



# In Touch

Holy Week (A)  
28<sup>th</sup> March / 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
No. 1464

## Reflections on the Feast of the Annunciation

On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March we celebrated the Solemnity of the Annunciation, which commemorates the visit of the Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary and her “Yes” in response to the message that she would miraculously conceive by the Holy Spirit.

Archbishop John Sherrington announced the theme for this year’s *Day for Life* in a reflection for the Feast of the Annunciation.

In his contemplation on the Virgin Mary’s ‘Yes’, Archbishop Sherrington calls to mind that: “God chose to enter the world as an unborn child, embracing the fullness of human existence from its earliest stage. His coming reveals that at every point of development, the child in the womb is a unique and irreplaceable human person.

“This same truth will form the theme of the forthcoming *Day for Life*, which will take place on **Sunday, 21 June**. The day will invite us to reflect on the humanity of the unborn and to acknowledge with compassion the deep grief experienced by parents who lose a child before or shortly after birth.”

“Most importantly, this Feast celebrates the very moment of Christ’s conception, when ‘the Word became Flesh’ (John 1:14). For this reason, this day has traditionally also been known as the Feast of the Incarnation.

“St Maximilian Kolbe described the Incarnation as the moment when ‘all of Heaven meets all of the earth,’ calling it the ‘highest expression of love’. For centuries, the Church has honoured this moment through the Angelus prayer. The prayer is traditionally said daily at 6am, 12 noon, and 6pm, which is why many Catholic churches still ring their bells at midday.

“The mystery of the Incarnation and its deep imprint on both religious and civic life remind us of the dignity that belongs to every human being from the moment of conception. God chose to enter the world as an unborn child, embracing the fullness of human existence from its earliest stage. His coming reveals that at every point of development, the child in the womb is a unique and irreplaceable human person.

I invite everyone to renew our reverence for every human life, a reverence that has been at the foundation of our society for nearly two thousand years. This can involve offering compassionate support, where we can, to those who have lost a baby before or at birth. I also commend a renewed devotion to the Angelus. In that quiet daily pause, we can relive the Annunciation in our hearts and, following Our Lady, offer our own ‘yes’ to God’s call to love Him and every human person, without exception.”

### **Archbishop John Sherrington**

*Lead Bishop for Life Issues*

Archbishop of Liverpool

#### 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** - *The Holy Places* – Good  
Friday, see website

#### Inside this week’s In Touch...

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### **Mass Readings: (29 March – 5 April)**

**Sun 29 March (Palm Sunday):** 1<sup>st</sup> Reading - Isaiah 50:4-7 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading - Philippians 2:6-11 Gospel – Matthew 26:14-:27:66  
**Mon** – Isaiah 42:1-7; John 12:1-11 **Thu** – Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; John 13:1-15  
**Tue** – Isaiah 49:1-6; John 13:21-33, 36-38 **Fri** – Isaiah 52:13-,53:12; John 18:1-,19:42  
**Wed** – Isaiah 50:4-9a; Matthew 26:14-25 **Sat** – Genesis 1:1-,2:2; Matthew 28:1-10  
**Sun 5 April (Easter Sunday):** 1<sup>st</sup> Reading - Acts 10:34a,37-43 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading - Colossians 3:1-4 Gospel - John 20:1-9

### **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 Mgr John Vance, Tom Shann, Evelyn Ticehurst, Bert Rayson, Rev Guy Bowden, Ann Thomas, Edward Lightburn, Tom McGahan, Terry Black, Andrew Martin, Peter Lazarus, Marjorie Burrows, Germaine Garnaud and Julian Dare whose anniversaries are this week. ***Eternal rest grant unto them, oh Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.***

Please do remember in your prayers at this time, Isobel Ross, who will be received into the church at the Easter Vigil.

### **Worth Parish Community Billboard**



#### **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](#)

### **School Tenebrae Service - Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March, 7.45pm, Abbey Church**

You are warmly invited to attend the school's beautiful annual Tenebrae service. Tenebrae is a deeply moving service of prayer and scripture held in the days leading up to Holy Week. Rooted in Christian worship from at least the ninth century, it invites us to journey into the mystery of Christ's Passion through silence, candlelight, and the slow unfolding of the biblical story.

The school service is shaped around a series of short readings from Scripture, interwoven with chant and responses. As the service progresses, candles are gradually extinguished, allowing darkness to gather and creating a powerful space for reflection on suffering, hope, and redemption. Tenebrae offers a rare opportunity to pause, listen, and pray together as we prepare our hearts for Easter.



### **Baptism Preparation**

Please pray for some of the youngest members of our parish community who will be baptised soon.

Please also include their parents in your prayers. They have just completed their baptism preparation course here at Worth.

From left to right: Melody and Luke with baby Raphael, Harlan and Belinda with baby Theo, David and Aislinn with Cillian and Hugo, and Lucy and baby Leo.

## Parish Activities and Announcements

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES...

**Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> March** - Stations of the Cross, 7.15pm, Abbey Church

**Holy Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March** – Service of Reconciliation at 7:30pm

There will be no Lectio Divina on Tuesday the 31<sup>st</sup> of March and the 7<sup>th</sup> of April.

### LENT HOUSE GROUPS...

**Cuckfield/Balcombe** - Monday afternoons at 3.30pm starting Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. All Welcome. Please contact Christina [cfitzs3287@aol.com](mailto:cfitzs3287@aol.com) or Christie [christiegrieve@gmail.com](mailto:christiegrieve@gmail.com)

**Worth Abbey Parish Office** - Friday mornings at 10.30am starting Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February. All Welcome. Please contact Jenny [jenny\\_chapman@sky.com](mailto:jenny_chapman@sky.com)

**Crawley Down** - Thursday at 2.30pm, starting next Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February. All Welcome. Please contact Carol [carolmorice251@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto:jenny_chapman@sky.com). All welcome!

**Christian Meditation** - Unity Room, 7-8pm, 4<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. **New parishioners, all families welcome!**

For those that have requested them, Gift Aid envelopes are ready to collect in the Narthex (28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> March)

### Easter Egg Hunt

We are looking for helpers for the annual Easter egg hunt next Sunday. It will involve arriving early to hide the eggs and helping run the hunt after Mass - exchanging plastic eggs for chocolate ones and serving children's drinks.

Please can you let Emily Coughlan know if you could help [emily\\_mary@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:emily_mary@hotmail.co.uk)



### Calling all I.T people!

Anyone with experience of Ebay and similar sites who might like selling for charity, please contact the Parish 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.

### 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.*



### **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](mailto: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***

### **Family Formation Groups**

We are currently looking for volunteers to support our family formation groups. These take place after mass (11am) for one hour on the third Sunday of the month. In total the commitment is ten Sundays each year.

You do not need any previous experience as you will be given resources and guidance from those already supporting groups. You are just asked to bring your interest and enthusiasm as our children develop their understanding and love of their faith.

We have four age groups 3-5, 6-8, 8-11 and 12-16, with between about 6 and 12 children in each group.

Please consider volunteering for this very important ministry. If you are able to participate, please contact Fr Rod.



## MONASTIC INTERNSHIPS AT WORTH ABBEY

- A two month stay with full board and lodging, provided free of charge
- Experience Monastic Life and encounter God
- Live alongside the Benedictine community
- A unique opportunity to participate in Prayer, work and study alongside the monks
- Explore the joy and beauty of the Worth Estate

Next Available Dates:  
4 September - 6 November 2026 and July - August 2027



We welcome people from all spiritual traditions and backgrounds

Website: [worthabbey.net/interns](http://worthabbey.net/interns)  
Email: [interns@worth.org.uk](mailto:interns@worth.org.uk) Phone: 01342 710370



## COME AND SING AT WORTH ABBEY

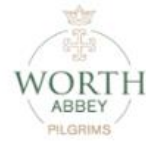
*Saturday 18th April 2026*

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](mailto:kohara@worth.org.uk)

## 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

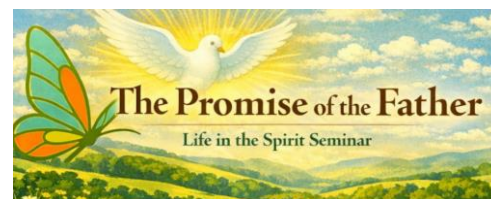
## Other Activities and Announcements

### **Life In The Spirit Seminars - St Joseph's, Redhill, starting Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026**

You are warmly invited to take part in our upcoming Life in the Spirit Seminar in support of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, taking place in St Joseph's Redhill with Pentecost Vigil at Our Lady of Consolation West Grinstead.

This journey over seven sessions is an opportunity to deepen your relationship with Jesus and to experience anew the abundant power of His Holy Spirit. Each session includes inspiring teaching from excellent speakers, personal testimonies, small-group sharing and prayer.

For further information, please visit <https://www.abcharismatic.org/the-promise-of-the-father-2026/>



### **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](http://davidwellslive.com)

To register, go to the Events page of the Diocesan website [www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events](http://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events)  
If you have any questions about the day please contact Deacon Simon South, Diocesan Marriage & Family Life Adviser [simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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>)



### **Please join us on a Mary's Meals walking pilgrimage**

Would you like to join a Mary's Meals walking pilgrimage this year? Details of all the pilgrimages are available here: <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/get-involved/charity-events/walk-for-hope>.

Options include the Augustine Camino from Rochester to Ramsgate via Aylesford Priory, Canterbury Cathedral and Minster Abbey from 5-11 September, and The Way of Our Lady of Consolation from West Grinstead to Storrington and onto Arundel Cathedral from 8-9 May.

You are very welcome to join us for a single day, for several days, or for a whole pilgrimage. Come on your own or as a group. To find out more or to sign up, please go to <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/get-involved/charity-events/walk-for-hope> or contact Roy Peachey from Mary's Meals at [info@marysmeals.org](mailto:info@marysmeals.org).



**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:parish@worth.org.uk)

**Parish Website:** [www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk](http://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/](http://www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk/) **Email:** [safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk](mailto: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*