

In Touch

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
4th /5th September 2025
No. 1441



Dear Parishioners,

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

This weekend we celebrate a Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees, as a part of this Jubilee Year of Hope. Migrants and refugees are subjected to violent rhetoric, and also physical violence, more than ever before, and are in need of our compassion and solidarity.

Pope Leo has written us a message in which he emphasises these qualities which the Christian Church must show. *"The current global context is sadly marked by wars, violence, injustice and extreme weather events, which force millions of people to leave their homelands in search of refuge elsewhere. The widespread tendency to look after the interests of limited communities poses a serious threat to the sharing of responsibility, multilateral cooperation, the pursuit of the common good and global solidarity for the benefit of our entire human family. The prospect of a renewed arms race and the development of new armaments, including nuclear weapons, the lack of consideration for the harmful effects of the ongoing climate crisis, and the impact of profound economic inequalities make the challenges of the present and the future increasingly demanding."*

This solidarity is needed by those minorities which are seen to be 'different' from us. We must show *"respect for the dignity of all"*, he writes. The events and values of the world around us to which he refers above might tempt us to become despairing of the changes for which we long; but, as Pope Leo reminds us, the peace of God's Kingdom, the fulness of life for all, has begun in the death and resurrection of Jesus, and hope in its fulfilment is central to our faith. Migrants and refugees are a witness to this hope: *"They demonstrate this daily through their resilience and trust in God, as they face adversity while seeking a future in which they glimpse that integral human development and happiness are possible."*

Do please pray for them all, and pray for the work of the Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group and of Refugees Welcome Crawley. You might like to volunteer your service for them, or to offer financial help; and the GDWG is always in great need of clothing – informal young men's clothing, which you can leave in the porch of the parish office.

Meanwhile, this weekend we celebrate the feast of St Francis of Assisi, which marks the close of the Season of Creation. Do please make a note of the talk which will be given by J P de Quay, on Sunday, 26th October, after mass. If you would like to be more involved in caring for our Common Home, do please join our parish group, Worth Pro Earth. Please get in touch for the next date.

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: 9am and 5pm (First Mass of Sunday),
Feast Days 5.30pm Days of Obligation, *see website*

We will be having a second collection this weekend,
4/5 October for CAFOD's Harvest Fast Day on 3 October.

Inside this week's In Touch...

- ✓ Prayers and Mass Readings, page 2
- ✓ Worth Parish Community Billboard, pages 2- 3
- ✓ Parish Activities and Announcements, pages 3 to 4
- ✓ Social Action for Parishioners, page 5
- ✓ Other Activities and Announcements, pages 5- 6
- ✓ **New!** Our Diocese 60th Anniversary Celebrations, p 6.

MASS READINGS: (5 – 12 October)

Sunday, 5 October- 1st Reading – *Habakkuk 1:2-3, 2:2-4*; 2nd Reading - 2 *Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14* Gospel – *Luke 17:5-10*
Mon – *Jonah 1:1-2, 2*; *Luke 10:25-37* **Thu** – *Malachi 3:13-20b*; *Luke 11:5-13*
Tue – *Jonah 3:1-1*; *Luke 10:38-42* **Fri** – *Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2*; *Luke 11:15-26*
Wed – *Jonah 4:1-11*; *Luke 11:1-4* **Sat** – *Joel 4:12-21*; *Luke 11:27-28*
Sunday, 12 October: 1st Reading – Ecclesiastes 4:11-18 2nd Reading – 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 Gospel – John 19:25-27

Prayers

Please pray for the sick of our parish: Jim Tierney, Kryisia Smith, Catherine Elia, Patrick Cambridge, Barry Wingrove, Elfriede Huckstep, Severina D'Souza, Rowena Leaney, Beryl McNulty, Lin Eade, Jelly Labto, Sheila Charman, Hal Clarke, Gillian Maher, Kryisia Smith, Pamela Bagwell, Terry and Susan Scoble, Sue Pearson, John and Sue Rutherford, Demelza Waring, Liz Hicklin, Mike and Jill Carter, Laura Rawlinson, Fr. Kevin Taggart. And, also please pray for the healing of our Diocese Youth Adviser Lizzie Wakeling.

Please continue praying for the soul of *Pope Francis*, and the souls of Jo Dobson, Denis McCrory, Elvira Castro, Fr. Robert, David Whiting, Desire Powlett, Bill Murphy, Alan Thomas, Jack Prosser, Glen Robertson, Mary Mason, Jack Harwood-Davis, Archbishop Cyril Cowderoy, and Arthur Maynard whose anniversaries are this week. ***Eternal rest grant unto them, oh Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.***

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 are doing an **open call to parishioners who would be happy to also share their story**. Your journey of faith will inspire your fellow parishioners, and give glory to God. Please get in touch via worthabbeyparish@gmail.com.



#39 Fr. Martin McGee

Fr. Martin was born in the west of Ireland, the youngest of six children, with three brothers and two sisters. He shares, *"My father was a farmer although farming never appealed to me."* Instead, his path led him into teaching French at a Christian Brothers' school in Dundalk, half-way between Dublin and Belfast. *"I've always enjoyed speaking French and spending time in France,"* he says, though these days his contact with the country is much more limited.

In time, Fr. Martin felt drawn to monastic life. *"I was looking for a Benedictine monastery where I could lead a life based on prayer and community living. Worth attracted me because it had a mission in Peru and was open to the outside world. I found the monks down to earth and friendly."*

He arrived at Worth in 1986, and since then he has seen changes on the surface, such as new school buildings, but he says, *"Worth Abbey and Worth parish have remained at heart much the same. The spirit of St Benedict is what makes this place special, a spirit of prayer and welcome. In this fundamental respect nothing has really changed."* He chuckles as he shares, *"Of course, there are fewer monks and we are all growing older!"*

Fr. Martin has spent twenty-seven years working at Worth School, and now most of his work is with retreatants and visitors. Although he has never worked directly in the parish, he holds lasting memories of "warm and generous" former students and treasures the vibrancy of the Sunday Mass shared by both monastic and parish communities: *"It has a vibrant and living feel... a welcome contrast"* to earlier experiences of liturgy.

Reflecting on the presence of the parish alongside the monastery, he sees it as a deepening gift. *"Having a parish keeps us in touch with the culture in which we live and also deepens our faith. We are continually forced to reflect on what our faith means to us and to make it relevant to the lives of the people to whom we minister. In meeting other people we meet Christ. And that is the most precious gift of all."*

For parishioners, Fr. Martin offers encouragement in a rapidly changing world: *"Our faith allows us not to be swept away by the illusion that our value as persons is based on 'celebrity' or whatever is the latest obsession of the surrounding culture. We realise that our value comes from being loved by God. Building our lives on the rock of Christ enables us to find this enduring meaning and love. If we could realise that this is our real treasure, then our lives would become much simpler and more joyful."*

Fr. Martin's gentle presence and thoughtful words continue to remind us of the gift of living faith, rooted in prayer and in community.

<p>A prayer, saint, or bible verse that inspires you?</p> <p><i>'Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God' (Mt 4:4)</i></p>	<p>What activities do you enjoy?</p> <p>I'm a keen reader and I enjoy walking and cycling. In my youth, I loved to play tennis for hours on end. I also like writing and have had five books published about the nineteen Algerian martyrs - the seven Cistercian monks of Tibhirine being the best known among them. At secondary school I was editor of the school magazine 'Torch' and since then I've always been writing some little article or other. And today I find myself writing for In Touch!</p>	<p>What plate of food brings the best memories?</p> <p>I enjoy crisp chips with a cheese omelette and steak!</p>
<p>A cherished memory of being part of this parish?</p> <p>One thing which I have always liked about Worth has been the Sunday Mass for the monastic community and the parish. It has a vibrant and living feel to it.</p>	<p>What are your hopes and prayers for the future of our parish? I hope that Worth parish will continue to be a place of welcome and fellowship where people can feel at home and discover that God loves them and is near to them, that He in fact lives within them.</p>	

#40 PHILIPPE DAVIES

From childhood days at Junior Church to finding strength in daily prayer, Philippe's story is woven with faith, family, and the friendships that continue to sustain him.

Philippe was born in London, the youngest of four and "the baby of the family." He moved with his family to Sussex in 1996, and from a young age, Worth Abbey became part of his story. He recalls how, *"In 1996, my siblings and I joined Junior Church, with my mum joining the team to teach the classes."*

Philippe went to school in Burgess Hill from age seven until sixteen, later completing his English and Maths GCSEs at Crawley College. Today he works at a local café, JO.CO, a dynamic coffee shop in the heart of Handcross Village.

Faith and community remain at the centre of his life. Philippe is part of the Junior Church team and is also involved with the Family Formation Ministry. He has long attended Worth's young adult retreats, which he describes as *"a chance to recharge from the busyness of my day."* He also takes part in a parish House Group, which has been a source of encouragement and belonging over many years.

What Philippe values most about Worth is the sense of connection: *"Being part of the Church means connecting with other people of the faith, especially from the retreats. Some of the people I met there are still friends to this day."*

Like many, he admits that *"life can be difficult, complicated, and sometimes messy."* Yet his daily prayers keep him grounded. *"How I check myself is through prayer. Like getting dressed or drinking coffee in the morning, it starts your day afresh. Without it, things can fall apart."*

For Philippe, Worth Abbey is not just a parish but a place where faith and friendships intertwine, helping him find strength, renewal, and joy in his journey. Faith has always been a companion—nurtured in Junior Church, deepened in retreats, and renewed each day in prayer.

<p>A prayer, saint, or bible verse that inspires you? Psalm 63:1 "You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water."</p>	<p>What activities do you enjoy? Acting is a favourite past time activity, (not on the stage yet). I am currently preparing for my Grade 8 Verse and Prose LAMDA. I also enjoy cooking and looking after our dog.</p>	<p>What plate of food brings the best memories? Pasta!!!</p>
<p>A cherished memory of being part of this parish? During the Easter retreat at worth, I was involved with preparing the Easter Vigil Fire for the service. It was a fun experience and cannot wait to do it again next Easter.</p>		<p>What are your hopes and prayers for the future of our parish? To have more young people in the church.</p>

Parish Activities and Announcements

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES...

10 October, Fri. – The Legacy of Nicaea, a talk by Rev Dr Susan Durber, a Brighton and Hove Christians Together Lecture, Chapel Royal, 164 North Street, Brighton BN1 1EA.

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

26 October, Sun. – Laudato Si' 10th Year Anniversary talk by John Paul de Quay "Pilgrims of Hope, Towards a Better World", at 11am at the Unity Room.

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. **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, 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. This 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!

“The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few.” (Matthew 9:37)

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, or supporting our hospitality — we have a place for you.

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 answer: *“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.



NEW Worth Intercessory Team (WIT): Soon, we hope to 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. Would you like to join? Please sign up and we’ll get this prayer group started.

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

If you are going to church next week, please take note of Please see the link below for planned roadworks on the Balcombe Road from 6th - 9th October 2025 between 9.30 – 15.30. See: <https://one.network/?>

Social Action for Parishioners

Help CAFOD help those in dire need.

You will hopefully have heard about the CAFOD Harvest Family Fast Day on 3 October. Please consider supporting the work of CAFOD by giving up a meal and donating the money you would have spent on your meal to CAFOD. You can use the donation envelopes, or go to the CAFOD website, or phone 0303-303-3030.

Please focus your prayers on CAFOD's efforts to bring water and relief to people in drought-plagued Ethiopia. There, CAFOD is working to help build water storage systems. The ability to store water for use in drought is a game changer.

We at Worth Parish will take inspiration from CAFOD. We will leverage the prayer opportunities that abound around us and hold a Prayer-Raiser for CAFOD. Please consider joining us on Friday, 3 Oct., 12nn – 1pm for Midday Stillness: A time of music, prayer, and reflection with a monk. This will be at Monks in the City, St. John the Baptist, 2 Bristol Road, Kemptown BN2 1AP Brighton.



Appeal for Men's Casual Clothing



The Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group is in urgent need of informal clothing for young men. If you have any gently used jeans, T-shirts, tracksuits, sweaters, anoraks or trainers to spare, please consider donating them. Medium sizes are most commonly needed. Your donations will bring comfort and dignity to those in difficult circumstances. Please bring your freshly washed donations to the Parish Office. Thank you for your generosity!

"I was naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you cared for me; I was in prison and you came to visit me". - Matthew 25:36

Other Announcements & Activities



Celebrating the Vision: 50 YEARS OF FRANCIS POLLEN'S WORTH ABBEY CHURCH Saturday, 4th October, 10.30am, Abbey Church

In the Abbey Church's 50th anniversary year, we invite you to join us for a special presentation by architect Fred Manson (Associate Director, Heatherwick Studio) in conversation with Abbot Christopher Jamison, Abbot President of the English Benedictine Congregation, who will help us explore the innovative design and historical significance of this remarkable building. Come and share in an enjoyable and engaging conversation about the Abbey Church's past and future.

The morning will start with coffee and a warm welcome at 10:30am, followed by a presentation and further engagement at 11:00am. The talk will end in time for a light lunch and an opportunity to join the Community for Midday Prayer.

Please visit the news section of our website to register your interest.
For more details please visit: worthabbey.net/latest-news
or scan the QR code.



Our Parish is committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable groups within its community. Safe-guarding reps are Charles and Ann McCarthy. Report safeguarding concerns to the Diocese 01293 651148 or via Email: sg1.worth@abdiocese.org.uk

At **In Touch**, we'd love to hear from you—what you've enjoyed reading, what you'd like to see more (or even less!) of, and any ideas for improvement. This is our parish community newsletter, and our hope is that it offers both inspiration and a useful service.

If you have any announcements, articles, or activities you would like us to publish in **In Touch** we need you to send them the Friday before the intended publication date please.

Please do get in touch!
worthabbeyparish@gmail.com

BRIGHTON AND HOVE CHRISTIANS TOGETHER LECTURE 2025

The Legacy of Nicaea Rev Dr Susan Durber

7.00PM 10 OCTOBER, FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS
CHAPEL ROYAL, 164, NORTH STREET, BRIGHTON, BN1 1EA



2025 marks 1700 years since the ground-breaking Ecumenical Council at Nicaea in 325. Dr Durber reflects on the legacy of the Council and its resonance for faith, unity and mission in today's Church.

Rev Dr Susan Durber is a minister in the United Reformed Church and the World Council of Churches President from Europe. She has served local churches, as Principal of Westminster College in Cambridge, and as Theology Advisor for Christian Aid.

Early
World

Patriarchs

Egypt
& Exodus

Desert
Wanderings

Conquest
& Judges

Royal
Kingdom

The Bible Timeline Course

12 Periods, One Story!



Delivered by
Mauro Iannicelli
through live-streamed,
interactive sessions.

LIVE
STREAMED

FREE
COURSE

Starts online on
Wed 1st Oct 2025
8 consecutive Wednesday
7pm-8:30pm UK Time

Course information:
comeandsee.org



Divided
Kingdom

Exile

Return

Maccabean
Revolt

Messianic
Fulfilment

The
Church

CELEBRATING OUR DIOCESE'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY



More than 1,000 people journeyed to Sussex on Saturday to mark the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton's Diamond Jubilee. The "Festival of Hope" which took place at Ardingly Showground was a joyful celebration of faith, hope and mission with music from "One Hope Project."

People of all ages attended Saturday's celebration, with representatives from the diocese's many parishes and schools able to spend time in prayer and worship at the festival's Adoration Marquee, visit the International Exhibition of Eucharistic Miracles created and designed by St Carlo Acutis, receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and - for much younger festival goers - enjoy singing and action songs in the dedicated "break-out" space.

Did you know that our very own Worth Abbey Choir sang their hearts out in Paris last summer?



While Worth Abbey Choir's main function is to enrich the Sunday Mass musically at Worth, it has a recently-established tradition of a short summer choir tours which provide the choir an opportunity to spend some time together after such dedicated work throughout the year, and to prepare larger-scale pieces of sacred music more suited to a concert performance. With scores and rehearsal tracks sent out in advance, the choir gathered at Worth in late July for a whole-day rehearsal. The music for the tour included the Quatre Motets by Maurice Duruflé, of which the Ubi Caritas is perhaps the best-known of those four pieces; with one of the concerts falling on the Feast of the Assumption. Our choir performed their music at [Saint-Sulpice](#), a church known to musicians throughout the world for its two superb Cavallé-Coll organs and renowned organists, and the other at the beautiful church of [Saint-Étienne-du-Mont](#).

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