

# In Touch

17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)  
26<sup>th</sup> /27<sup>th</sup> July 2025  
No. 1435



Dear Parishioners,

I hope that you and your families are enjoying the wonderful British summer!

My sincere thanks to all of you who participated and contributed to the success of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the Consecration of our Abbey Church last July 12, and our Parish Festivities on July 13. What a joyful weekend it was! Please enjoy this summer edition of In Touch, including the lovely pictures of the back-to-back celebrations, taken by our editor Hazel Galang-Folli. If you yourselves have good pictures from that weekend, particularly from the parish lunch and sports, please do send them to us via the In Touch email: [worthabbeyparish@gmail.com](mailto:worthabbeyparish@gmail.com).

I send all of you my prayers and my very best wishes, **Fr Paul**

## Prayers

**Please pray for the sick of our parish:** Maria Stribbling, Elfriede Huckstep, Severina D'Souza, 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, Jill Carter and Laura Rawlinson. Please also pray for Fr. Kevin Taggart.

Please pray for the soul of *Pope Francis*, and the souls of Lilian Baker, Bob Mabey, Lilla Bethune, William Kibble, Ben Fielder, Julia Harvey, Dick Norman, John Palmer, Mary Relfe, Henrietta Landon, Sidney Hoare, Henry Surtees, Betty Rochfort, John Southam, Susan Chitty, Jack Holcombe, Maggie Lane, Bill Glass, Alan Harris, Joe O'Connell, Eleanor Gibson, John Ellis, Stephane Dewey, Frank Robinson, John Marklew, Charles Stonor, Lily Frankton, Oscar William Jefferies, Russell Coleburt, Mick Fagan, John Stanton, Peter Jones, and Dom Fabian Glencross, whose anniversaries are this month. ***Eternal rest grant unto them, oh Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.***

## MASS READINGS: (13 - 27 July)

|   |   |                        |
|---|---|------------------------|
| <b>Sunday, 27 July</b> - 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading – Gen 18:20-32   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading - Col 2:12-14                       | Gospel – Luke 11:1-13  |
| <b>Mon</b> – Exod 32:15-24, 30-34 & Matt 13:31-35                 | <b>Thu</b> – Exod 40:16-21,34-38 & Matt 13:47-53            |                        |
| <b>Tue</b> – Exod 33:7-11, 34:5b, 28 & John 11:19-27              | <b>Fri</b> – Lev 23:1,4-11, 15-16,27,34b-37 & Matt 13:54-58 |                        |
| <b>Wed</b> – Exod 34:29-35 & Matt 13:44-46                        | <b>Sat</b> – Lev 25:1, 8-17 & Matt 14:1-12                  |                        |
| <b>Sunday, 3 Aug</b> - 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading – Ecc 1:2, 2:21-23 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading - Col 3:1-5, 9-11                   | Gospel – Luke 12:13-21 |
| <b>Mon</b> -Num 11:4b-15 & Matt 14:13-21                          | <b>Thu</b> – Num 20:1-13 & Matt 16:13-23                    |                        |
| <b>Tue</b> – Num 12:1-13 & Matt 14:24-36                          | <b>Fri</b> – Deut 4:32-40 & Matt 16:24-28                   |                        |
| <b>Wed</b> – Dan 7:9-10, 13-14 & Luke 9:28-36                     | <b>Sat</b> – Hos 2:16-17, 21-22 & Matt 25:1-11              |                        |
| <b>Sunday, 10 Aug</b> - 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading – Wis 18:6-9      | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading - Heb 11:1-2, 8-19                  | Gospel – Luke 12:32-48 |
| <b>Mon</b> -Deut 10:10-22 & Matt 17:22-27                         | <b>Thu</b> – Josh 3:7-10a,11,13-17 & Matt 18:21 – 19:1      |                        |
| <b>Tue</b> – Deut 31:1-8 & Matt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14                 | <b>Fri (Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary)</b>          |                        |
|   | – Rev 11:19, 12:1-6; 1Cor 15:20-26 & Luke 1:39-56           |                        |
| <b>Wed</b> – Deut 34:1-12 & Matt 18:15-20                         | <b>Sat</b> – Josh 24:14-29 & Matt 19:13-15                  |                        |

Sunday, 17 August: 1<sup>st</sup> Reading – Jer 38:4-6, 8-10 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – Heb 12:1-4 Gospel – Luke 12:49-53

## 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, *see website*

**Summer Schedule for Daily Liturgy:** Matins: 7:00am, Lauds: 8:00am and 6:45pm. These will be temporarily held at the Unity Rm.

## Inside this week's In Touch...

- ✓ Parish Prayers and Mass Readings, page 1
- ✓ **New!** Photo Essays, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, pages 2-5
- ✓ **Parish Giving Appeal**, page 6
- ✓ Parish Activities and Announcements, page 6
- ✓ Social Action Activities for Parishioners, page 7
- ✓ Other Activities and Announcements, page 7

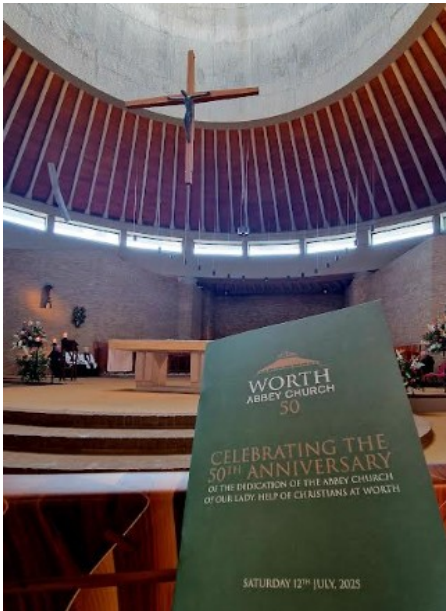
## Worth Parish Community Billboard

☀️☀️☀️ Fellow Parishioners, Take Us on Holiday With You! ☀️☀️☀️

This summer, many of us will be heading off to explore summer hotspots across the UK or farther afield. If you find yourselves visiting a church or going to Mass somewhere different, we'd love to come along... vicariously, of course!

📷 Snap a family selfie in front of the church you visit 📝 By Sept. 4, send us this photo and a few lines about where you were and what the experience was like and then... Email us at [worthabbeyparish@gmail.com](mailto:worthabbeyparish@gmail.com) and we'll share them in In Touch—so the whole parish can “travel” with you this summer. Well, sort of! ☀️ Sharing is caring! ☀️

*Please enjoy this photo essay of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations of the Abbey Church's Consecration...*











**In Touch.** Next summer edition on 17 August with prayers, mass readings, key announcements only. **We would love to hear from you!** If you have any feedback, and/or would like to contribute (reflections, photo essays, articles), do get in touch via [worthabbeyparish@gmail.com](mailto:worthabbeyparish@gmail.com)



*And here, the more intimate parish celebrations of the church's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the 13<sup>th</sup> of July!*





## Parish Activities & Announcements

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES...

**28 July – 10 August - Fr. Paul will be away.** Maria, parish secretary, will be back on the 1<sup>st</sup> week of September. If there is an emergency while Fr Paul is away please get in touch with your nearest parish. Haywards Heath 01444 450139; Horsham: 01403 253667; Horley 01293 431703; East Grinstead & Lingfield 01342 325705; Crawley 01293 524176.

**13-15 August** – the Monastic Community will be on retreat, followed by community meetings from **18-20 August**.

**20 September** - 60th Anniversary and Jubilee Celebrations of our Diocese. Please contact Fr Paul if interested.

### AND OUR REGULAR ACTIVITIES...

**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 temporarily suspended.**

**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](mailto:jenny_chapman@sky.com).

**Christian Meditation**, at the Unity Room, 6:30-8pm. Contact Richard [rbrownd1@gmail.com](mailto:rbrownd1@gmail.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.

### A Gift that Sustains – Supporting Our Parish Family



Our parish is a place where faith is nurtured, friendships are formed, and God's presence is encountered—in the sacraments, in silence, in song, and in each other. It is a place many of us turn to for strength, consolation, or simply the rhythm of prayer in the week.

But like every household, our parish has practical needs too. Since our last appeal in 2023, our costs have risen by over **£15,000**, yet our budgeted income for this year is only up by **£2,000**. That leaves us with a **£13,000 shortfall**. Rising expenses for maintenance, utilities, staff, the Church itself, and diocesan levies all contribute to this growing gap.

**If you're able to increase your regular giving, we would be deeply grateful.**

Even a small increase in your standing order makes a real difference. To adjust your giving, please contact Maria Emmerton at [memmerton@worth.org.uk](mailto:memmerton@worth.org.uk). If you have questions, George Fitzsimons ([gfitz62246@aol.com](mailto:gfitz62246@aol.com)) can help.

If you're a UK taxpayer, **Gift Aid** allows our Parish to claim an additional **25p for every £1 you give**, at no cost to you. And, if you are a **higher-rate (40%)** or **additional-rate (45%) taxpayer**, your giving can go even further. You can personally reclaim the difference between your tax rate and the basic rate—either through your Self Assessment or by requesting an adjustment to your tax code. Example, on a £100 gift, parish receives £125, and you can claim back £25.

If you are employed, you might also consider **Payroll Giving**, where your donation is taken before tax is deducted, making it tax-efficient. So, if you're a higher-rate taxpayer, a £100 gift might only cost you £60. For basic-rate taxpayers (20%), only £80 is deducted from your net pay, but the full £100 goes to the Parish. Ask your employer if your workplace is enrolled—it's a wonderful way to support the parish regularly, quietly and generously.

And finally—have you ever thought about the **legacy you might leave**? A gift in your will, however modest, is a lasting act of faith. It helps keep the doors of our parish open, our ministries flourishing, and the love of Christ alive for the next generation. **To explore this in confidence, pls contact Fr Paul, Maria Emmerton, or George Fitzsimons.**

Whatever you are able to give—through time, prayer, or financial support—thank you. Your generosity sustains our parish life in more ways than you know. Thank you!

### **Calling For Parish Volunteers!**

Our Parish Brunch will be back again on 14 September after Mass. We need a few extra hands to help make it happen! This monthly gathering is a warm, welcoming space for all! If you'd like to help, please get in touch with Emily Coughlan or Fr. Paul.

We also need new volunteers for our Family Formation program — especially our Faith Alive group (for children aged roughly 9–12). This group is all about helping young people explore what it means to live out their faith in everyday life, through engaging activities, reflection, and fun. If you think you might be able to help please speak to Fr Paul or Emily Coughlan.

**A quiet, relaxing activity this summer? How about stitching for the Worth Abbey Parish 60th Anniversary Quilt?** We can provide the squares. Feel free to embellish them with appliqué, embroidery, buttons, felt, fabric paints, etc. No advanced sewing skills needed! The theme is 'What does the Parish mean to you?' We need to have the squares back by the end of September so that we can make them up into the quilt in time for the Feast of Christ the King. We'd love for parishioners of all ages to join! Pls contact: Carol Morice ([carolmorice251@btinternet.com](mailto:carolmorice251@btinternet.com)) or Christina Fitzsimons ([cfitz3287@aol.com](mailto:cfitz3287@aol.com)).

## Social Action Activities for Parishioners

### Help make a Debt Justice Law a reality.

Right now, some of the world's poorest countries - from Kenya to Sri Lanka - are trapped under massive debts, paying huge sums to international banks and hedge funds instead of funding schools and hospitals. When there's an opportunity to reduce these payments, private lenders often refuse, putting profit before human lives.

The City of London is home to 90% of these debts, which means our government has a real chance to help change this system. **A proposed 'Debt Justice Law' would compel private lenders to offer debt relief when countries are in crisis, making the global debt system fairer.** CAFOD is urging MPs to support this law. Please write to your MP, asking them to call on Chancellor Rachel Reeves to pass a Debt Justice Law. You can also participate online via: <https://rb.gy/jzdb7h>

### Protect Balcombe: Sign the Petition Against Small-Scale Fracking!

Our beautiful local community of Balcombe is once again under threat from oil and gas extraction. While large-scale fracking was banned in 2019 due to its links to earthquakes, a dangerous loophole still exists, allowing "small-scale fracking" to proceed. This activity, which forces fluid into rocks to release oil and gas, poses unknown risks to our environment and could intensify the impacts of climate change right here in our backyard.

Companies are submitting planning applications, despite the potential harm and the fact that little is known about the risks involved. Continuing to extract fossil fuels, regardless of scale, slows down our essential transition to clean, renewable energy and puts our community at risk. **Frack Free Balcombe** is appealing to us to help urge the government to close this loophole. By signing our petition to ban "small-scale fracking" for onshore oil and gas, we can protect Balcombe from potential harm and champion a sustainable future.

The petition currently has 6,597 signatures. We need to reach 10,000 signatures for the government to issue an official response, and 100,000 signatures for this issue to be considered for Parliamentary debate. Please sign this crucial petition and help us safeguard our community. **This is another way we can help care for our planet — another manifestation of our response to Pope Francis' call to care for Creation.** Please sign the petition here: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/728912>

**Would you like to take part in a Parish-Led Social Activity?** We hope to run a **family recital of songs, music and poetry** at a local nursing home (St George's, Ditchling) on **30 August**. Pls contact Emily Coughlan. We particularly hope children will join!

## Other Announcements & Activities

### Join us at the CELEBRATE festival, Worth School, 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 creche to the Joel's Bar (16-22 years). There's on-site full board accommodation or camping on the field. CELEBRATE this Jubilee year as a parish family! Book via <https://www.celebratetrust.org/festival>

### Building the Domestic Church, 4 Oct., St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley

The Church teaches that **parents are the primary teachers of the faith**. During baptism, parents are called to promise the Lord, that they will teach and pass on the faith to their children. How can we help parents experience a deeper encounter with Christ and build a plan to bring their family into a closer, lifelong relationship with God? Let us explore the concept of the Domestic Church and all it means for our families. We start at 9.30am. Pls bring lunch. Book via: <https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/og9uwr1i>

### Marriage Mass, 11 Oct., Christ the Prince of Peace, Weybridge

Whether you're celebrating a special anniversary or simply giving thanks for your marriage, celebrate the grace of sacramental marriage. Bishop Richard will celebrate Mass at 11.30am. There will be an opportunity to renew your wedding vows. A drinks reception follows. The church is wheelchair-friendly.

**Diocese Jubilee Pilgrimage of Hope.** The Arundel & Brighton Ecumenical Walking Pilgrimage takes place **9 - 23 August**. Walking across the Surrey Hills and along the Sussex coast, all are welcome to join. To learn more, [click here](#)

### Walk the Augustine Camino for Mary's Meals on

1-8 Sept. starting at Rochester Cathedral, taking us to four Jubilee churches: The Friars Aylesford + St Jude's Shrine Faversham + St Thomas of Canterbury, Canterbury + St Augustine's Ramsgate. To book pls email [roy.peachey@marysmeals.org.uk](mailto:roy.peachey@marysmeals.org.uk).

### Worth Community Pilgrimage to Vézelay, France.

You're invited to the Worth Community Pilgrimage to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of La Basilique de Vézelay in Burgundy, **from October 26th to 30th**. Pls see previous In Touch editions for more details.

**"Laudate Deum, A Last Call for Our Planet"**, recently published by the Laudato Si' Research Institute, brings together leading advocates for change who passionately champion a paradigm shift towards sustainability and a profound respect for all life on our planet. You can get a free copy of the e-book here: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BmPzndxTILS2\\_W5BtbLDYcAwXO0W0Gtd/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BmPzndxTILS2_W5BtbLDYcAwXO0W0Gtd/view)

**Parish Priest: Fr. Paul Fleetwood** (Mobile: 07764 260216 or 01342 710351)

**Parish Office:** Maria Stribbling - 01342 710313

**Parish Office Email:** [parish@worth.org.uk](mailto:parish@worth.org.uk) **Parish Website:** [www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk](http://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk)

**Nighttime emergencies only:** 01342 710331

**Cheques to be made payable to** Worth Abbey Parish **Online banking payments** -Account 61076892 Sort Code 40-05-20

**Safe Spaces:** 0300 303 1056 **Web:** [www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk/](http://www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk/) **Email:** [safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk](mailto:safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk)

*If you're unable to go to Mass and would like to receive Communion at home, or if you have prayer intentions, pls contact Fr Paul*