

In Touch

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
20th /21st September 2025
No. 1439



Dear Parishioners,

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

This weekend we are asked to remember the document of Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, The Joy of the Gospel. This was his first major document, in which he reflects of the nature and mission of the Church.

He begins: The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew. Who could not wish for this, more than any other treasure! This is the stimulus for each one of us to share this joy.

He writes: Goodness always tends to spread....The Gospel offers us the chance to live life on a higher plane, but with no less intensity: "Life grows by being given away, and it weakens in isolation and comfort. Indeed, those who enjoy life most are those who leave security on the shore and become excited by the mission of communicating life to others".

When the Church summons Christians to take up the task of evangelization, she is simply pointing to the source of authentic personal fulfilment. We may feel that we do not have the personal resources to evangelise, but the work is that of Jesus. Though it is true that this mission demands great generosity on our part, it would be wrong to see it as an heroic individual undertaking, for it is first and foremost the Lord's work, surpassing anything which we can see and understand. Jesus is "the first and greatest evangelizer". In every activity of evangelization, the primacy always belongs to God, who has called us to cooperate with him and who leads us on by the power of his Spirit. The life of the Church should always reveal clearly that God takes the initiative, that "he has loved us first" (1 John 4:19), and that he alone "gives the growth" (1 Corinthians 3:7).

This is the essence of the Church's life, the sole reason for our existence. Therefore he writes: 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.

It is a beautiful coincidence that we are beginning a new season of Family Formation on this day, and I should like to thank all of you who are involved with this work. Your generosity builds a community which can welcome those who are seeking, as indeed do all of you who take part in the many ministries which our parish offers.

There is always space for new volunteers! Do consider how you can offer your gifts to the community. And do please remember to pray for Lizzie Wakeling in her illness. It was she who started the Family Formation Programme.

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

MASS TIMES at Worth Abbey:

Sundays- 9.30am (family Mass, with choir)

Mondays to Fridays- 5.30 pm

Saturdays: 5pm (First Mass of Sunday),

Feast Days 5.30pm Days of Obligation, *see website*

We will be having a second collection this weekend, 20/21 Sept. for the Evangelii Gaudium Sunday.

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

- ✓ **New!** *A call to Prayer & Public Witness for Peace in the Holy Land, page 2*
- ✓ Worth Parish Community Billboard, pages 3 - 5
- ✓ Parish Activities and Announcements, pages 5 to 7
- ✓ **New!** *Our Parish Facebook Page is Back!* page 5
- ✓ **New!** *Veneration of Three Relics of the Cross, page 7*
- ✓ Social Action and other Announcements, pages 7 & 8.

MASS READINGS: (21 - 28 September)

Sunday, 21 September - 1st Reading – Amos 8:4-7 2nd Reading - 1 Timothy 2:1-8 Gospel – Luke 16:19-31

Mon – Ezra 1:1-6; Luke 8:16-18

Thu – Haggai 1:1-8; Luke 9:7-9

Tue – Ezra 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Luke 8:19-21

Fri – Haggai 2:1-9; Luke 9:18-22

Wed – Ezra 9:5-9; Luke 9:1-6

Sat – Zechariah 2:5-9, 14-15a; Luke 9:43b-45

Sunday, 28 September: 1st Reading – Amos 6:1a, 4-7; 2nd Reading – 1 Timothy 6:11-16 Gospel – Luke 16:19-31

Prayers

Please pray for the sick of our parish: Patrick Cambridge, Barry Wingrove, 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, Laura Rawlinson, Fr. Kevin Taggart. And, also please pray for the healing of our Diocese Youth Adviser Lizzie Wakeling.

Please pray for the soul of parishioner **Paul Kibble**, who died on August 20. There will be a Requiem Mass on Friday 19th September at 11am at " Jesus Christ Redeemer of Mankind " Catholic church in Cranleigh GU6 7AQ followed by a burial at Wonersh and Blackheath Cemetery, GU5 0RF where Paul will be buried. A reception follows at Barnett Hill Hotel GU5 0RF

Please continue praying for the soul of *Pope Francis*, and the souls of Dorothy Neve, Nellie Bond, Joan Edey, John McCall, Dom Thomas Symons, Revd Francis Hunter, Dr Bob Jackson, David Leslie, Zofia Tywon'ska, Barry Pierce, Peter Burrows, Ada Fieldwick, and Allan Chamberlain, whose anniversaries are this week. ***Eternal rest grant unto them, oh Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.***

A Call to Prayer and Public Witness for Peace in the Holy Land

We are witnessing the devastating escalation of violence in Gaza and the West Bank with Israel's latest decision to mount a new offensive in Gaza City threatening hundreds of thousands with further forced displacement. The cries of Palestinian church leaders for peace and solidarity have echoed across the global Church, urging us to respond with clarity, compassion, and conviction.

As Christian agencies rooted in faith and justice, we believe the gravity of this moment demands a visible, united Christian witness—one that speaks to our shared commitment to peace, reconciliation, and the dignity of all people.

In response we are calling on churches across Britain to pray for peace on Sunday 21st September, coinciding with UN World Peace Day and the global call to prayer from the World Council of Churches.

Prayer could include holding a minute's silence; or the prayer from Archbishop Hosam of Jerusalem; or joining the [#FastforGaza](#) action. Your prayers might focus on one or more of the issues below:

- An immediate ceasefire in Gaza
- Unfettered access to humanitarian relief.
- An end to violence in Israel and Palestine.
- The release of Israeli hostages and Palestinian detainees.
- A meaningful peace process

We ask that in your own time, you would please take a moment to pray for peace in the Holy Land and the whole world.

This Sunday, the 21st of September, is the **International Day of Peace**. The following week, starting on the 22nd of September, world leaders will be gathering in New York for the UN General Assembly's annual high level session, where among many crises, they will be discussing the genocide in Gaza. Let us pray for peace in Gaza, Israel and Palestine.

A Prayer for the Holy Land for 21 September 2025

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven

to be the true bread which gives life to the world:

In your mercy, provide for all those in Gaza and beyond, who suffer from hunger and starvation,

that they may be given both physical bread to nourish their bodies and heavenly bread to sustain their souls.

By the power of your Spirit, bring a speedy end to this cruel war,

the release of all captives, care for the sick and wounded, comfort for those who have lost loved-ones,

and the opening of a pathway for a just and lasting peace here in the very homeland

where your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ministered during his earthly life;

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

- The Most Reverend Dr. Hosam E. Naoum, Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem, August 2025

Worth Parish Community Billboard

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. We hope you've been enjoying getting to know some of your fellow parishioners.

We are doing an **open call to parishioners who would be happy to also put themselves forward and share their story**. You might not know it yet, but your journey of faith will inspire your fellow parishioners, and give glory to God. Please get in touch with us via worthabbeyparish@gmail.com and we'll send you the list of questions to help us write your testimony.



#33 Nicholas Bullen

Nicholas, aged 15, and Worth's youngest catechist, is the youngest of four children and has lived in Crawley all his life, moving from Langley Green to Forge Wood in 2018. Home life is lively – with twelve pets, he often jokes that he lives “in a bit of a zoo!”

He is a student at St Wilfrid's in Crawley, where he plays an active part in the life of the school. Nicholas is a founder leader of PALS (Prayer and Liturgy Support), assists with the Faith in Action Awards, having gained the Gold Award in 2024, and supports the school chaplain by setting up for Mass every Friday. He is also a Francis House representative, helping to organise fundraising events and assisting with tutor group matters.

Nicholas's journey of faith began almost immediately: “I first attended Mass at Worth Abbey when I was just over 24 hours old,” he recalls. Since then, he has been a regular presence at the Abbey church, where he was baptised, made his First Holy Communion, and

more recently prepared for his Confirmation at Arundel Cathedral with other teens from Worth.

He is deeply involved in parish life, regularly supporting Erica at the pre-school Junior Church group and enjoying the chance to get to know the younger children and their families. He has also loved being part of the Inspire group through family formation: “It has been great strengthening friendships and building new ones,” he says.

As a child at Worth, he loved the monthly Children's Mass held during one of the Saturday Vigil Masses. He fondly recalls how he and the other children of the parish “had the opportunity to participate in various parts of the Mass.” Reflecting on his journey, Nicholas says: “Even when things are hard I can always talk to God – at home, in school, and in church.”

His Confirmation marks a new step in a faith nurtured from birth and encouraged by the community at Worth Abbey. His commitment and service already shine as an inspiration—not only to other teenagers like him but to the wider parish family, reminding us that young people have much to offer the life of the Church.

A prayer, saint, or bible verse that inspires you?

‘Aspire not to have more, but to be more’ and ‘The ones who have a voice must speak for those who are voiceless’ - St Oscar Romero

I like these quote because it helps to show that service, kindness, love and faith is much more important and will get you a lot further than wealth and other objects..

What activities do you enjoy?

I'm a member of Bentley Miniature Railway and love getting opportunity to drive small trains. Recently I got the chance to fly a microlite aircraft and, when I'm rich (!), hope to get to fly again! I also love roller-skating, woodland walks, exploring London, and spending time with family.

What plate of food brings the best memories?

Christmas dinner – squeezing round the table, normally set for 6, with up to 20 family members!

A cherished memory of being part of this parish?

Making my First Holy Communion at Worth Abbey and recently preparing for my Confirmation before being confirmed at Arundel Cathedral.

What are your hopes and prayers for the future of our parish?

That the Parish continues to thrive and that more young people start to come.



#34 CATHERINE BULLEN

Catherine grew up in Heathfield, East Sussex, the middle of three children. She remembers a very happy childhood, “*racing bikes down hills and stomping through woods on a Sunday*.” Her early faith was shaped at St Philip's in Uckfield and St Leonard's in Mayfield, where she built treasured friendships that still thrive today.

At 18, Catherine left home for university in Lancaster. Little did she know she would meet her future husband, David, on the second day of Freshers' Week. Four years later, they married and moved to Southeast London, where Catherine began her childhood dream of teaching in a Catholic primary school. Parish life soon followed, with Catherine leading Confirmation classes alongside her teaching. St Paul's Thamesmead, with its shared worship spaces and ecumenical

spirit, became the perfect home for Catherine and David, reflecting their different Christian backgrounds: one area was used by the Roman Catholics, and the other by the United Reformed, Methodist and Anglicans, so they were not faced with choosing which church to attend each week. When they moved down to Crawley, when eldest Natasha was just 6 weeks old, Catherine and David were keen to find a Church where they felt they belonged and embraced their very different Christian backgrounds. It was then that they found Worth. Twenty-two years later, Father James still hasn't converted David to Catholicism, but their good-natured debates during First Holy Communion preparation remain a fond memory!

Parish life at Worth has been a constant and joyful thread. Catherine was deeply involved in planning and preparing the Children's Vigil Masses, *"a wonderful opportunity involving the young people of the parish and allowing them to take an active role in the Mass."* She fondly remembers Father Paul's legendary children's homilies—his trust in the children not to run off with bundles of banknotes, his donning of a colourful wig, and his willingness to put himself on the firing line month after month from an extremely inquisitive Amelia.

Fast forward to the present. With grown children—Natasha (22), James (20), Amelia (18), and Nicholas (15)—family life remains wonderfully full. *"Despite their busy lives with university, work, school and friends, we still regularly attend Sunday Mass together as a family,"* Catherine says. Alongside family life are the pets that add to the busyness of the household: two cats, two rabbits, six guinea pigs, a hamster, a tortoise, and even a few stick insects brought home from the classroom.

Catherine continues her vocation as a primary school teacher. Parish life has always been woven into her family's story. She has been a steady presence for the youngest members of the parish, serving at Junior Church for two decades now. She also serves with Faith Alive, a group for 8–11 year olds, where she delights in *"watching fledgling relationships take root and grow"* as children begin to explore and live out their faith. She shares, *"It is a special time to be involved with children who are starting to take responsibility for their own faith: to ask questions, to explore what they know, and to let their faith speak to them and put their faith into action."*

Reflecting on her journey, Catherine says: *"The community and atmosphere at Worth is unique. It allows you to be yourself whilst being involved with the parish, constantly drawing you to develop your faith, to ponder questions and grow."* She adds, *"You never know what is round the corner—there are always peaks and troughs in life—but even when you doubt, God's constant presence is there."*

Her story is one of faith lived out with warmth, constancy, and generosity of service, reminding us that family life and parish life can grow beautifully together in God's love.

<p>A prayer, saint, or bible verse that inspires you? Footprints in the Sand, which includes these lines: "You promised me Lord, that if I followed you, you would walk with me always. But I have noticed that during the most trying periods of my life there have only been one set of footprints in the sand. Why, when I needed you most, you have not been there for me? The Lord replied, 'The times when you have seen only one set of footprints, is when I carried you.'"</p>	<p>What activities do you enjoy? Spending time with family and friends. Watching musicals. Reading. Roller skating - a new family hobby for David, Natasha and Nicholas. The other two are less sure it's a good idea and I've certainly questioned our sanity.</p>	<p>What plate of food brings the best memories? Christmas cake – visiting my Uncle and Auntie's house in Balcombe just before Christmas and sharing a slice of cake round the fire in their kitchen, taking it in turns to stir the cake and make a wish alongside my siblings, and decorating the cake with my own children...</p>
<p>A cherished memory of being part of this parish? To watch our family growing up with Worth as a constant presence through each of their lives. A community who loves and cares for each of them as individuals.</p>	<p>What are your hopes and prayers for the future of our parish? For the Parish to continue to grow and thrive, welcoming old and new parishioners with equal love and respect for our differences.</p>	



#35 Rosa Varey

Rosa's journey of faith has been one of rediscovery, patience, and God's quiet persistence. Born in Managua, Nicaragua, she came to England in 1985 after marrying her British husband, Tony. Together they have two daughters and two grandchildren.

Rosa was born in Managua, Nicaragua, and came to England in 1985 after marrying her husband, Tony. Together they have two daughters and two grandchildren. She grew up in a Catholic household, but her journey of faith has taken many turns. After her mother died when she was just twelve years old, a close family friend invited her to attend services at the Baptist Church in Managua, where she remained for many years.

In her early twenties, Rosa stepped away from church life altogether. Yet, as she says with conviction, *"God did not abandon me."* His grace came in the form of a Jesuit priest who shared a message of love and forgiveness. That encounter marked the beginning of a slow but steady return to the Catholic Church. Living in Oman for five years, she began to attend Mass once more and, on her return to England, re-committed fully to the Catholic faith.

The years that followed, Rosa and her family lived in Surrey, worshipping first at St Thomas More in Bramley and then at the Franciscan Friary in Chilworth. This became a time of great spiritual deepening.

Moving to West Sussex nearly a decade ago brought Rosa to Worth. Long before she ever lived nearby, she had been touched by the BBC documentary The Monastery, led by Abbot Christopher Jamison, and never imagined she might one day belong to that very community. Here, her faith has found new dimensions. She now serves in the Junior Church, finding it a natural step after many years of teaching Spanish. She says, *"The responsibility and privilege of spreading the word of God to children has become an experience in which I am learning about the Scriptures far more than I am teaching them."*

In recent years, Rosa has also re-discovered the beauty of Marian devotion. Having set aside the practice during her time in the Baptist Church, she now finds in prayer to the Virgin Mary a source of deep strength, tenderness, and intercession. This rediscovery has become one of the most profound blessings of her faith. Her renewed devotion to Mary, lived with quiet faith, is a gentle inspiration to fellow parishioners, a reminder that trust in God and His Mother can guide every stage of life.

When reflecting on life's challenges, Rosa speaks with trust and surrender: *"Many years ago, I realised that God has always taken care of me, even when I didn't want him to. Ever since, I have put my life entirely in His hands. To the point that when I face life challenges, after the initial worry, I put it all in the hands of God. Whatever the outcome of a particular situation, it will be His will, and I surrender to it. The fear doesn't disappear, but God gives me strength."*

Rosa's story is one of encouragement — a reminder that faith, even when it falters, is never beyond God's reach, and that through Mary's prayers and God's grace, we are always led home.

<p>A prayer, saint, or bible verse that inspires you? Psalm 23, "The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want..." sums-up my faith in God. I also love the church hymn: "Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here." It's such a powerful line. It calls us to stop thinking about worldly cares and to focus our mind and body in worshipping God.</p>	<p>What activities do you enjoy? I love making greeting cards, walking when I can and listening to classical music.</p>	<p>What plate of food brings the best memories? Cottage Pie, because the flavours are very similar to a Nicaraguan dish.</p>
<p>A cherished memory of being part of this parish? My first Carol service in candlelight was magical.</p>	<p>What are your hopes and prayers for the future of our parish? I hope the different activities continue to draw volunteers to keep the community alive and growing in faith.</p>	

Parish Activities & Announcements

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES...

20 September, Sat. - **Young Adults' Reflection Day, Worth Abbey**, 10:30am with Mass, prayer, reflection, friendship, and a talk from Fr David Jarmy, on "The English Mystics". Then, a countryside walk, pub supper and social. [Click here](#) to book.

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 October, Wed., - **Worth Intercessory Team** online prayer group, 8pm. Pls email worthabbeyparish@gmail.com to join.

4 October, Sat. - Celebrating the Vision: 50 Years of Francis Pollen's Worth Abbey Church, 10:30am at the Abbey Church

11 October, Sat. - Marriage Anniversaries Mass (11:30am, Christ the Prince of Peace, Weybridge KT13 8JD)

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 – Wednesdays 2:30-3:30pm; Sundays 6.30pm after vespers, and every first Sunday of the month, 10:30am right after Mass, starting 5 October.

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. All are welcome!

Christian Meditation - Unity Room, 7-8pm, 4th Wednesday of the month: 24 September, 22 October, 26 November

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.

Family Faith Formation – Monthly, every 3rd Sunday; resumes 21 September. **New parishioners, all families welcome!**



Worth Abbey Parish
Catholic Church · Not yet rated (1 review) · 9.4 km · Paddockhurst Road, Turners Hill, Crawley · 222 followers

Worth Abbey Parish is a warm and vibrant Catholic Church community. We pray together in solemn liturgies with the Benedictine monastic community of Worth Abbey in West Sussex...

10+ posts in the last two weeks

Following

Our parish Facebook page is back! See: <https://www.facebook.com/theworthabbeyparish/>

We invite you to start "following" our page. You'll find updates and information relevant to our parish community, along with content to nourish your broader faith life and inspire you during the week. Because our parish is geographically dispersed in ways many others are not, we know how important it is to be creative in finding ways to stay connected. The Facebook page is simply another way for us to keep in touch and grow together in faith. We look forward to connecting with you there!



We are All Called to Serve. Yes we are!

As our Parish evolves on our 60th year, we're calling for a renewal of active participation to keep the momentum. *"The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few."* (Matthew 9:37) Please say "yes!" to the call to serve God.

Our parish thrives when each parishioner shares their gifts. Whether it is proclaiming the Word, welcoming people, singing in the choir, helping with the altar, working with our children and young people, or supporting our hospitality — we have a place for you. The bible reminds us: *"Do not neglect your gift, which was given you."* (1 Timothy 4:14)

Ministry is not just about "helping out." It is discipleship in action — a way to live out our baptismal calling and to bring Christ's love into the heart of our parish. Here are ministries you can get involved with:

- Liturgy and Sacraments:** **Altar servers** (children and adults), **readers of the Word**, writers who draft the Universal Prayers, **Eucharistic Ministers**, **Abbey Choir**, **Junior Church**, **flower arrangements** group, and the **Welcome Ministry**.
- Family Faith Formation:** **Mustard Seed** (3-5), **All Saints** (6-8), **Faith Alive** (9-12), **Inspired** (13-15), **parents' group**. Volunteers help facilitate activities every 3rd Sunday, with the aim of helping our young families grow in faith.
- Hospitality and Parish Socials:** **Hosting House Group/s**, **Sunday Refreshments Team**, **Fair Trade stall**, monthly **Parish Brunch Social** team (2nd Sundays of the month, after Mass), and monthly **Parish Wine and Cheese Social** team.
- Prayers and Adoration:** **Bible Study Group** (Mondays), **Rosary Group** (Mondays), **Lectio Divina** (Tuesdays), **Eucharistic Adoration** (Wednesdays, Sundays), **Vigil for Vocations** (first Fridays), the new **Worth Intercessory Team**.
- Community and Communications:** writers and contributors for our **In Touch newsletter**, online parish interface (website and socials), the **Worth Pro-Earth**, **RCIA** and **Alpha courses**, **food bank and giving to charities**.

We invite you to prayerfully consider where—not whether or not—God may be calling you to serve. Let your answer be: *"Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will."* (Psalm 40:8–9). Please speak with Fr. Paul, the parish office, or email worthabbeyparish@gmail.com and we will point you to the leader of that particular ministry.

Fairtrade Fortnight: 22 September - 5 October:

Monday, 22 September, is the start of Fairtrade Fortnight, over 30 years of working together has made the Fairtrade mark a leader of life-changing impact for farmers and workers across the world.

Our Sunday Fairtrade stall carries a large selection of Divine chocolate. Divine is the only 100% 'Fairtrade' chocolate company in the world, owned by cocoa farmers.

Read about Fairtrade in WPE's September newsletter.

Last Sunday, we had our **Parish Brunch** after Mass. Many thanks to Lizzy, Joe and Andriane for your service!

As many of you know, we have this monthly activity to help parishioners get to know each other in an informal setting, fuelled by food and the Holy Spirit!

The next Brunch is going to be on 12 October. All members of the parish are welcome to attend! New volunteers to help us keep making this event happen are most welcome!



WORTH INTERCESSORY TEAM
PRAYING TOGETHER FOR OUR PARISH

NEW Worth Intercessory Team (WIT): This 1st of October, we'll be starting a new group of prayer warriors. We'll meet online via Microsoft Teams at 8pm on the first Wednesday of the month (45 min - 1hr), creating a welcoming space to pray together.

We hope to structure each Intercession Session with: (1) Praying the News: for world events and the people affected, (2) Praying for the Church: for the Pope and our wider faith family, (3) Prayers for the Parish: for the sick, the dead, and our parish prayers. This is a chance to grow in prayer, deepen parish connection, and make a difference—without leaving your home.

If you'd like to join please email worthabbeyparish@gmail.com. Come join us. We look forward to praying with you!

"For where two or more are gathered in my name, there I am in their midst." – Mt 18:20

Young Adults' Reflection Day, 20 September, Worth Abbey.

With Mass, time together for prayer, reflection, friendship, and a talk from Fr David Jarmy, on "The English Mystics," followed by a countryside walk, pub supper and social evening. [Click here](#) to book.

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION – New Term starting this week, sign-ups still open!

At Worth we focus on **year-round formation for our families with kids between the ages of 3-16 and for parents too!** This enables us to *help the children of our parish forge friendships with their peers as they deepen their faith* and equips *parents to continue developing a living faith* for themselves and their children at home. This structure has largely replaced specific sacrament preparation and children will receive the sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation when their parents discern them to be ready, in agreement with their catechist. If you would like your child to receive the sacraments here at Worth we encourage you to sign into family formation as soon as possible, even if they're only 3! To find out more please contact Fr Paul (email address) or Emily Coughlan (emily_mary@hotmail.co.uk)

Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross: Last September 14, parishioners came together to venerate relics of the True Cross to commemorate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. Did you know that at Worth, we have three relics from of Cross?



The relics are part of Worth Abbey's patrimony, belonging to a tradition stretching back more than a thousand years of relics of the Cross being dispersed throughout Christendom. After the dissolution of the monasteries in the 16th century, nearly all relics in England were destroyed. The Benedictine community that became Downside --the Mother House of Worth-- was founded in exile in France in 1606, and rebuilt its collection of relics.

Why do we venerate the Cross? For Christians, the Cross is not a mere instrument of death (which is what it was during the time of Jesus); it is the throne from which Christ conquered sin and death.

Catholics do not worship relics (of the Cross, or of bodies of saints). We worship God alone. We venerate (meaning, treat with reverence) relics as signs that lead us to Christ.



The first photo is of a silver reliquary has two fragments of wood, one carved into an image of the Virgin and Child, certified by Cardinal Wiseman in 1858. The second one is a silver reliquary holding a wooden cross containing a fragment of the Cross, certified by the Archbishop of Florence in 1938. The third one is 4-inch silver cross reliquary, containing a sealed tube said to hold a fragment of The Cross, gifted by Downside Abbey in 1948.

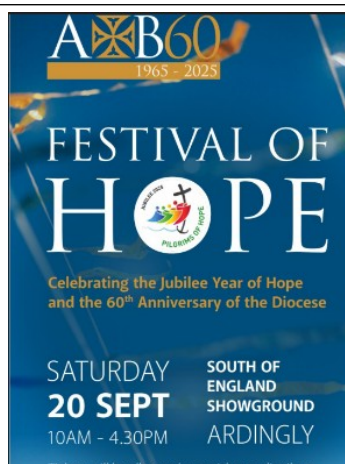
Are they really from the True Cross? Historically speaking, it is difficult to prove beyond doubt that these relics are truly from the cross of Christ. Over centuries of wars and thefts, questions of authenticity inevitably arose. But what matters is the faith (and connection to Jesus) that these relics inspire. They embody the Church's unbroken remembrance of the Passion through the last 2000 years, inviting us to encounter the mystery of salvation in a concrete, material way.

Social Action Activities for Parishioners

Help CAFOD help people in Gaza. As starvation sets in, your donations are helping to keep people alive. As the Israeli government's siege starves the people of Gaza, people are being killed at food distribution sites. Please donate via: <https://cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-emergencies/gaza-crisis-appeal>

"Christ is not absent from Gaza. He is there - crucified in the wounded, buried under rubble, and yet present in every act of mercy, every candle in the darkness, every hand extended to the suffering." -Card. Pizzaballa (Latin Patriarch, Jerusalem)

Other Announcements & Activities



Festival of Hope - 20 Sept. Ardingly Grounds. Limited tickets available w/ Fr. Paul. It will be an amazing opportunity for us to be uplifted and inspired in faith, and equipping us with tools that will enable us to help the Church as we move forward in mission.

Our Diocese is keen to welcome families! There have been questions raised about a youth stream. The talks will be suitable for both teenagers and adults. There will be family friendly breakout spaces for the little ones.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity. We find ourselves at a key point in the history of our Church... looking with hope towards the future at a time when we face great change, challenge and an increasingly secular society.

Our Parish is committed to safeguarding all children and vulnerable groups within its community.

Parish safeguarding reps are Charles and Ann McCarthy. You can email them via: sg1.worth@abdiocese.org.uk

Please also report any safeguarding concerns to the Diocese T: 01293 651148.

Survivor Engagement & Support – Public Call for Information from the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency

The Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) is currently conducting a thematic inspection focused on survivor engagement and support across Religious Life Groups (RLGs) and dioceses.

As part of this work, they are inviting survivors to share their experiences of contact with an RLG or diocese following abuse whether recent, ongoing, or non-recent. These insights will help them better understand survivor experiences, identify good practice, and develop ways to improve support across the Church.

Although the inspection will primarily focus on the period from July 2024 onwards, survivors are welcome to share any experience they feel is relevant. Every response is valued. The CSSA have asked us to support them in their public call out by sharing two links: Information about the survey [Public Calls for Information](#) and the direct link to the survey [here](#)

Baby Loss Awareness Week: 9-15 October

This is a time of reflection, compassion, and solidarity with families who have experienced the heartbreak of losing a baby. As a parish community, we hold space for grief and remembrance by inviting you to pray for all those parents who have lost a baby at any point during a pregnancy through miscarriage or soon after birth.

Please see: <https://babyloss-awareness.org>

You might have missed these previous announcements:

50 Years of Francis Pollen's Worth Abbey Church – 4 October, 10:30am, Abbey Church. (See p.8, *In Touch* 7 Sept.)

Building the Domestic Church: Parents are the Primary Teachers of the Faith – 4 October, St.Philip Howard Centre Crawley. Book via: <https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/og9uwr1i> (See p.8, *In Touch* 7 Sept.)

Marriage Anniversaries Mass – 11 October, Christ the Prince of Peace, Weybridge. (See p.8, *In Touch* 7 Sept.)

Mass for Altar Servers – 27 October, 12nn, Arundel Cathedral. (See p.8, *In Touch* 7 Sept.)

Worth Community Pilgrimage to Vézelay, France – 26-30 October (See *In Touch* 20 April edition via website for info.)

Ministry of Consolation – contact simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk

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