



In Touch

2nd Week of Lent (A)
28th February/ 1st March 2026
No. 1460

Dear Parishioners

I offer grateful thanks on behalf of CAFOD to our Parish for its participation in CAFOD's Lenten Family Fast Day fundraising initiative. CAFOD Family Fast Day is Friday 27th February and subsequently the Second Collection at Masses this weekend are in aid of CAFOD.

Donations to the Lenten campaign this weekend will be doubled, thanks to a generous match donor, and there are many ways in which you can donate should you wish:

- Via the Second Collection baskets at Mass
- In the old-fashioned way using cash via envelopes. These can also be placed into the collection baskets (CAFOD appreciates cash donations within their envelopes with your details written so that they can receive GiftAid)
- Via the touch screen stand in the narthex
- Online at [CAFOD.org.uk](https://www.cafod.org.uk)
- Via text to 70460: type the word LENT10 to donate £10 or LENT20 to donate £20; any amount you wish up to £20.

There are other ways within our Parish to support CAFOD this Lent as well. George Fitzsimons, who generously donates his time to volunteer his treasurer talents to CAFOD, will be completing the challenge of The Big Lent Walk of 200km in 40 days to raise money for CAFOD, and you can donate to his efforts via this

link: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/georges-big-lent-running-2026> Additionally, every Wednesday during Lent 2-3.30pm in Compass House our Parish will partner with Worth School's CAFOD Young Leaders to host Coffees for CAFOD. This is a pay-what-you-wish 'bottomless cafe' with tasty refreshments and refreshing conversation. There will be a different speaker each week. Details and specifics can be found each Lenten week in In Touch.

Our coffees for CAFOD this year will be dedicated to the memory of Rory Clarke. It's been over a decade since the Clarke's first opened their doors at their farm in West Hoathly to host us over the years in aid of CAFOD during Lent with soup lunches and coffees. Rory's smile and sharp wit were ever present as these coffees grew into a Parish tradition. As we began to coordinate further with the Worth School CAFOD Young Leaders, we shifted our venue closer to the school, to Compass House. Despite the new more distant location, even after celebrating his 90th birthday last year, Rory still made the effort to attend our Lenten CAFOD coffees. Please pop by a Wednesday CAFOD coffee to raise a mug to Rory. The initiative of farming that CAFOD is focused on this Lent is something Rory was passionate about.

CAFOD asks this Lent that we focus our prayers and fundraising on eliminating hunger. This is a consistent and basic need addressed by CAFOD's aid around the world. Climate change and challenges to growing food and eliminating hunger. In Zimbabwe, rain is scarce. In parts of Bangladesh and South Sudan, there's too much water. Either way, the result is the same – seeds fail to grow, harvests disappear, and families go hungry. CAFOD provides hope and a solution. CAFOD teaches locals how to produce food by partnering with local communities in innovative farming and food production strategies. They leverage technology and the strong reach of their global network to produce food despite climate challenges. This effort needs all of us: you, me, CAFOD's local experts, and families.

Your prayers for CAFOD's work are equally important to our fundraising efforts. As ever, thank you for your time and commitment as a Parish to supporting CAFOD in prayer and funding. The world is getting rougher at the moment, and CAFOD strives to smooth the edges and provide comfort and for so many of the world's poorest.

Kir Bennett Horner - Worth Abbey Parish, CAFOD Volunteer Representative

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](https://www.cafod.org.uk)

Second Collection - CAFOD Lent Fast Day

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Mass Readings: (1 March – 8 March)

Sun 1 March 2026: 1st Reading – Genesis 12:1-4a 2nd Reading – 2 Timothy 1:8b-10 Gospel – Matthew 17:1-9
Mon – Daniel 9:4b-10; Luke 6:36-38 **Thu** – Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31
Tue – Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Matthew 23:1-12 **Fri** – Genesis 37:3-4,12-13a,17b-28a; Matthew 21:33-43,45-46
Wed – Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28 **Sat** – Micah 7:14-15,18-20; Luke 15:1-3,11-32
Sunday, 8 March: 1st Reading – Exodus 17:3-7 2nd Reading – Romans 5:1-2,5-8 Gospel – John 4:15-42

Prayers

Please pray for the sick of our parish: John Maher, Elfriede Huckstep, John Mulhall, Sandra Flexman, Margaret Ogden, Anne Wise, Mandy Horton, Patricia Horsman, Stella Higham, Jim Tierney, Krysia Smith, Catherine Elia, Patrick Cambridge, Barry Wingrove, Rowena Leaney, Beryl McNulty, Lin Eade, Jelly Labto, Sheila Charman, Gillian Maher, Pamela Bagwell, Terry and Susan Scoble, Sue Pearson, John and Sue Rutherford, Demelza Waring, Liz Hicklin, Mike and Jill Carter and Laura Rawlinson. And please pray for the healing of our Diocese Youth Adviser Lizzie Wakeling.

Please keep Mackynsie Stribbling in your prayers who had heart surgery on Thursday, we pray for her family and for her speedy recovery.

Please continue praying for the souls of Pope Francis; and for Fr. Kevin Taggart and parishioners Gerry Loney, Rory Clarke, Tony Hicklin and Peter Annabring, who died recently. Please pray for the souls of Bert Rayson, Lina Talbot, Mary Renouf, Maurice Geal, Aaron Martin, Hilary Moore, David Rutherford, Alex Leaney, Barry Penn, Jim Ryan, Simon Newnham, Pat O'Grady, John Walford, Shelagh Wall, Merryel Barnwell and Marty Vaughan whose anniversaries are this week. ***Eternal rest grant unto them, oh Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.***

CAFOD Lent Prayer: Growth and Grace

God of growth,
in the beginning
you planted a garden
and walked with us,
your beloved creation.
Teach us to tread lightly
as we care for all you made.

God the Sower,
you plant seeds of your Kingdom
in the soil of our hearts.
Water them with your Word
and weed out fear and selfishness.
Cultivate in us your compassion
so we may truly love our neighbours.

God of Gethsemane,
you chose the tree of suffering
which would bring us new life.
May its roots grow deep within us,
inspiring us to seek justice
so all people may flourish
in the garden of your grace.

Amen.

Prayer: Caroline Stanton/CAFOD

Worth Parish Community Billboard

CAFOD during Lent at Worth Parish

SAVE THE DATE - Please note that CAFOD Lenten Family Fast Day is Friday 27 February. CAFOD's focus will be on addressing hunger this Lent.



COFFEES FOR CAFOD:

This Lent's 'Coffees for CAFOD' will be offered in the memory of Rory Clarke.

The Parish's CAFOD team and the Worth School CAFOD Young Leaders will host these coffees on Wednesday's during Lent until 25th March in Compass House 2-3.30pm.

There will be a speaker each week and a 'pay what you wish' bottomless cafe, with all donations going to CAFOD. Please note there will be no coffee meeting during Holy Week.

Our speaker on Wednesday 4th March will be Dan Harris of Worth School. He is the school's Director of Mission and will be talking about the Catholic life and values of the school. It will be interesting for the Parish to learn about our academic neighbors, and perhaps a particularly interesting coffee for young families to attend to learn more about the school.

Thank You from The Catholic Children's Society! (Christmas Crib Collection)

Thank you so much for your donation. Your kindness will bring comfort and hope to families facing real hardship this winter.

Recently, we helped five-year-old Olivia. Following a serious flood in their home, Olivia and her mum were rehoused in a cold and drafty flat. All their belongings had been destroyed, and the family were left without bedding or warm clothing. Thanks to your support, we were able to provide Olivia and her mum with warm duvets, thick blankets, jumpers and coats to get them through the cold winter months. Olivia's mum said: *"Thank you so much. Kindness like this means so much to me and my daughter. We are now warm enough to sleep at night and my little girl has got her smile back."*

Your generosity has made this possible. You have shown families like Olivia's that they are not alone and that there are people who care and want to help. On behalf of everyone at the Catholic Children's Society, thank you so much for your support - **Melody Mwangi, Fundraising Officer**



Excerpts from Abbot Mark's Lent Talk 2026

Let's begin by noticing the contrast between the beginning of Christian Lent and the arrival on the first of January of the secular new year. At the beginning of Lent, the church doesn't rush us towards resolutions or solutions. We're not asked to begin Lent with strategies, programs, or improvement plans. So it would be a mistake to ask first what we will give up or how will we become better Christians by Easter. Instead of all those sorts of mechanisms of self-improvement...as our Christian Lent begins, the Church invites us first and foremost to stop.

The prophet Joel, chapter 2, is read at mass on Ash Wednesday. Blow the trumpet in Zion. Proclaim a fast. Call an assembly. Gather the people. Notify the congregation. The call of the prophet and the call of the Church is to stop. To stop whatever you've been doing, and to listen. And, by so doing to face what actually is.

The Lenten call to repent and believe the good news is founded on the insight that in order to be converted to repent, we must actually be there in the first place. Now, that may sound simple and it is certainly potentially transformative, but it's not all that easy.

The opening words of the rule of St. Benedict are among the most arresting in all Christian spirituality: Listen carefully, my child, to the Master's instructions, and attend to them with the ear of your heart. Before St. Benedict asks anything from us, he asks first for our attention. Before discipline, before obedience, before effort, there's listening.

Lent, not just for monks, but for all Christians, begins in the same place. Not with actions, not with resolution, but with listening, attention to who we actually are. In other words, not with escape, but with truth. This perspective, this practice of attention to what is real, matters at this moment not only to us as individual believers, but also in the life of all our Church communities.

Why? Because in this country, the believing community is smaller than we once were, more fragile. And if we're honest, perhaps sometimes, weary. Today, Christians are often unsure of our place in a culture that appears no longer to understand us, or it can seem particularly to want to.

Many of us may be arriving at Lent not full of spiritual ambition, but carrying disappointments, grief, or just a quiet determination simply to keep going. Some of us come with questions we never expected to have. Some with wounds that haven't healed. And some of us come with a faith that feels thinner than it once did.

As Lent begins this year, the experience and teaching of the desert monks of the third and fourth centuries, and the living Benedictine tradition that receives that and passes it on to our 21st century can speak gently but very clearly to our present moment. So, we begin by reminding ourselves that God meets us not where we wish we were, but where we actually are. And Lent is the season in which we seek to learn how to stay there with God so that he can work in our hearts.

If we want a fitting scriptural image for our present moment at the beginning of Lent, both personally as individuals and together as a Church community, I'd point to the biblical imagery of the wilderness, the desert. The desert of the bible is not a place that people choose because it looks attractive. The book of Deuteronomy sums it up: He found him in a desert land in the howling waste of the wilderness. In the course of the Old Testament story, scripture makes plain that Israel doesn't choose to go into the wilderness; they are led there. And, as the gospel story begins, Jesus doesn't seek escape from his ministry into the desert either. St. Mark's gospel especially is very blunt: Jesus is driven there by the Holy Spirit. So the desert is not a place of avoidance or escape, but a place of exposure. It's where illusions fall away, where we discover what we've been leaning on without realizing it. Where we learn how much noise we normally use to protect ourselves from ourselves.

As Christians today, we're increasingly living in what we might term a desert-like place of exposure. Faith practices once quietly supported by social habit, shared language, and cultural respect are now questioned, marginalized, and misunderstood. In this exposed terrain, illusions of security fall away. What remains is both unsettling and clarifying-- a call to rediscover faith not as social inheritance but as a freely chosen, continually renewed act of trust in God...

The desert is not where life becomes simpler; it's where life becomes truer. And it's here that Lent meets our present moment, both as individuals and as Church. When things feel uncertain or painful, the temptation is always to flee. To flee, for example, into nostalgia, imagining that faith was purer or stronger once and could be again if only we went

backwards. Or to flee into activism, doing more and more so that we don't have to feel what's happening underneath. Or to flee into endless commentary, analysing, criticising, debating, but never staying still long enough to pray. Or to flee into a privatised spirituality that disconnects us from the actual Church, the actual world, and the actual demands of love.

The desert tradition which underlies all western monasticism insists on something else. It insists instead on stopping and staying. Staying with God, staying with the truth, staying with what feels unresolved. St. Benedict, though not himself a desert monk in any literal sense, received this wisdom and translated it into the vow he called stability. For Benedictines, stability is not about remaining because it's more comfortable; it's about refusing to run away when prayer becomes dry, community difficult, and when the future is unclear. Stability, we might say, is desert wisdom for ordinary lives.

The rule of St. Benedict begins with a single word, that word, listen. The listening that the rule asks of us isn't passive. It's active and it costs something. To listen in this sense, both in the rule and in the bible, is to be consenting to be changed. Throughout scripture, listening is always the beginning of conversion: Hear, oh Israel, today if you would hear His voice, harden not your hearts. Let anyone with ears hear. But of course, stopping, staying put, and learning to listen is never neutral. It asks something of us.

Our Christian season of Lent is not first and foremost about doing more or doing better. Christians are not in the business of self-improvement. Rather, Lent is about ceasing to drown out the voice of God. To drown out that voice with our own distractions.

The desert tradition spoke often about distraction. But let's be honest here. Distraction isn't either an ancient or a modern problem uniquely. It's fundamentally a human problem. We today have a specific technological version of it. But in reality, no one needs a smart phone or social media in order to find themselves living at a distance from their real self.

In the Egyptian desert, they named that distracting and constant inner chatter of thoughts and impulses "logismoy"- a Greek word which denotes the running commentary that never quite switches off our plans, our regrets, our imagined conversations, our fears about the future, our judgments of ourselves and of others.

The monastic response to those incessant thoughts, those logismoy is not suppression - it's attention. We don't fight our thoughts. We notice them. And slowly as the noise dies down, certain actual realities can come into view. These truths about who we are from a very fitting place for our Christian Lent to begin.

In her insightful book called "Thoughts Matter", Benedictine Sister Mary Margaret Funk writes, "Only when I sensed the power of my thoughts and was able to renounce them could I hear the ever small voice of God deep inside...The work of every one of us is this interior work, the practice of training our thoughts." She points out that the real battleground of the spiritual life lies not in our outward behaviour, but in our interior, in the training of our thoughts. The logismoy, the half-formed impulses, stories, fears, and desires that arise uninvited and quietly or not so quietly shape how we live.

This is profoundly alien to modern culture. We're taught either to indulge every thought as self-expression or to suppress unwelcome ones through distraction. We're encouraged to identify with our thoughts to broadcast them instantly, or to drown them out with noise, but very rarely to observe them patiently and test them for truth.

The desert tradition asks for something far more demanding: a slow, attentive discipline of noticing what moves within us. Neither obeying every impulse nor denying its presence but learning to bring our thoughts into the light of God. For people formed by speed, stimulation, and the expression of opinion, this can feel uncomfortable, even threatening. Yet, it's precisely here that real freedom begins... *Continued on page 6.*



Parish Activities and Announcements

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES...

Friday, 27th February & Friday, 6th March - Stations of the Cross on Fridays through Lent

Saturday 21st March – Family Stations of the Cross at 10:30am

Sunday 22nd March and every fourth Sunday of the month – Healing Service with Fr. Rod, after Mass.

Holy Monday 30th March – Service of Reconciliation at 7:30pm

PLEASE NOTE: Fr Rod will be out of the country from Monday 23rd February until Monday 9th March.

Funeral of Rory Clarke

The funeral mass for Rory Clarke will take place at Worth Abbey on Thursday, 5th March at 2.30pm.

LENT HOUSE GROUPS...

Cuckfield/Balcombe - Monday afternoons at 3.30pm starting Monday 23rd February. All Welcome. Please contact Christina cfitzs3287@aol.com or Christie christiegrieve@gmail.com

Worth Abbey Parish Office - Friday mornings at 10.30am starting Friday 27th February. All Welcome. Please contact Jenny jenny_chapman@sky.com

Crawley Down - Thursday at 2.30pm, starting next Thursday 26th February. All Welcome. Please contact Carol carolmorice251@btinternet.com

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)–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 welcome!

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

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!**

Car Parking on Sunday mornings:

Please do keep the parking spaces adjacent the church piazza, for less mobile parishioners. Could we also keep the parking area directly outside of Compass House free for residents and groups using the building. Many thanks.



Worth Intercessory Team (WIT):

Soon, we hope to start 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 email us 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! **We hope to start this with a small group in April.**

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

Would anyone like to learn more about the Catholic Faith?

Please get in touch to join a group which meets on Tuesday evenings, from 7.30 pm.

If you know of anyone who might be interested, please pass on this invitation. *Please get in touch with the office.*



Other Activities and Announcements

Lent 2026 Bible Studies

You're warmly invited to join the **Lent 2026 Bible Studies**, a FREE, six-week journey presented **LIVE ONLINE** by Mauro Iannicelli of Come & See Catholic Formation Ministries.

We will lead you through an in-depth exploration of the six Lenten Sunday Gospels, preparing you to hear them proclaimed at Mass. **INFO & REGISTRATION:** comeandsee.org/lent26

TIME: 7pm - 8:15pm UK time

Tuesday Sessions: Tues 03 Mar | Tues 10 Mar | Tues 17 Mar | Tues 24 Mar

We hope to see you online. Many thanks & God bless, *Mauro & Janet Iannicelli* **Come & See Catholic Formation Ministries**

Or register
using the
QR code:



188 x 26

CAFOD - Sign up for daily Lent emails

CAFOD daily Lent emails of prayer and reflection will offer an opportunity to pause, reflect, pray and take action as we prepare for Easter. Our Lent calendar emails offer daily prayers and reflections through your Lenten journey, alongside information about ways in which you and the wider CAFOD family can support our ongoing activities. This email subscription also auto-renews for succeeding Lent seasons, but you can unsubscribe at any time. Please follow the following link to sign up - [Lent calendar with daily prayers and reflection](#)



Adrian IV: The Only English Pope - 14 March, 3pm, Cathedral Centre, Arundel (Cost: £10-15)

Join a fascinating Friends of Arundel Cathedral talk by Adrian Waddingham CBE about the only English Pope and discover what he accomplished and the changes he made.

To book your place click here: www.tickettailor.com/events/friendsofarundelcathedral/2048235

Applications for the Arundel & Brighton Lourdes Pilgrimage this July are now open!

The Diocese takes more than 700 pilgrims to visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes each year, including young people, families, and those who are sick, disabled, frail or elderly and need our help to make the journey.

Is Our Lady calling you to Lourdes this summer? To find out more about our pilgrimage week in France [click here](#) and visit the diocesan website (<https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/lourdes>)



Mental Health Awareness training – Saturday 9 May 2026 10-3pm at the St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley - Tickets are just £40 per delegate (usual price £120)

One of the challenges that we are experiencing in our modern world is the growing number of people, of all ages, experiencing the darkness and challenge of various mental health conditions. Thanks to the support of Mental Health England, we are able to offer this training, to explore the realities, symptoms and impact of living with these many debilitating conditions. Thanks to the support of the trainer, we are able to highly subsidise the event.

To register go to the Events page of the Diocesan website: www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events



If you have any questions about this course, do not hesitate to contact Deacon Simon South, Marriage & Family Life Adviser at: simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk

Grandparents' Formation Day - 23 April, 10am-4pm, St John the Evangelist, Horsham

Join us for what promises to be a wonderful, engaging and affirming day with guest speaker, David Wells. You will be able to listen to the inspirational experience of David Wells as evangelist, father and grandfather. A chance to meet with people from across the grandparent network of the diocese and those who are keen to bring the faith to the next generation. For more details on David's powerful, fun and engaging talks on our faith you might like to visit his website: davidwellslive.com

To register, go to the Events page of the Diocesan website W: www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events

If you have any questions about the day please contact Deacon Simon South, Diocesan Marriage & Family Life Adviser E: simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk

Excerpts from Abbot Mark's Lent Talk 2026, continued from page 4... Slow down, stay put, and listen. And this is by way of paradox. Far from encountering the radiant presence of God in mystical silence and peace, far from encountering that, we'll meet some of our own resident minor demons. Our logismoy, resentments we've been carrying for years, fears we've never named. A grief we haven't given ourselves permission to feel. A longing that has nowhere to go.

Lent is a moment that call upon us to stop pretending, to stop attempting to perform spiritually, to stop managing appearances, and instead to allow God to meet us in our reality, in what's actually there...when we stop and wait.

Perhaps the hardest of spiritual lessons is this: we can't be converted by God. We can't be converted to God by beginning from a version of ourselves that does not exist. Remember the cliché, 90% of success is showing up...If the real you is not in the room, whether practically or spiritually speaking, then the game, whatever it may be, hasn't got a chance of even beginning.

The desert tradition and the Benedictine way that flows from it insists on a personal truthfulness on actually being there. Not in the sense of harsh self-judgment or indeed endless self analysis, but a straightforward honesty before God about who we are. In other words, showing up as who you actually are, warts and all.

...Your paying attention will teach you, and what it will teach you first is humility. Why humility? Well, because when we stop fleeing, stop leaping into the next distraction...we discover what's really in the inside of ourselves. Not what we would like to present to God and to others, not what we think ought to be there, the best self we would aspire to be, what actually is - banal and unholy, but real and therefore humbling, grounding, and most importantly, founded in reality.

As Sr. Margaret Mary puts it thoughts rise in the mind. They come in a sequence, a train of thoughts. But we are not our thoughts. Thoughts come and thoughts go. Unaccompanied thoughts pass quickly. It takes time and it takes humility that acknowledges what's actually there inside each of us to appreciate and then to live the wisdom of those deceptively simple words. We are not our thoughts...

It's important not to resist these thoughts. In other words, it's important to have a joyful attitude towards them - a friendly attitude towards even the most dreadful thoughts. Not that you linger over them or act them out, but it's important that we expect them and they're normal and they're integral. A jolly attitude is recommended. Here they go again, that sort of thing.

In chapter 49 of his rule, St. Benedict speaks directly about the season of Lent. What's striking is how undramatic he is. There's no call to heroic feats. No language of intensity or spiritual ambition. He says quite simply, the life of a monk ought to be a continuous Lent. And then he describes what that looks like: prayer - sometimes with tears, reading, compunction of heart, running through the whole chapter, is a strong sense of moderation...What matters to him and what should matter to us is fidelity. Staying with it. For many people today, fidelity itself feels like an achievement. Continuing to pray when it feels dry. Remaining part of the Church when it disappoints or hurts us. Holding to hope without clarity about the future. Showing up again when it would be easier not to.

The whole thrust of our prayer is to be present with God, noticing the rising and passing away of thoughts, but not joining them in their dance.

So, finally, where does the virtue of hope fit into this emerging picture? Christian hope is not optimism. It's not a confidence that things will just improve. It is not the blanket reassurance that outcomes will be favourable. Hope in scripture is trust that God is present even when it seems he's not. It's in the desert that Israel learns hope and learns it not through success but through dependence. God humbled you. Moses says to teach you that one does not live by bread alone.

Hope matures when illusions fall away. Lent does not ask us to escape the world or to escape ourselves. Instead, it asks us to stay, to stay with prayer even when it seems too simple. When there are no words. To stay with truth even when it's uncomfortable and to stay with our community even when, as it inevitably will be, it is imperfect. To stay with the slow, patient work of God. When we face what is...honestly, patiently, and prayerfully, we discover that God has already gone ahead of us. And that is where true hope, Christian hope, begins...

So, the simplest way to begin our lent this year is not with grand resolutions, but with a small, steady intention: to be present, to notice, to return, to stay, to face what is before God, and to trust that in that honest, unadorned place, God is already at work in us.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A service for everyone!

Friday 6 March

I will give you rest, come

Nigeria 2026

Horsham's Service is at
1:30 pm
on Friday 6th March 2026
St John the Evangelist Catholic Church
3 Springfield Road
Horsham
RH12 2PJ

All Welcome!



INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION
24-7 365 Days a year Prayer movement Ecumenical International Women-led
wwdp.org.uk
Registered Charity Number 233242

Women's World Day of Prayer 2026 /

NBCW (National Board of Catholic Women) March Newsletter

This year's Women's World Day of Prayer is on Friday 6th March 2026.

The theme comes from "I Will Give You Rest: Come," (Matthew 11:28-30) prepared by Christian women from Nigeria.

Please find below a link for the March 2026 newsletter for the National Board of Catholic Women:

[March NBCW newsletter](#)

NBCW EVENTS <nbcwsecretary1@gmail.com>

Monday 2nd March @ 6.30pm to 8pm Join the Ecumenical Committee of the NBCW as they explore the origins of World Day of Prayer, why you should get involved, and how this year's programme was completed. This event is not intended to replace your local service, but to add context.

3rd March @ 7:30 pm – 9 pm Book Club. The NBCW invites you to discuss their latest book club pick: **For the Good of the Church** by Gabrielle Thomas. We are up to the final chapter and conclusion.

Tuesday 24th March at 7pm Catholic Women Walking with Women: A Faith Journey Through Life's Seasons is a year-long webinar series designed to meet women where they truly are, in the real circumstances and rhythms of life, and to explore how God walks with us in every season. Please join us as we speak to Emma O'Connell as she speaks on: The spiritual significance of pregnancy and motherhood; Catholic teachings on life and parenting and Finding strength in prayer and the sacramental life

VISITATION OF THE
NATIONAL PILGRIM VIRGIN STATUE (NPVS) OF
Our Lady of Fatima
AND THE RELICS OF SAINTS JACINTA AND FRANCISCO

Our Lady Queen of Peace, Adur Valley BN43 5WG

7 March 2026 (first Saturday)

- 0950H: Procession and Enthronement of the NPVS of Our Lady of Fatima and the Relics of Saints Jacinta & Francisco Marto
- 1000H: Holy Mass
With the Prayer of re-Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary
- 1050H: Tea break
- 1120H: 15 minutes meditation
- 1135H: Recitation of the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary
- 1200H: Veneration of the Relics of Saints Jacinta and Francisco
- 1215H: Lunch
- 1315H: Holy Hour with Confessions
- 1415H: Benediction
- 1425H: Divine Mercy Chaplet
- 1435H: Tea break
- 1500H: Showcase of Fatima Programmes / Initiatives
Station 1: Fatima Prayer Cell
Station 2: COTE/YMM
Station 3: Promoters
Station 4: Home Pilgrim Statue Visitation
- 1630H: Enrolment and Investiture of the Brown Scapular
- 1645H: End of day 1.

8 March 2026, Sunday

- 0900H: Holy Mass (St Peter)
- 1000H: Veneration of the Relics of Saints Jacinta and Francisco
- 1100H: Holy Mass (Christ the King)
- 1200H: End of visitation.



For more information, please contact the parish or visit the parish website.



Arranged by the World Apostolate of Fatima (England & Wales)
A Public Association of the Faithful
Registered Charity 1198986

Contact the World Apostolate of Fatima
Mobile no. 07788473210 (9 am to 5 pm only, Mon to Fri)

Visitation of the National Pilgrim Virgin Statue (NPVS) of Our Lady of Fatima and the Relics of Saints Jacinta and Francisco - Saturday 7th March 2026, 09.45 until 16.45

The Parish of Our Lady Queen of Peace, Adur Valley, has a long established First Saturday devotion, attracting people from across the Diocese for these special Fatima prayers.

We are honoured to be the first parish in 2026 to be chosen for a visitation from the World Apostolate of Fatima England & Wales.

Join us for a special First Saturday:

Saturday 7th March 2026, 09.45 until 16.45

National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, along with relics of Saints Jacinta and Francisco. The day includes a procession and mass, prayer, veneration of relics, adoration and video presentation. There will be items for sale, and you are welcome to all or part of the day.

St Peter's Church, Shoreham-by-Sea, BN43 5WG

(Tea/coffee available; please bring a packed lunch)

Email: adurvalley@abdiocese.org.uk for more information or visit the website here: <https://www.worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk/the-first-five-saturdays-devotion-explained>

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

Parish Priests: Fr Rod Jones and Fr Paul Fleetwood. To contact both, please call the Parish Office: 01342 710313

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, please contact Fr Paul