



In Touch

4th Week of Lent (A)
14th March / 15th March 2026
No. 1462

The Diocesan Pastoral Plan.

Dear Parishioners, I wanted to share with you this update from Canon Kieron O'Brien regarding the diocesan Pastoral Plan. Moving forward, we will be considering in more detail the implications and the opportunities it will bring to our own deanery and parish.

May the blessing of the Lord be upon us as we continue our Lenten journey.

Fr Rod

'The high number of catechumens and candidates celebrating the Rite of Election was a sure sign that the Local Church of Arundel and Brighton is flourishing, as we enter the Sede Vacante period of prayerful waiting for a new Bishop. During this time, the Pastoral Plan is not put on hold, but rather, we should redouble our efforts and prayers to transform our parishes into the Communities of Saints mentioned in the founding vision for the Plan.

Although no more of our new parishes can be officially set up until we have a new pastor for the Diocese, there is much that we can and should, still do. The three new parishes of Brighton & Hove, Guildford, and Weybridge will continue along the path of renewal and planning for mission through a focus on prayer and formation. The remaining eight deaneries, already at various stages along this pathway, will also continue with their preparations for the structural changes which will be necessary to serve the mission.

Ongoing support and resourcing from the Central Team in the Diocese will always be available to moderators and their teams as they look to the future. Although we would not want to present a new Bishop with a *fait accompli* about the future of the Diocese, we can hopefully present him with a gift; a gift which looks like parishes and communities which are flourishing and committed to renewal and mission, with clergy and lay people in shared leadership and collaboration; all of us united by the call of our Baptism.'

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*

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Mass Readings: (15 March – 22 March)

Sun 15 March: 1st Reading - 1 Samuel 16:1b,6-7,10-13a 2nd Reading - Ephesians 5:8-14 Gospel - John 9:1-41
Mon – Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54 **Thu** – 2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a
Tue – Jeremiah 1:4-9; Luke 10:1-12, 17-20 **Fri** – Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Wed – Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30 **Sat** – Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-53
Sunday, 22 March: 1st Reading – Ezekiel 37: 12-14 2nd Reading – Romans 8:8-11 Gospel – John 11:1-45

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, Kryisia 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 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 Mary Jarvis, Mary Devlin, Patricia Minnis, Ann Wallace, Margaret Trueman, Verner Wylie, Jo Fallon and Bernard O'Grady whose anniversaries are this week. ***Eternal rest grant unto them, oh Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.***

Pope's March prayer intention: 'for disarmament and peace'

Pope Leo XIV released his prayer intention for the month of March, inviting Catholics to pray with him for 'disarmament and peace,' and praying that 'the nuclear threat may never again dictate the future of humanity.' You can pray along with the Pope with this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSrOCQDFdFA>

Conflicts and tensions exist that threaten people's lives and their ability to live together. Some can drag on for years if the path of dialogue and reconciliation has not been chosen. This is particularly concerning for the most vulnerable and for future generations.

In his prayer intention for March, Pope Leo invites us to pray that nations lay down their weapons, adopt diplomacy and justice, and seek true security founded on trust and solidarity among peoples. In his prayer this month, the Holy Father invites us to pray that "every kind word, every gesture of reconciliation, and every choice for dialogue be seeds of a new world."

You are not alone. By praying, you join the millions of people who belong to the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network who, from every corner of the world, are praying for the challenges of humanity and the Church's mission.



In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord of Life, you shaped every human being in your image and likeness. We believe you created us for communion, not for war, for fraternity, not for destruction.

You who greeted your disciples saying, "Peace be with you," grant us the gift of your peace and the strength to make it a reality in history. Today we lift up our prayer for peace in the world, asking that nations renounce weapons and choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy.

Disarm our hearts of hatred, resentment, and indifference, so we may become instruments of reconciliation. Help us understand that true security does not come from control fuelled by fear, but from trust, justice, and solidarity among peoples.

Lord, enlighten the leaders of the nations, so they may have the courage to abandon projects of death, halt the arms race, and place the lives of the most vulnerable at the centre. May the nuclear threat never again dictate the future of humanity.

Holy Spirit, make us faithful and creative builders of daily peace: in our hearts, our families, our communities, and our cities. May every kind word, every gesture of reconciliation, and every choice for dialogue be seeds of a new world.

Amen.

Worth Parish Community Billboard

CAFOD during Lent at Worth Parish

CAFOD's focus this lent will be on addressing hunger via improved farming methods.



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 special presentation each week and a 'pay what you wish' bottomless cafe, with all donations going to CAFOD. Coffee, tea and sweet treats are on offer. Please note there will be no coffee meeting during Holy Week.

We would be grateful to Parishioners and Community members for your support if you can spare a few minutes to join us. The coffee is good, but the conversation is even better. You can pop in and out as your schedule allows, there is no need to stay for the full session. This is a lovely opportunity for parishioners, students and community to meet.

Upcoming presentations:

18/3 Worth School musicians will perform.

25/3 Father Rod will speak



WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK!

Do you have a spare 5 minutes? We would love to get some feedback on whether you have interacted with Worth Pro Earth. Please follow the link below and tell us your thoughts!

[Worth Pro Earth feedback form – Fill in form](#)

Tenebrae

Tenebrae will be at 7.45pm on Thursday 26th March. It is a school event, and the boarders will be present. However, there will be plenty of spare seating.

Over the years it has built up into a very moving Liturgy, where we extinguish the candles one by one. This year the six Old Testament readings will be replaced by the reading of one of the Four Passions but split into six episodes during the Liturgy. All are welcome!



Parish Activities and Announcements

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES...

This Sunday, 15th March – Family Formation Groups Continue

Friday, 20th March - Stations of the Cross, 7.15pm, Abbey Church

Saturday 21st March – Family Stations of the Cross at 10:30am. Children of all ages welcome, followed by biscuits and drinks. Any questions please contact Emily Coughlan emily.mary@hotmail.co.uk

Friday, 27th March - Stations of the Cross, 7.15pm, Abbey Church

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

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!**

Calling all I.T people!

Anyone familiar with Adobe Photoshop or with ISP Square Space and willing to be consulted occasionally to help out a small charity, please contact the Parish Office.

Also, anyone with experience of eBay and similar sites who might like selling for charity, please contact the Parish Office.



Easter Eggs at the Fair-Trade stall

The Fair-Trade stall has children's Easter Eggs for sale.

On sale is the creamy Fairtrade milk chocolate Easter Egg from The Meaningful Chocolate Company, complete with a large 24-page Easter story-activity book.



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.*



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 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

Sunday Mass Booklets

We are looking for volunteer support from members of the Sunday congregation to assist in the production and printing of our Sunday Mass booklets, which is at present undertaken by Fr David alone. This involves weekly work on creating the Mass booklet and work on printing the copies we all use. We have one generous offer of support for the work of creating the booklet (requires some computer skills) and will be grateful for others joining the team; we are also looking for a small team of printers, who will work with the reprographics equipment available on site to make copies of the booklets. Please consider whether you might be able to help one of these teams whose work is vital to our Sunday worship.

Please speak to or email annmccarthyuk annmccarthyuk@hotmail.co.uk if you are able to help, or to find out more.



Easter Triduum Timetable at Worth Abbey 2026

Maundy Thursday – 2 April 2026

06:15–06:50 Matins

07:30–08:00 Lauds

13:00–13:10 Midday Prayer (no Vespers)

20:00–20:20 Confessions

20:30–21:30 Community Concelebrated Mass of the Lord's Supper – followed by Watching at the Altar of Repose (Unity Room) until midnight

Good Friday – 3 April 2026

06:15–06:50 Matins

07:30–08:00 Lauds

13:00–13:10 Midday Prayer

14:30–14:50 Confessions

15:00–16:40 Good Friday Service of the Lord's Passion

Immediately After Service Confessions for 30 minutes

20:15–20:30 Compline (no Vespers)

Holy Saturday – 4 April 2026

06:15–06:50 Matins

07:30–08:00 Lauds

13:00–13:10 Midday Prayer

18:45–19:15 Vespers

20:30–20:50 Confessions

21:00–22:30+ Easter Vigil Mass of the Lord's Resurrection – followed by refreshments in the Narthex

Easter Sunday – 5 April 2026

08:30–09:00 Lauds

09:15–09:45 Confessions

10:00–11:00 Parish Easter Morning Mass

13:00–13:10 Midday Prayer

18:00–18:30 Pontifical Vespers

Other Activities and Announcements



COME AND SING AT WORTH ABBEY

Saturday 18th April 2026

Take part in an afternoon of beauty and joy as Worth Abbey Choir prepares and performs Louis Vierne's Messe solennelle, op. 16

Rehearsal (singers)	11am-12:40pm
Lunch break (singers)	12:40-1:30pm
Rehearsal (singers)	1:30-2:30pm
Pre-concert Refreshments	2:30-3pm
Concert	3-3:45pm



£10 per singer (includes free take-home score). Registration required.
Free entrance to guests attending the concluding concert.
For further information and to register, please visit
<https://worthabbey.net/our-retreats>



FRAMING THE FUTURE: A BENEDICTINE APPROACH

A talk by Abbot Christopher Jamison
Saturday 11th April – Unity Room, Worth Abbey

What frame will we choose to face the future?
Abbot Christopher will look at ways in which the Benedictine life can offer a creative approach to facing the future.



About Abbot Christopher Jamison

Abbot Christopher Jamison OSB is the Abbot President of the English Benedictine Congregation and former abbot of Worth. Known for his thoughtful teaching and his writing on monastic spirituality, he has introduced Benedictine wisdom to a wide audience through his books and public work.

10.30	Coffee in Narthex
11.00	Talk and Q and A
12.00	Optional light lunch
1.00	Midday Prayer



To reserve a place, please visit our website at
<https://worthabbey.net/latest-news/>
For further assistance email kohara@worth.org.uk

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 17 Mar | Tues 24 Mar



Or register using the QR code:



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

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



Men's Way of the Cross 2026 - Friday 20th to Saturday 21st March - Our Lady of Ransom Church, Eastbourne

The event will follow the same format as previous years - beginning at Our Lady of Ransom Church, Eastbourne, with Adoration and Confessions at 9pm, Holy Mass at 10pm, and the Way of the Cross departing at 11pm. We return at dawn for a period of quiet Adoration, testimonials, and breakfast together.

If you know a man who would benefit from this night - a friend, family member, or fellow parishioner - please pass this on to him directly or share the event website.

Full information, including route details and how to confirm your attendance, is available at www.menswayofthecross.co.uk We hope to see you on the trail.



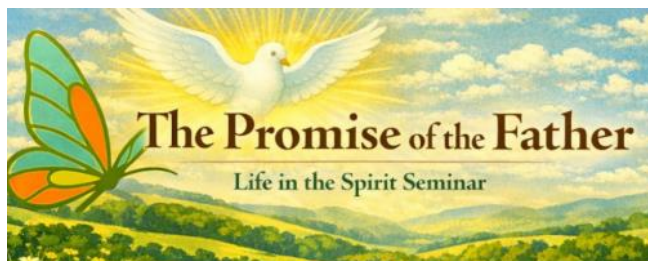
Life In the Spirit Seminars - St Joseph's, Redhill, starting Tuesday 14th April 2026

Stuart Burman, who coordinates the delivery of the Charismatic Renewal International Service (CHARIS) in our Diocese, is hosting 'Life in the Spirit Seminars' at St Joseph's, Redhill, on the Tuesdays of this coming Eastertide, culminating with a Mass and laying on of hands at West Grinstead on the Eve of Pentecost.

For further information, please visit

<https://www.abcharismatic.org/the-promise-of-the-father-2026/>

Canon Jonathan Martin writes: 'I hosted these Seminars in Lewes, a few years ago, with different speakers for each of the evenings. The Seminars produced many and great fruits for the parish'.



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



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



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>)



Reconciled through the Cross

The God Who Speaks project have released a new Lent resource called Reconciled through the Cross.

Forgiveness is a recurring theme in the Bible, which develops from being an act of duty to an act of generosity. This reaches its climax in the New Testament when Jesus commands his followers to forgive each other countless times and embeds this in the prayer that will identify his disciples – the Lord's Prayer. Nevertheless, forgiveness can be one of the hardest things to give and to receive.

Do we truly believe that God has forgiven us? How often do we fail to forgive ourselves? The Greek word 'metanoia' means: repentance, a fundamental change in character and way of life or spiritual conversion. This compound word combines two ideas - time and change – which may be described as 'after' and 'different' so that the whole meaning is "to think differently after". A change of mindset accompanied by regret can enable a change of behaviour.

In Hebrew, the idea of repentance has a different nuance. It is represented by two verbs meaning 'to return' and 'to feel sorrow'. This combination of proactive turning back to God and the emotional catalyst of pain over sin together facilitate the change that can emerge. We are not asked to pretend that our wounds never existed but to acknowledge that they do not need to wound us forever. Similarly, we are called to reflect on the wounds we have inflicted on others and to consider any actions we may need to take towards reconciliation.

Within our societies and church communities there is a deep need and longing for healing and forgiveness. We can see shadows of darkness where pain, anger, intolerance and despair flourish. These shadows speak of cries for forgiveness and reconciliation - for healing within ourselves, our families, neighbourhoods, churches and communities. Forgiveness can begin to heal those wounds and bring reconciliation.



To read "Reconciled through the Cross", please visit <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Reconciled-through-the-Cross-2.pdf>

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