenging experiences," Kornel reflects, "like starting a new school—it reminds me that God has my back and I don't need to be afraid."

A prayer or verse that inspires you? <i>Isiah 41:10 - "Do not fear for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."</i>	What activities do you enjoy? <i>Playing and listening to music, skiing, reading, playing tennis, swimming, cycling, hiking</i>	What food brings you the best memories? <i>"Uszka"- Polish dumplings filled with forest mushrooms served with beetroot soup on Christmas Eve. It reminds me of Christmas.</i>
A cherished memory of being part of this parish? <i>Receiving the Bronze Medal for altar serving.</i>	What are your hopes and prayers for the future of our parish? <i>More teenagers; hopefully, when the younger kids grow up they will stay in the faith. Building a stronger community by serving in Mass and setting an example for the following younger parishioners.</i>	

Social Action Activities for Parishioners

CALL TO ACTION: The "Assisted Dying" Bill has completed the Committee stage, where 23 MPs from across the House of Commons has been receiving evidence, and going through the Bill line by line. The committee heard from 50 witnesses giving oral evidence and considered 444 written evidence submissions. There had been 170+ amendments made. **The Bill has now moved to Report stage and will return to the House of Commons on 16 May 2025.** If the Bill then passes a third reading, it will progress to the House of Lords. Please ask your MP to vote against it: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide/>

It only takes a few moments to ask your MP to stop assisted suicide being rushed into law. The charity "Right to Life" has a simple online mechanism >>[here](#). A range of resources on opposing assisted suicide available on the Bishops' Conference website >>[here](#).



Worth Pro Earth welcomes new members. We meet once a month on a Wednesday, 2pm, St Benedict's. Our next meeting is on **Wednesday, 7 May at 2pm**.

Laudato Si' Movement - The Laudato Si' Movement joins the universal Church in mourning the passing of Pope Francis, a shepherd who transformed our understanding of our relationship with God, each other, and all creation. Pope Francis' vision for creation care has shaped policies, inspired millions, and strengthened our mission. In remembrance of his profound contributions, we invite you to read about [Pope Francis' living legacy](#). The Laudato Si Movement's global tribute to Pope Francis contains a beautiful prayerful tribute at approx 1:36:50 into the video which lasts ca 2-3 mins, watch it at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/live/>

No Mow May - is Plantlife's annual campaign urging everyone to pack away the lawnmower, let wildflowers grow freely and help nature. It's super easy to take part. No lawn is too small! Even the smallest wild patch can provide vital food needed by bees and butterflies. **Approximately 97% of flower-rich meadows have been lost since the 1930s, and with them, vital food and habitat needed by wildlife. But your garden can help!** A healthy lawn with some longer grass and wildflowers helps to tackle pollution, benefits wildlife and can even lock away carbon below the ground. There are more than 20 million gardens in the UK, so even the smallest grassy patches can add up and deliver enormous gains for nature, people and the climate. No Mow May is the [perfect starting point for summer](#) and leaving a mix of grass lengths in your lawn from #NoMowMay and beyond means you're giving nature the boost it deserves. That's why we're calling on everyone to give power to the flowers in 2025 and take part in the No Mow Movement! Click on the link below, answer a few questions and join the movement: [No Mow May](#). Then sit back and watch the wildlife bloom in your garden or green space. By joining, you'll be the first to receive tips, guides and badges and at the same time help us understand how many people and lawns are part of the No Mow Movement.

Want to learn how we can protect our pollinators? - Sign up to Greenpeace's free email course on how we can protect our pollinators. Bees, butterflies and bugs are vital to our food supply chain and keeping nature healthy – but they're under threat! Last year a butterfly emergency was called because numbers were so low. Over the past 20 years our flying insect population has shrunk by a whopping 60%. Even though these creatures are small, they have a HUGE impact on our ecosystem and we must protect them. They pollinate the majority of plants and crops, so a world without them would be terrible for biodiversity and our food supply. Sign up for the free course: <https://act.gp/43Jsiqa>

National Hedgerow Week 5 - 11 May - Hedgerows form the UK's largest wildlife habitat, are a major part of our landscape, and are crucial to halting biodiversity decline and tackling climate change. Hedgerows are the often-unsung heroes of the British countryside. The British landscape is shaped by hundreds of thousands of miles of hedge; providing wildlife with sheltered and bountiful habitat network; protecting agriculture, whether livestock or crops; creating living boundaries in our urban centres; and bringing greenery, capturing carbon, and delivering beauty to our rail lines and roadsides. Join us this National Hedgerow Week. Visit us at: [National Hedgerow Week](#).

Repair Cafes ** **Lindfield** repair cafe is open on 3 May (10am-1pm) at the United Reformed Church, 52 High Street, Lindfield, RH16 2HL <https://www.lindfieldrepaircafe.org/> ** **Merstham** repair cafe is open on 7 May (3-5pm), 2b Portland Drive, Merstham RH1 3HY <https://mcft.org.uk/projects/> ** **Horley** repair cafe is open on 10 May (11:30am-230pm), at St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Horley Row RH6 8DF, contact via horleyrepaircafe@yahoo.com

Parish Activities

✠ Easter Joy at Our Parish ✠

From the beauty of the liturgies to the laughter of children on the egg hunt, our Easter celebrations were filled with light, love, and life. Here are a few snapshots capturing the spirit of the season—***Christ is risen, alleluia!***



☕ Special Thanks to Our Tea & Coffee Team! ☕

A heartfelt thank you to our wonderful Tea & Coffee Team for your incredibly generous service after Easter Sunday Mass. You rose to the occasion—quite literally—to serve a massive congregation with grace, good cheer, and bottomless cups! Your warm hospitality helped make our Easter celebration even more joyful, offering not just refreshments but the gift of community. ***Congratulations on a job so well done!***

Care to join us? If YOU are reading this and you are looking for ways to share your time and good cheer with the Parish Community, why not take part in this joyful ministry? We'd love to hear from you! Just speak to a team member after Mass or contact the parish office.

CAFOD thanks YOU!

We raised £370 in our Worth Parish & School Young Leaders Lenten Coffees for CAFOD. What is unmeasurable is the community benefit and CAFOD awareness that our weekly coffee meetings fostered.

A big thank you to Kir Horner for organising and working with our young leaders!

Sacrament of Reconciliation – Sundays 08.45–09.15am in the church, or by appointment with Fr. Paul.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament – Sundays 6.30pm, after vespers. ~~Wednesdays~~ 2.30–3.30pm.

Rosary Group – Mondays 7:10–8pm in the church after vespers. Please contact Rachel Davies: 07801 696354.

Lectio Divina – Tuesdays at 8pm via Zoom. Please contact Jenny Chapman jenny_chapman@sky.com.

Vigil for Vocations – Every first Friday of the month at 8.30–9pm, after compline.

Bible Study Group – Mondays, 11am at St Benedict's (Parish Office). Please contact the Parish Office.

Announcements & Activities Outside Our Parish

Word! Part II A whistle Stop Tour of the New Testament
Teens Weekend, 23 - 25 May 2025



Residential weekend at Worth for young people in school years 7-11, led by the Lay Community of St Benedict. Inspiring talks, fun activities, uplifting prayer. [Click here](#) for details.

Mass for Migrants, 11 May 5:30, St. Joseph's Brighton



Mass for Migrants celebrated by Bishop Richard, 11 May, 5.30pm, **St Joseph's Catholic Church, Brighton**. A special Mass celebrating how our diocesan community has been enriched by migration, and the difference and contribution that migrants make to wider society. All are welcome.

Theology of the Body

Online course for Confirmation Catechists & Youth Leaders (starts 4 June, 4 sessions)

Explore the rich teachings of St John Paul II and how we might share them with the youth. Join our course hosted by Diocesan Youth Adviser, Lizzie Wakeling. We will be joined by Dave Legrand who will be able to offer insight into what our young people are learning at school, and how we can complement that in our work with them. Register at [Theology of the Body for Confirmation Catechists \(04-Jun-2025\) · ChurchSuite Events](#)

Grandparents' Pilgrimage – Worth Abbey **11 June 10am - 3.30pm**



Come join the annual day of reflection & friendship of our Grandparent Parish Group. Join us for Mass, time to pray together and an opportunity to talk to share experiences with fellow grandparents. You can contact Deacon Simon at simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk, M: 07415 306222. To register, scan the QR code or go to the Diocesan events calendar and follow the Grandparent's Pilgrimage link to book: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/>.

Bereavement Pilgrimage for Parents - 30 May-1 Jun, Lewes to Seven Sisters (Cost: £100; support available). This 3-day journey, walking 8-10 miles per day, will bring together bereaved parents to connect with and support each other using the power of pilgrimage in nature. Your grief is welcome. [Click here](#) for details.

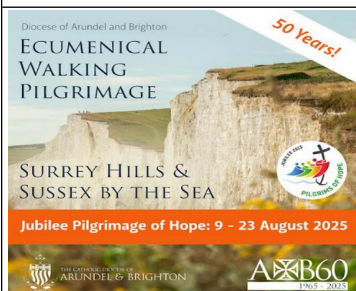
Fancy a relaxed, fun, faith time away as a family or a Parish community?

Join us at the CELEBRATE festival to you this summer at Worth School, in the beautiful West Sussex countryside on **16-20 August 2025**.

It's going to be a fun, family and faith-filled event with a Festival Big Top! There will be 8 children's and youth groups for all ages from babies in the creche to the Joel's Bar youth (16-22 years). There's on-site full board accommodation or camping on the festival field. Come and CELEBRATE this Jubilee year as a parish family!



Amazing speakers, to include Fr Roberto Pasolini, the Papal Preacher! Fr Columba Jordan CFR (Called to More Podcasts), Rachel Turner (Parenting for Faith) - Loads of family activities – Worship with One Hope Project – Prayer times and Adoration in the Abbey – Café Tent - Storytelling - Drama with Rise Theatre - Bedtime Bible Stories and much more. A jubilee event for all, come and join us! Book via <https://www.celebratetrust.org/festival>



Jubilee Pilgrimage of Hope

Bookings have opened for the Arundel & Brighton Ecumenical Walking Pilgrimage 2025 which will take place from the **9 - 23 August**.

Walking across the Surrey Hills and along the Sussex coast, this year's route will visit every deanery in the Diocese, together with churches of many denominations. All are welcome to join the group for a day, a few days, or the whole 2 weeks.

To find out more and book your place [click here](#) and visit the Pilgrims Live website.

Worth Abbey Parish is committed to **safeguarding** all children and vulnerable groups within its community. Our Worth Abbey Parish Safeguarding Reps are Charles and Ann McCarthy, email: sg1.worth@abdiocese.org.uk Please report concerns about safeguarding directly to the Diocese, or, in an emergency, call the police. Safeguarding Office T: **01293 651148** E: safeguarding@abdiocese.org.uk

CAFOD Myanmar Earthquake Appeal

Following the devastating earthquake in Myanmar, CAFOD is responding through the Catholic Church there to support families affected by the disaster. Your donations will provide essentials like water, food, solar lights, and mosquito nets. Please give to CAFOD's Myanmar Earthquake Appeal in church or you can donate online at cafod.org.uk/myanmar or by calling 0303 303 3030. You can also text **EARTHQUAKE to 70450** to donate £10.



And finally, the LAST WORD, from some of Pope Francis' last words...

Love has triumphed over hatred, light over darkness and truth over falsehood. Forgiveness has triumphed over revenge. Evil has not disappeared from history, but it no longer has the upper hand; it no longer has power over those who accept the grace of this day. Sisters and brothers, especially those of you experiencing pain and sorrow, your silent cry has been heard, your tears have been counted; not one of them has been lost!

All those who put their hope in God place their feeble hands in his strong and mighty hand; they let themselves be raised up and set out on a journey. Together with the risen Jesus, they become pilgrims of hope, witnesses of the victory of love and of the disarmed power of Life.

Death and life contended in a stupendous struggle, but the Lord now lives forever. He fills us with the certainty that we too are called to share in the life that knows no end... Let us entrust ourselves to Him, for He alone can make all things new (Rev. 21:5)! (From the Pope's Easter message. He went home to God the next day.)

Parish Priest: Fr. Paul Fleetwood (Mobile: 07764 260216)

Parish Office- Secretary: Maria Stribbling - 01342 710313 (Mon-Fri 9am – 1pm)

Fr Paul - (when Maria unavailable) – 01342 710351

Parish Office Email: parish@worth.org.uk

Parish Website: www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk

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

If you would like anything to appear in 'In Touch', contact Maria Stribbling at parish@worth.org.uk (by Wed.10am)

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.