

In Touch

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
18th /19th October 2025
No. 1443



Dear Parishioners,

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

This week we mark Anti Slavery Week. The Medaille Trust is one of the principal agencies which works to combat slavery. Formed in 2006 by various religious congregations in the UK, we now know that modern slavery is very widespread. Last year almost 17,000 people were rescued by the Trust, of whom nearly half were children. They write about their work and the scale of the problem: *Modern slavery is a crime in which people are exploited through fraud, deception, and coercion. It takes many forms, such as trafficking, forced labour, and domestic servitude. Victims are often trapped by their traffickers using various tactics, including confinement, violence, and the withholding of wages and documents. Modern slavery can happen in any community and often goes unnoticed, with victims working in various industries, including private residences. The hidden and complex nature of modern slavery makes it difficult to determine its true scale. Victims are often unseen, unable to leave their situation, or too scared to come forward. However, when victims do come forward, the full extent of their ordeal becomes apparent, and the journey to recovery can begin.*

People are trafficked from many places, especially from sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern Europe and Asia, and also within Britain; and the common factor is that victims are trying to escape from poverty. They are lured by promises of jobs and the chance to improve their lives, but when they arrive they find that they are completely under the control of their traffickers and working without any pay and in very harsh conditions. For the traffickers the rewards are great, and the dangers of detection are much less than when dealing in drugs or arms.

The Trust emphasise that everyone can help to detect victims. Signs of trafficked people can include: not having their own documents; working long hours in unsafe conditions; living in crowded and unsanitary lodgings; no freedom; frightened and abused; especially fearful of the police, and generally avoiding contact with others.

Do please look at the work of Medaille - <https://www.medaille-trust.org.uk/modern-slavery-today> And do pray for them and for those whom they try to support and rescue.

I send you all 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,
18/19 October - World Mission Sunday**

Inside this week's In Touch...

- ✓ **New!** Prayers and Healing Novena – St John Paul II, page 2-3
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MASS READINGS: (19 – 26 October)

Sunday, 19 October- 1st Reading – Wisdom 3:19 2nd Reading – 2 Corinthians 4:7-15 Gospel – Matthew 10:17-22

Mon – Romans 4:20-25; Luke 12:13-21

Thu – Romans 6:19-23; Luke 12:49-53

Tue – Romans 5:12, 15b, 17-19; Luke 12:35-38

Fri – Romans 7:18-25a; Luke 12:54-59

Wed – Romans 6:12-18; Luke 12:39-48

Sat – Romans 8:1-11; Luke 13:1-9

Sunday, 26 October: 1st Reading – Ecclesiastes 35:12-14,16-18 2nd Reading – 2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18 Gospel – Luke 18: 9-14

Prayers

Please pray for Billy Robson and Edward Dean and their newborn son, Gregory. We offer them our congratulations.

Please pray for Tony Hicklin. May he rest in peace. Please pray for his widow, Liz, and for all their family

Please pray for the sick of our parish: Stella Higham, Jim Tierney, Krysia Smith, Catherine Elia, Patrick Cambridge, Barry Wingrove, 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, Mike, Jill Carter and Laura Rawlinson. 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 Jim Farmer, Fred Green, Elizabeth Montgomery, Cecily Evans, Miss Millet, Peter Cole, Marie Hesketh, Cecily Hallack, Alexander Duncan, Audrey Sherwin, Lady Dora Wilkinson, Gerry McGiven, Jean Whigham, Kathleen Rogers, Moy Steel, Albert Marchant, Hdmayoun Djavadezadeh, Ivor Francis Davies, John Elton and Deidre Sweetman whose anniversaries are this week. Please pray for Fr Kevin who died peacefully early Tuesday morning. May he rest in Peace. We will advertise arrangements for his Funeral as soon as we know them. ***Eternal rest grant unto them, oh Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.***

Healing Novena for the Intercession of St. John Paul II

On October 22, we celebrate the feast day of one of our modern-day saints, St. John Paul II. Karol Józef Wojtyła (1920–2005) served as Pope from 1978 to 2005 — the second longest pontificate in Church history after Pope Pius IX. A man of deep faith and remarkable courage, he upheld the Church's moral and doctrinal traditions, while continually reminding the world of the universal call to holiness — that every person, in every walk of life, is called to become a saint.

During his papacy, he canonised 483 saints, more than all of his predecessors combined, offering us countless models of faith and virtue. He himself was beatified in 2011 by Pope Benedict XVI and canonised in 2014 by Pope Francis. To help us remember his enduring witness to faith, hope, and the transforming power of God's love, we encourage you to pray this novena.



Opening Prayer each day: Merciful God, thank you for the great spiritual gift of St John Paul II's apostolic life and mission. Through his heavenly intercession, please grant the following petition(s) . . . *[state your request(s)]*. Grant that I may grow in love for You and proclaim boldly the love of Jesus to all. Amen.

Day 1 - St John Paul, you preached: "The future starts today, not tomorrow." As I start these nine days of prayer with you, I thank you for reminding me that with God's help, I can begin again, but I need to start now, not at some distant future. Please be with me as I progress through these nine days of prayer with you.

Dear Lord, You are the greatest Healer. You gave St John Paul II to the entire world to show us how much You love us. With Your mighty power and through his intercession, we seek healing, not just of our physical body but our emotional, mental, social and spiritual health as well. In keeping with Your greatest commandment, we will love You with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our soul

and with all our strength. We will also love our neighbour as we love ourselves. Amen. *Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be...*

Day 2 - St John Paul, you preached: "I plead with you, never, ever give up on hope. Never doubt, never tire, and never become discouraged. Be not afraid." With your help, I will not give up hope. I will be trusting, confident, persistent and unafraid in prayer.

God, our Father, grant us peace when confronted with different obstacles each day. Guide us so we won't falter in our steps. May peace always reign in our hearts even if there is fear that we might fall flat on our face. We will not be anxious, but will have faith that is unwavering like that of St John Paul II. We will do whatever is true, just, pure, and gracious in Your eyes, so that Your peace may abide in our hearts always. *Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be...*

Day 3 - St John Paul, you preached: "Have no fear of moving into the unknown. Simply step out fearlessly knowing that I am with you and therefore no harm can befall you. All is very, very well. Do this in complete faith and confidence." Thank you for your confidence in me. Help me to have complete faith in God. Stand with me at all times as my intercessor and spiritual guide until I attain the great treasure of Heaven.

Dear Jesus, Son of the living God, we rejoice because we believe that through the intercession of Saint John Paul II, our healing is near at hand. We are joyful in our ways and our speech for we know that You will always comfort us. We thank you

for the joy You've given us when You were born into our world, because You became one of us in all things but sin. You endured tremendous suffering for our sake, so that we will be saved from our sins. Turn our mourning into rejoicing because of Your resurrection from the dead. *Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be...*

Day 4 - St John Paul, just like St. Paul the Apostle who described his journey as a race, you tell me that life with Jesus is a wonderful adventure. Life is not a sprint for me, but rather a winding marathon with its curves and its ups and downs. Be with me at all times as I struggle in this race toward the fullness of life in Christ. During your lifetime, you were a living testimony of how much God loves us through your patience in dealing with every religious or political leader around the world, as well as with the severe sicknesses that afflicted you. We believe that as long as love reigns in our hearts, we will be healed, for "Love is patient and kind."

Holy Spirit, grant us wisdom and knowledge as we wait patiently for the healing You promised. May our families be blessed with patience in helping us cope with illness and other problems. *Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be...*

Day 5 - St John Paul, you preached: "Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and Hallelujah is our song." Help me to be joyful in this wonderful adventure of life. Help me always to have true Christian joy in my heart, mind and spirit. Help me always to be faithful to the Will of God in my life.

Dear God, through Your loving grace and kindness, we have been blessed with the great kindness shown by the people who take care of us, like our family, friends, relatives, caregivers, physicians, and those in our community and support networks. St John Paul manifested incredible love, kindness and forgiveness to the man who tried to assassinate him. We believe that we will be healed if we forgive those who have wronged us. *Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be...*

Day 6 - St John Paul, you preached: "Love your families. Teach them the dignity of life. Teach them the ways of harmony and peace. Teach them the value of faith and prayer and goodness! Help transform the world around you by giving the best of yourselves in the service of others and your country." Just as Christ taught us, you preached and live the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do to you." How simple it is to hear this, but how incredibly difficult, at times, to do this. Be with me, and help me see God in my neighbour and in all those I find difficult to love or accept.

Dear Lord, throughout my lifetime, I have been taught to be a good person and to be a blessing to others. To be good is not just to follow the rules, but more so, to follow You and obey Your commandments. May I bring peace to others, and spread Your good news to my family, friends, community and country. *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be...*

Day 7 - St John Paul, you preached: "The goal and target of our life is He, the Christ who awaits us – each one singly and all together – to lead us across the boundaries of time to the eternal embrace of the God who loves us." Help me to remember that life with God is the highest and greatest of all goals. In every moment of my life, help me to be focused on my relationship with Christ, so that when my earthly journey ends, my eternal life with Jesus will begin.

God the Father, in humility we offer our lives to You in the service of others. May we be like St John Paul II in proclaiming our faith and trust in You, so we will be blessed and can fulfill our Christian vocation. It is through our weakness and illness that You have touched our lives. We now seek Your goodness and mercy to be healed. *Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be...*

Day 8 - St John Paul, you preached: "People are made for happiness. Rightly, then, you thirst for happiness. Christ has the answer to this desire, but He asks you to trust Him. True joy is a victory, something which cannot be obtained without a long and difficult struggle. Christ holds the secret of this victory. . . In order to sing God's praises we must re-learn the language of humility and trust, the language of moral integrity and of sincere commitment to all that is truly good in the sight of the Lord." In simple words, you teach us that nothing is more important than life with Christ.

Lord, Jesus, grant me the gift of a humble heart so that I can respond to Your call to take up the Cross and follow You each day as Your disciple. I will strive to preserve the unity at home through my acts of peace and understanding. Through the intercession of St John Paul, please grant me the gift of healing. *Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be...*

Day 9 - St John Paul, the surest, straightest road to Christ is through His Holy Mother. When I am lost and confused in life, lead me to place myself before Our Blessed Mother, asking her to rescue me to faithfully live the spiritual path that leads to her Divine Son. Teach me to have in my heart the same great love you had for our Blessed Mother.

Dear Lord, You are the Greatest Healer. Everything I have comes from You: my life, my health, my family, my friends, my possessions and all that truly matters. I surrender them all to You as I search for meaning and purpose in all that is happening to me. I claim complete healing of my mind, body, heart and soul. I claim healing for those who are suffering and are lost. I claim healing for my family. I claim financial blessings so I can be a blessing to others. Grant me the patience to confidently accept Your answer to my prayers, whether it be yes, no or wait. All I ask I place before You in Jesus' name.

God, the Holy Spirit, help us to be models of good deeds in every respect by being temperate, dignified, self-controlled and sound in faith, love and charity. May we control our temper and hold our tongue, especially when we grow impatient and are in pain. May we be like Saint John Paul II who was an outstanding model of self-control, dignity and unwavering faith. *Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be...*

Source: <https://www.stjohnpaul.org/healing-novena/#:~:text=Dear%20Lord%2C%20You%20are%20the,Amen>.

Worth Parish Community Billboard

Last Sunday, 12 October, our parish came together to celebrate our **patronal feast of Our Lady, Help of Christians**. From the earliest days of Christianity, Christians have turned to Mary in moments of danger and distress — and countless times, she has come to their aid with her motherly intercession.

Our own church, Worth Abbey, carries the beautiful title because it is a Catholic monastery dedicated to Mary, reflecting her importance as our intercessor. The Abbey church was consecrated for worship in 1975, and dedicated to Our Lady, Help of Christians, who continues to speak of *hope, faith, and trust in God's care*.

The Holy Mass for the feast was celebrated by Abbot Mark, who wore blue vestments in honour of the Virgin Mary — blue being the liturgical colour traditionally associated with Marian feasts. In his homily, Abbot Mark invited us to reflect on *“where we've come from, who we are now, and what we're called by God to become under Mary's care.”* He began by drawing our attention to the readings, noting how *“the book of Ecclesiastes speaks of divine wisdom as a mother. She nurtures, teaches, walks beside, and ultimately tests those who love her. And notice hers is not a sentimental nurturing, not a handholding accompaniment simply to achieve safety. Rather, this gift of God is a type of wisdom that shapes a soul slowly, sometimes painfully. It's a long obedience, a faithful walk just like that of Mary herself.”*

He invited us to *“think of her journey, not just the Annunciation, not just the high moment of the Magnificat, but also the moments at Calvary.”* There, he reminded us, *“at the foot of the cross, as we see in John's gospel, there is a moment of piercing truth. Jesus entrusts his mother to the beloved disciple, and the disciple to his mother. That conversation is not a private exchange. Rather, it presents a moment of spiritual legacy to all of us. In it, Jesus gives his mother Mary to us all. She becomes the mother of the whole church of all believers... of each believer. Not by title only but by shared suffering. By standing firm where others fled, by receiving us into her care when all hope seemed lost.”*

Abbot Mark reflected that *“this is the essence of what we know of Our Lady, Help of Christians. She's not a distant helper, but a present one. Not an abstract idea, but a real mother for a real community.”*

Turning to the Abbey's own journey, he reminded us that *“in this 50th anniversary year [of the Abbey church], we're not called to nostalgia, but to renewal. Mary doesn't look backwards. She treasures the past in her heart, yes. But she always moves forward — Let it be done unto me. Do whatever He tells you...”* He then posed a question to all of us: *“So what, on our patronal feast, does such a renewal mean for us right now?”*

Abbot Mark offered four ways of living this renewal:

“It means re-committing ourselves to being guided and formed by God's wisdom — the wisdom of the Rule [of St Benedict], the wisdom of slow formation, of listening deeply, of giving space for God to act. And how wonderful it is that our parish has committed to the formation of new Christians, particularly through families. I pay tribute to families who gather here Sunday after Sunday helping new Christians to learn what it is like to gather with the community to worship in this church.”

“Secondly, a renewal involves embracing the cross of Christ, not just in personal sacrifice, but in bold life witness in a world that often wants easy answers. Our parish and our monastery must continue to witness to the mystery of Christ crucified by learning, by praying, by reading the Scriptures, and by reaching out to the unchurched.”

“Thirdly, it means deepening our life of worship. The rhythm of prayer that's shaped this Abbey from its foundation — day and night, in word and in silence, in stillness — has made this Abbey church a place where heaven and earth can meet. We are called not just to preserve a tradition, albeit a great one, but to let that prayer form us more deeply, to centre our lives around the altar, around the Word, and around the quiet presence of Christ Himself at the centre.”

“And finally, it means letting Mary, the Help of Christians, form us as a community of hospitality, a community of intercession and service. Help of Christians is no mere title. It's a summons to become helpers ourselves. If Mary is the model of faithful presence, then we too are called to stand with those who are excluded, those who suffer, to welcome the broken, and to be the Church for those who maybe feel far from God.”

As our parish reflects on this feast, we are reminded that Mary's “yes” continues to echo through time — calling us not only to remember the past with gratitude, but to step forward in faith, trusting that Our Lady, Help of Christians, walks beside us still.



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. This week, we remember Fr. Kevin, who was a much-loved former parish priest and the fifth abbot of the Worth Abbey. To celebrate his life, we re-print Fr. Kevin's parish profile published at In Touch in June as part of this series.



#21 Fr Kevin Taggart, former Parish Priest and Abbot of the Monastery (1931-2025)

Many in our parish will remember Fr Kevin Taggart with deep fondness—not only for his steadfast faith but also for his decades of service to the Church, our Parish, Worth School, and the Church.

Born in Kent in 1931, the youngest of a brood of four girls and three boys, Fr Kevin grew up in a devout Catholic family in Kent and Somerset. His early years were marked by the experience of World War II. The fear and uncertainty of war, particularly the Battle of Britain, left a lasting impression, but also deepened his sense of purpose and faith. He went on to study at Downside School under the Benedictines, then to Christ's College, Cambridge, where he earned a degree in English. However, it was a different kind of calling that tugged at his heart.

At 18, Fr Kevin entered the monastic life. He joined the Benedictine Order in 1949, encouraged by the faith community around him and the example of fellow monk Fr Charles. Their shared commitment helped strengthen his vocation that would define his life.

Originally part of the Downside Abbey community, Fr Kevin volunteered to join Worth Priory when it became independent in 1957. He became the first housemaster at Worth School when it opened in 1959. He served as governor of several Catholic schools, including New Hall, St Teresa's (Effingham), and Beechwood Sacred Heart in

Tunbridge Wells. Over the years, he served as teacher, housemaster, headmaster, bursar for Worth Abbey. Fr. Kevin was **Parish Priest at Worth Abbey Parish from 1988-1993**. Those who know him well know that he was partial to a bit of rugby and golf.

Mary Sullivan, one of our parishioners, fondly describes how Fr. Kevin had touched their life when he was parish priest: *"Fr. Kevin has been a family friend for many, many years, initially with my parents and also with my own family. My sister, Paula, had terminal cancer and Fr. Kevin would come out on many occasions, usually in the middle of the night, to sit with her and talk to her. He was always patient, kind and loving, and with a lovely sense of humour. He is a lovely gentleman with a twinkle in his eyes and a great sense of humour."*

Fr. Kevin's influence extended beyond the monastery. He appeared in a documentary at Worth Abbey in the early 200s, where five men lived alongside monks for 40 days, showcasing the transformative power of monastic life. Grateful for his life of service, Fr. Kevin remains an inspiration for those considering a similar path.

In 2010, Fr Kevin was elected Abbot of Worth Abbey, succeeding Fr Christopher Jamison. Upon his appointment, he said: *"The monastic life is a great gift to the Church and the world. It will be my privilege to foster this gift at Worth Abbey."* He retired in 2013, noting that his age made it sensible to step aside – he was 82 at that time-- and allow the community to consider a younger Abbot.

For over 70 years, his life has been guided by the Rule of St. Benedict, a 6th century text that shapes the daily rhythm of prayer, work, and community. The rules provided him with a framework for living a disciplined and meaningful life.

Reflecting on the Christian call to witness, Fr Kevin once said: *"As Christians we are asked to take the light of the world around with us so that we can spread God's Word and the Gospel, because each of us is a temple of the Holy Spirit and therefore the light of the world."* A fitting reminder from someone who has spent his life quietly carrying that light, step by step.

Here are links to the three-part BBC documentary series on the Worth Abbey, from 20 years ago, where we can fondly remember Fr. Kevin alongside the other monks:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a7Td2VVSmw> & https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_B6BD0Ogmo & <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DdfZySo07oE&t=3s>

Walking 100 Miles for Breast Cancer UK

This October, our very own **Rowena Leaney**, one of our long-standing Junior Church catechists, is taking on an inspiring challenge — walking **100 miles** to raise funds for **Breast Cancer UK**. This cause is especially close to her heart following her own diagnosis in November 2024. Let's show our support and encouragement for Rowena as she walks each mile with hope and determination. You can donate to their JustGiving page by clicking here https://www.justgiving.com/page/rowena-leaney-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=EM

You can learn more about Rowena from her Tapestry of Faith profile story published last September 7 (if this is no longer in your inbox, these are archived at our parish website).

Parish Activities and Announcements

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES...

19 October, Sun. – Family Faith Formation at 11.15

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 Eucharistic Ministers, 11am-4pm, Christ the Prince of Peace, Portmore Way, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 8JD

8 November, Sat. – Visitation of National Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima and Relics of Saints Jacinta & Francisco, 10am-4:30pm, Arundel Cathedral

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, 10:30–11am

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

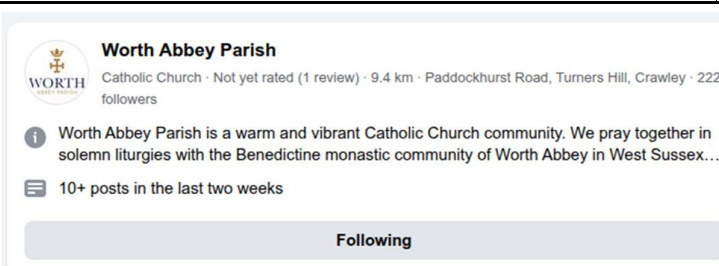
Lectio Divina – Tuesdays at 8pm via Zoom. Please contact Jenny Chapman jenny_chapman@sky.com. **All are welcome!**

Christian Meditation - Unity Room, 7-8pm, 4th Wednesday of the month: 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!**

<p><u>A note concerning the appeal and our finances:</u></p> <p>The Diocese of Arundel and Brighton closed the chapel of St Dunstan in West Hoathly in March 2020, after a review and discussions. The Diocese then decided to sell the building. Following the sale, Worth Abbey Parish received a proportion of the proceeds, from which a significant donation to <i>Worth Abbey's Heart and Soul Campaign</i> was made. This supports the redevelopment of the Narthex and the creation of the new welcome centre, which will benefit all Worth Abbey parishioners. The residue of the funds received from the Diocese has been invested to support evangelisation and other formation work of our Parish, and any future capital expenses.</p> <p>Meanwhile, we express our very grateful thanks to all those who responded generously to our financial appeal, which we expect will allow us to finish the calendar year with a small surplus.</p>	<p><u>Church Lighting Upgrade: Temporary Weekday Closure</u></p> <p>We would like to inform our parish community that the final phase of the church lighting upgrade is scheduled to take place over two consecutive weeks:</p> <p>Monday 20 October to Friday 24 October Monday 27 October to Friday 31 October</p> <p>During this period, the church will be closed on weekdays to allow for the completion of the upgrade works. All weekday liturgies and services will be held in the Unity Room. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we complete this important enhancement to our lighting. Weekend services will continue as usual in the church.</p>
 <p>We look forward to connecting with you there!</p>	<p><u>Our parish Facebook page is back!</u> See: https://www.facebook.com/theworthabbeyparish/</p> <p>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.</p>



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

VOLUNTEER SHOUT OUT

Are you free Saturday 18th October


09:00 -15:00? Worth Abbey Estate is looking for volunteers to help with an important task: beating back the bracken and laying protective matting around the 6000 saplings planted earlier this year (February/March). These young trees need a bit of extra care to thrive, and your help would make a real difference. All you need is some sturdy footwear, warm clothes (if necessary), some gardening gloves and to meet us up at the Bermondsey Huts, just off Back Lane. If you are free, please email saldridge@worth.org.uk





MASS FOR ALL SOULS

Monday 3rd November, 5:30pm, Abbey Church



Join us at Worth to commemorate the faithful departed
An opportunity to remember and pray for loved ones who have gone before us

If you would like your loved ones to be remembered in prayer by the monks of Worth Abbey throughout the month of November, please fill in their details on the back of this card and place it in the box in the Narthex. Alternatively, you can submit their names online at worthabbey.net/allsouls

Requiem Aeternam Dona Eis, Domine

Social Action for Parishioners



Praying and Speaking Up on the Assisted Dying Bill

In September, the House of Lords held its Second Reading of the In September, the **House of Lords** held its Second Reading of the *Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill*, a proposal that would allow assisted suicide for adults with fewer than six months to live. The Bill sets out a process requiring approval from two doctors and a panel including a legal expert, psychiatrist, and social worker. It now moves to a **special select committee** for detailed examination. While the Bill's supporters argue it offers choice and compassion, many in the Lords expressed **serious moral and ethical concerns**, echoing principles long upheld in Catholic teaching — that **every life has dignity until its natural end**, and that our response to suffering should be care, not killing.

Voices of Conscience in the Lords – During the debate, **Baroness Theresa May** warned that the Bill could have *“dangerous unintended consequences”*, cautioning that it might *“reinforce the notion that some lives are less worth living than others.”* She also referred to it as *“a licence to kill Bill,”* highlighting the risk that vulnerable people might feel pressure to end their lives prematurely. **Baroness Goldie** likewise reminded the chamber that the true challenge lies not in facilitating death but in improving care: *“The answer to this problem is not assisted dying; it is how we care better for terminally ill patients.”* **Lord Beith** raised a further concern, saying: *“By legalising assisted suicide, you de facto make the statement that some desires to end your life are justified. No one should feel pressured toward death because of financial strain or emotional guilt.”* Such voices — from across political and personal backgrounds — remind us that this debate is not simply political, but profoundly moral and human.

The Catholic Response - The **Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW)** has consistently opposed legalising assisted suicide, affirming that life is a sacred gift entrusted to our care, not something we may deliberately end. The Church calls instead for **better palliative care**, compassionate accompaniment, and social structures that affirm life even in its most fragile moments. Cardinal Vincent Nichols recently described the Bill as a *“watershed moment”* for how society values life, urging people of faith to respond with prayer and gentle witness. Bishop John Sherrington, lead bishop for life issues, has called on Catholics to *“speak up for life”* and to *“stand with those who are vulnerable, ill or afraid.”*

Pray - Let us pray for those who are terminally ill, for their families and carers, and for the peers who will soon examine the Bill in detail. May they be guided by wisdom, compassion, and a deep respect for life.

Reflect and Learn - Visit the CBCEW website to read more about the Church's teaching on end-of-life issues and to find resources to guide reflection.

Write with Charity and Conviction - If you feel moved by the Holy Spirit, consider writing respectfully to members of the House of Lords, particularly those serving on the select committee reviewing the Bill. Express your concern for the protection of the vulnerable and your hope for improved end-of-life care. The committee will continue its work through the autumn, with a report expected by 7 November. Let us continue to be a parish that cherishes life in all its stages, that comforts the suffering, and that prays with hope. May we be faithful witnesses to the truth that every life, from its beginning to its natural end, is sacred.



Other Announcements & Activities

On October 12, young people and their families around the world celebrated the very first **Feast Day of St. Carlo Acutis**, the millennial saint who was canonised just last September. To mark this special occasion, we've prepared a short, **child-friendly piece** about his life and example. It's perfect to **share with your teens** or to **read together with younger children**, helping them discover the inspiring story of this extraordinary young saint.

The First-Ever Feast Day of Saint Carlo Acutis This year, on **October 12**, Catholics around the world celebrated something very special — the **first-ever feast day of Saint Carlo**. Saint Carlo was a young boy who lived in the digital age. He loved football, playing on his PlayStation, and using his computer — but most of all, he loved **Jesus**. Carlo used his computer skills to share his faith, creating a website about Eucharistic miracles to help people believe that Jesus is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. Saint Carlo once said that the **internet can be “an atomic bomb for good”**, reminding us that technology can be a wonderful tool for spreading kindness, truth, and faith if we use it wisely.

His story has inspired people all over the world. One family in Chile began a **WhatsApp prayer group** after hearing about Carlo, praying for their uncle who was very ill. Their prayers brought them closer together as a family and helped strengthen their faith. Today, Saint Carlo's message continues to spread through technology — just as he dreamed it would. Many Catholics also share prayers and reflections about him through **online prayer groups, podcasts, and social media**. It's a wonderful reminder that the tools of our digital world can help us grow closer to God and share His love. One of Carlo's favourite sayings was *“Non mio, ma Dio”* — which means *“Not mine, but God's.”* It was his way of reminding himself that everything he had — his gifts, his time, his talents, and even his love — belonged to God. Carlo wanted to use all that he was and all that he had for good, to bring others closer to Jesus. That message feels especially important for young people today. Social media often encourages us to show off, to focus on ourselves and how many likes or followers we get. But *“Non mio, ma Dio”* invites us to flip that around — to make our posts, our stories, and our voices about something bigger than ourselves: God and His love for us.



Like Saint Carlo, we can be brave and creative in using the internet for good — to share hope, kindness, and even stories of God's miracles. Whether it's posting something uplifting, sending a message of encouragement, or simply choosing to be kind online, we can make the digital world a brighter place. As we celebrate Saint Carlo's feast, let's also remember that *“Non mio, ma Dio”* means not only *“Not mine, but God's,”* but also **“Not my will, but God's will be done.”** It's a small but powerful prayer that reminds us to trust God's plans, even when they do not seem to be what we want or what we prayed for. So maybe, the next time you pick up your phone or tablet, you can whisper Carlo's words: **“Not mine, but God's”** and think, “How can I use this moment — this post, this message, this day — for God?” That's how ordinary things, like a computer or a kind word, can become something truly extraordinary — just like the life of St. Carlo, the teenage saint. You can find **documentaries and videos about Saint Carlo on YouTube**, including programmes for children with Carlo's family home videos (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CXjGQJjleVE&t=48s>), or an interview with his Mum (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8E5vTpL_Ew) or those from **EWTN** ([here](#) and [here](#)), and **Castletown Media** (*Carlo Acutis: Roadmap to Reality*).

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

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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