

In Touch

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
16th /17th August 2025
No. 1436



Dear Parishioners,

I hope that you and your families are well, and that you are enjoying some good holiday time together in this warm weather.

As I write today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady into heaven. Although this was only defined and officially made a feast in 1950, the tradition of the Assumption goes back many centuries, especially in the Eastern Churches, where it is often called *The Dormition*, or *Falling Asleep*, of Mary. It is particularly relevant to us this year as a sign of hope in this Jubilee Year – “a sign of sure hope and comfort to your pilgrim people” (collect of the mass). The celebration expresses the Christian faith in the ultimate destiny of God’s people, with Mary sharing in the victory of Jesus over death and all forms of evil, and everything which diminishes the dignity of the human race as created by our loving God.

This trust in the God of liberation is expressed by Mary in the Magnificat – her hymn of praise, celebrating God’s saving intervention in our history through the Incarnation of Jesus. She sings in solidarity with all the poor and oppressed of the world: “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour... He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.”

As we celebrate our feast, let us too stand in solidarity with the poor and oppressed of the world, in action and in prayer. Please use these prayers offered to us by CAFOD, and please consider their appeals. Please see : <https://cafod.org.uk/news/blogs/feast-of-the-assumption-bringing-new-hope>

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 Dennis Elphick, Sheila Gates, Fr. Maurice Bell, Max Hoffman, Frank Edward Brown, Elizabeth Blake, Ursula Stockton, Eileen Sharman, Enid Powell, Mary Frost, Ted Whitfield, Veronica Agius, Lorna Cowper, Doreen Twigg, Kevin Garvan, Kathleen Dewey, Luke Fakowski, Bert Stanford, Mr McLoughlin, Charles Dewey, David Hearn, Mary McDermot, Annette Kirby-Turner, Bill O’Brien, Elaine Liley, Michael Monen, Roger Birchall, Maureen Simmons, Helen Walford, David Mitchell-Gogay, Jude McNaboe, Peter Whigham, Monica O’Brien, Monica Trinkwon, Brian Whinney, Anne Seagar-Berry, Albert Sullivan, Veronica Tritton, Nicolas Bellord, Agnes Tringham, David Barwell, and Dom Benedict Sankey whose anniversaries are the month of August. **Eternal rest grant unto them, oh Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.**

MASS TIMES at Worth Abbey:

Sundays- 9.30am (family Mass, with choir)

Mondays to Fridays- 5.30 pm

This Saturday- 11am & 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...

- ✓ Prayers and Mass Readings, pages 1 and 2
- ✓ Community Billboard and Parish Activities, page 2
- ✓ **New!** Update on the Moderated Parish, page 3
- ✓ **Parish Giving Appeal**, page 4
- ✓ Social Action and other Announcements, pages 4, 5

MASS READINGS: (17 August - 7 September)

Sunday, 17 August - 1st Reading – *Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10* 2nd Reading - *Hebrews 12:1-4* Gospel – *Luke 12:49-53*
Mon – Judges 2:11-19; Matthew 19:16-22 **Thu** – Judges 11:29-39a; Matthew 22:1-14
Tue – Judges 6:11-24a; Matthew 19:23-30 **Fri** – Ruth 1:1,3-6, 14b-16, 22; Matthew 22:34-40
Wed – Judges 9:6-15; Matthew 19:23-30 **Sat** – Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11 and 4:13-17; Matthew 23:1-12

Sunday, 24 Aug - 1st Reading – *Isaiah 66:18-21* 2nd Reading - *Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13* Gospel – *Luke 13:22-30*
Mon -1 *Thessalonians 1:1-5, 8b-10; Matthew 23:13-22* **Thu** – 1 *Thessalonians 3:7-13; Matthew 23:27-32*
Tue – 1 *Thessalonians 2:18; Matthew 23:23-26* **Fri** – 1 *Thessalonians 4:1-8; Mark 6:17-29*
Wed – 1 *Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:27-32* **Sat** – 1 *Thessalonians 4:9-11; Matthew 25:14-30*

Sunday, 31 Aug -1st Reading – *Sirach 3:17-18,20,28-29* 2nd Reading -*Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a* Gospel –*Luke 14:1,7-14*
Mon -1 *Thessalonians 4:13-18; Luke 4:16-30* **Thu** – *Colossians 1:9-14; Luke 5: 1-11*
Tue – 1 *Thessalonians 5:1-6, 9-11; Luke 4:31-37* **Fri** – *Colossians 1:15-20; Luke 5:33-39*
Wed – 1 *Thessalonians 2:2-8; Matthew 16:13-19* **Sat** – *Colossians 1:21-23; Luke 6:1-5*

Sunday, 7 September: 1st Reading – Wisdom 9:13-18b 2nd Reading – Philemon 9-10, 12-17 Gospel – Luke 14:25-33

Novena prayer for the Feast of the Assumption:

Mary, Queen Assumed into Heaven, I rejoice that after years of heroic martyrdom on earth, you have at last been taken to the throne prepared for you in heaven by the Holy Trinity. Lift my heart with you in the glory of your Assumption above the dreadful touch of sin and impurity. Teach me how small earth becomes when viewed from heaven. Make me realize that death is the triumphant gate through which I shall pass to your Son, and that someday my body shall rejoin my soul in the unending bliss of heaven. From this earth, over which I tread as a pilgrim, I look to you for help. I ask for this favour: *(Mention your request)*.

When my hour of death has come, lead me safely to the presence of Jesus to enjoy the vision of my God for all eternity together with you. Amen.

Worth Parish Community Billboard

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

“We are people of God, invited to live the faith not individually or in isolation, but in community, as a people that is loved and dear to God.” – Pope Francis, on living the faith together

How about a light-hearted activity to inspire each other? This summer, many of us have been 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 and we'll share them in In Touch. **We would love to hear from you!**

Parish Activities & Announcements

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES...

7 September, Sun. – Junior Church resume on our regular Sunday Masses. Welcome back, children of God!

14 September, Sun. – Our monthly Parish Brunch resumes. All members of the parish – new and old-- are most welcome!

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

27 September, Sat. – Mass for Altar Servers (12 noon, Arundel Cathedral)

1 November, Sat. – Day of Reflection for Ministers of The Eucharist (11am-4pm, Christ the Prince of Peace, Weybridge)

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.

Christian Meditation, at the Unity Room, 6:30-8pm. Contact Richard 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.

From the Diocese: Update on the Move to a 'Moderated Parish' Model

The Catholic Churches of North West Sussex and Surrey



Information for Parishioners

The new Parish of North West Sussex is currently being established as a new canonical parish, bringing together Churches from what is currently the Deanery of Crawley.

Why? Given the falling number of ordained priests, in order to continue to carry out our mission effectively, we must adapt our structures and better support our clergy. Bishop Richard's hope is that by linking our existing communities in one new 'canonical parish', we can create more integrated, collaborative and flexible ways of working across the seven church communities in our current deanery.

What does this transition represent? (1) Greater pastoral cooperation among our Church communities, with a shared identity rooted in prayer and worship, (2) A freeing up of clergy to focus on their responsibilities to preach the Word, celebrate the Sacraments, and provide pastoral care by rationalising administrative demands, (3) Providing formation and training, so to enable all our people to engage in the local mission as baptised members of the Church. Bishop Richard says, *"it will give us the flexibility to respond to current challenges in a way that is resilient, sustainable and adaptable. Without such a bold step, the pressure on the priests that we do have will become impossible for them to bear."*

What has happened so far? (1) The clergy have come together, prayed, and started to outline a structure and plan. They have met and shared out responsibilities in the new parish. (2) Areas that can start to benefit from mutual support have been identified, including schools, care of the poor and sick, and sacramental preparation. (3) Clergy and heads of the individual parish finance committees have met to discuss the future. (4) Bishop Richard has appointed Canon Tim Madeley to serve as Moderator for the new parish. As Moderator, Canon Tim will lead the clergy and a dedicated Leadership Team, ensuring the vision of the pastoral plan meets local needs and priorities. (5) The individual churches have been allocated into two geographical hubs—(a) Horsham Hub: St John the Evangelist Horsham, Corpus Christi Henfield, St. Gabriel Billingshurst, and the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation and St. Francis West Grinstead. (b) Crawley Hub: St. Francis & St. Anthony Crawley, St. Bernadette Tilgate, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Langley Green, St Edward the Confessor Pound Hill, Christ the Lord Broadfield, St. Theodore of Canterbury Gossops Green, Our Lady & St. Peter East Grinstead, English Martyrs Horley, St Bernard Lingfield, and ***Our Lady Help of Christians Worth Abbey***.

What will continue in the new 'canonical parish'? For the most part, the familiar rhythms of church life will continue, with some adjustments. Priests will continue to celebrate the Eucharist and other Sacraments, but the greater sharing of pastoral ministry should enable priests to call more easily on each others' expertise to allow priests with particular gifts to share them more readily across the local Church in support of our mission. Deacons will continue to officiate baptisms, weddings, and funerals. Priests will continue their work, living in the same house, with the same administrative support. Individual church names will remain the same, and there is no immediate effect on the use of our buildings.

What will change? What will happen next? (1) A leadership team made up of clergy and parishioners will be established, (2) a proposal to establish the new parish will be sent to the Council of Priests in October 2025, (3) A new finance committee will be established on the establishment of the new parish, and existing finance committees will continue as "Stewardship Committees", (4) a new enhanced website will be developed using a platform proposed by the Diocese, alongside other communication and data-management tools.

Inevitably, change can be challenging. So it is important that, as plans are developed, we continue to listen to and support each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. Bishop Richard says, *"I invite everyone in the Diocese to join with me in forging our parishes into communities of saints, into strong, lively and welcoming schools of discipleship."*

Can you help? Or, do you have questions? Do speak to your parish priest. Or email parish moderator: tim.madeley@abdiocese.org.

Calling For Parish Volunteers!

We need extra hands to help make our monthly **Parish Brunch** happen! This gathering is a warm, welcoming space for all!

We need new volunteers for our **Family Formation program** — Faith Alive group (for kids aged 9–12). This group is about helping our kids 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 emily_mary@hotmail.co.uk.

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, diocesan levies all contribute to this growing gap. **So, we continue to call on your generosity.**

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. If you have questions, George Fitzsimons (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.

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. **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 helps keep the doors of our parish open, our ministries flourishing, and the love of Christ alive for the next generation, sustaining our parish life in more ways than you know. Thank you!

July edition of Worth Abbey Life

This special edition of Worth Abbey Life celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Dedication of Worth Abbey Church, a weekend filled with gratitude, joy, and reflection for our whole community. From the moving liturgies on 12th and 13th July, to the unveiling of our new statue of St Benedict and the planting of a commemorative orchard, this issue captures the spirit of celebration, and hope that continues to shape life at Worth. You'll also find reflections from Abbot Mark and Abbot Primate Jeremias Schröder OSB, along with updates on music, our retreat programme, Worth Abbey Pilgrims events, and news from the Estate and Brighton Mission.

You can read the newsletter [online](#) or pick up a printed copy from the Narthex of the Abbey Church.

Social Action Activities for Parishioners



Stop assisted suicide - action needed!

We can still win the fight for life. The assisted suicide bill is expected to have its Second Reading in the House of Lords on Friday, 12 September. Right To Life UK has launched a tool to help you write to a few Peers with a tailored message to highlight key concerns with the Bill. By clicking this link, it will take you less than a minute to contact Peers in the House of Lords to oppose assisted suicide. Please act now: www.righttolife.org.uk/aspeers

Right to Life UK says: "Despite the Leadbeater assisted suicide Bill passing its Third Reading on 20 June, it scraped through by just 23 votes (314–291), a significant reduction in support after it had passed its Second Reading with a 55-vote majority. This now leaves the Bill limping into the Lords with a very narrow majority. Because it is neither a Government Bill nor was it part of any manifesto, the Lords are fully entitled to heavily amend, time-out or outright reject this dangerous Bill. This means the Leadbeater assisted suicide Bill can still be defeated.

It is therefore vitally important that Peers in the House of Lords are made aware of the many problems with the Bill and how introducing assisted suicide would put vulnerable people at risk. Unlike MPs, Peers do not represent constituents and are not elected by the public. This means that communication to Peers needs to be prudent, measured and focused.

Take Part in CAFOD's Gaza Crisis Appeal.

Starvation is spreading across Gaza. As the Israeli government's siege starves the people of Gaza, people are being killed at food distribution sites. Supplies are exhausted, and more lives are being lost each day.

Pope Leo has appealed for "an immediate halt to the barbarity of the war." Decisive action is needed now.

This is not just a humanitarian crisis - it's the systematic erosion of what makes us human. The UK government is right to condemn Israel's current actions in Gaza and suspend trade negotiations with Israel. But this is far too little.

Please tell your MP that the UK government must take bolder and more decisive action by clicking this link:

<https://action.cafod.org.uk/page/174977/action/1>

You can also donate today via <https://cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-emergencies/gaza-crisis-appeal>

Other Announcements & Activities

Cathedral Mass for Altar Servers – Saturday, 27 Sept., 12nn, Arundel Cathedral - Fr Aaron Spinelli, the Diocesan Director for the Guild of St Stephen, invites diocesan altar servers to a special Mass at Arundel Cathedral led by Bishop Richard. The Mass will offer an opportunity to celebrate and thank servers for their service to our parish communities and is for those who have served, those who are serving, and anybody who would like to serve – everyone is very welcome to attend. Please contact Fr Aaron to confirm attendance and numbers - and bring a cassock, cotta or an alb, if possible. Email: aaron.spinelli@abdiocese.org.uk. Holy Mass followed by light refreshments (please bring a packed lunch)

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 all or part of the pilgrimage. To learn more, [click here](#)

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). Book via <https://www.celebratetrust.org/festival>

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.

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.

MARRIAGE HELP. Summer holidays is a peak time of stress for many marriages. if you need help, help is available.

Retrouvaille is a programme with a Catholic origin. Their focus is saving marriages. They help couples from different faiths, and those who do not belong to any faith community. A team of three couples and a priest present the Retrouvaille weekend. These couples have grown through serious disillusionment, pain and conflict in their own relationships, and they offer hope as they share their personal stories of struggle, reconciliation and healing. This helps participants find the courage to express some of their own pain with their spouse in a safe and private place. In sharing their values and insights, Retrouvaille couples invite hurting couples to see how listening, communication, conflict management and forgiveness are healthy tools for building a stable relationship.

If your marriage needs a fresh start, please reach out. If you and your spouse are committed to making your marriage work and are prepared to give it your best effort, give Retrouvaille a try... even if you're considering separation, divorce, or are already separated.

If you know a couple in need of help, please share this. They may be searching for support and unsure of where to turn. Retrouvaille helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage. Next date: 17th-19th Oct. www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 0788 7296983.

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

Parish Office: Maria Stribbling - 01342 710313

Parish Office Email: parish@worth.org.uk

Parish Website: 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/ **Email:** 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