



In Touch

4th Week of Easter (A)
25th April / 26th April 2026
No. 1467

Dear Parishioners

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

This Sunday is known as **Good Shepherd Sunday**. At mass we hear the reading from St John's Gospel, cp 10, where Jesus tells the parable in which he describes himself as the Good Shepherd: *The sheep hear his voice. One by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice.* In these words, he expresses his care and love for his people, the People of God; and he continues, *I am the good shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep.*

All of us share the vocation of our baptism to be sons and daughters of God and disciples of Jesus, to know him and to be known by him; but on this day especially we are encouraged to pray for vocations to the priesthood and to the religious life.

In his message Pope Leo writes: *Only the one who pauses, listens, prays and welcomes the Shepherd's gaze can say with confidence: "I trust him; life with him can truly be beautiful. I want to walk this path of beauty." ... the Christian vocation reveals itself in all its depth as a participation in the life of Jesus, by sharing in his mission and reflecting his beauty. We are invited to know God through prayer, listening to the Word, the Sacraments, the life of the Church and works of charity for our brothers and sisters... God dwells in our hearts. A vocation entails an intimate dialogue with the One who calls and invites us to respond, despite the deafening noise of the world, with true joy and generosity.*

He continues with an appeal to young people: *Listen to the voice of the Lord who invites you to a full and fruitful life, calling you to put your talents to use (cf. Mt 25:14-30) and to unite your limitations and weaknesses with the glorious cross of Christ. Make time, then, for Eucharistic adoration; meditate faithfully on the word of God, so that you may put it into practice each day; and participate actively and fully in the sacramental and ecclesial life of the Church. In this way, you will come to know the Lord. Through the intimacy of his friendship, you will discover how to give of yourselves, whether through marriage, the priesthood, the permanent diaconate, or consecrated life. Every vocation is an immeasurable gift for the Church and for those who receive it with joy. To know the Lord means above all learning to entrust oneself to him and to his providence, which is abundant in every vocation.*

Do please pray for your own vocation and for those of all members of the Church. Please see Pope Leo's article : <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/vocations/documents/20260316-messaggio-vocazioni.html>

I send you my very best wishes.

Yours, *Fr Paul.*

Mass Times at Worth Abbey:

Sundays - 9.30am (Family Mass, with choir)

Mondays to Fridays - 5.30 pm

Saturdays - 9am & 5pm (First Mass of Sunday), Feast Days 5.30pm

Days of Obligation - see website

Second Collection - World Day of Prayer for Vocations – The Education of Future Priests

Inside this week's In Touch...

✓ Prayers and Mass Readings, page 2

✓ Worth Parish Community Billboard, page 2-6

✓ **New!** Holy Week at Worth Abbey Photo Essay, pages 2-6

✓ Parish Activities and Announcements, pages 6-8

✓ Other Activities and Announcements, page 8-9

Mass Readings: (26 April – 3 May)

Sun 26 April: 1st Reading - Acts 2:14a, 36-41 2nd Reading – 1 Peter 2:20b-25 Gospel - John 10:1-10
Mon – Acts 11:1-18; John 10:11-18 **Thu** – Acts 13:13-25; John 13:16-20
Tue – Acts 11:19-26; John 10:22-30 **Fri** – Acts 13:26-33; Matthew 13:54-58
Wed – 1 John 1:5-2:2; Matthew 11:25-30 **Sat** – Acts 13:44-52; John 14:7-14
Sunday 26 April: 1st Reading - Acts 6:1-7 2nd Reading – 1 Peter 2:4-9 Gospel - John 14:1-12

Prayers

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Hazel and Enrico Folli, who have just adopted baby Aurora. Please pray for them all.

Please pray for the sick of our parish: Michael Wall, Krysia Smith, 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 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 Jean Eicher, Nina Pokultinis, Simon Hulme, Edwin Ryan, Barbara Geary, Althea Harris, Coral Botting, Helen Sweetman, Matthew Dawson, Sheila White, Veira Flanagan and Patricia Blake whose anniversaries are this week. ***Eternal rest grant unto them, oh Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.***

Prayer For Priestly and Religious Vocations

Renew Your Church, O Lord, through the witness of ardent men and women who have given up everything for You. Teach us humility, O Lord, through the joyful poverty of religious who have renounced worldly pleasure, honour, and wealth.

Stir up your love, O Lord, through the radical example of sisters and brothers who selflessly serve the poorest of the poor.

Call forth many young people, O Lord, to consecrate their lives entirely to You, so that, following their example, the Church may transform the world.
Amen.

Pray with the Pope, April: For Priests in Crisis

Let us pray also for Pope Francis, who went home to God this time last year, on April 21, 2025.

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

Lord Jesus,
Good Shepherd and companion on the journey,
today we place in your hands all priests,
especially those going through moments of crisis,
when loneliness weighs heavily,
when doubt clouds their hearts,
and when exhaustion seems stronger than hope.

You who know their struggles and wounds,
renew in them the certainty of your unconditional love.
Let them feel they are not mere functionaries or lonely heroes,
but beloved sons, humble and cherished disciples,
and pastors sustained by the prayer of their people.

Good Father,
teach us as a community to care for our priests:
to listen without judging,
to give thanks without demanding perfection,

to share with them the baptismal mission
of proclaiming the Kingdom in word and deed,
and to accompany them with closeness and sincere prayer.
May we support those who so often support us.

Holy Spirit,
rekindle in our priests the joy of the Gospel.
Grant them healthy friendships, networks of fraternal support,
a sense of humour when things don't go as expected,
and the grace to always rediscover the beauty of their vocation.
May they never lose trust in You,
nor the joy of serving your Church with a humble and generous heart.

Amen.

Source: <https://www.popesprayer.va/praywiththepope/>



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](#)



Photo Essay – 7 Baptisms!

On 12th April 2026, we warmly welcomed seven babies and children into the Church - Vittoria Emanuely Silva Spancerski, Scarlett Blossom Silva Spancerski, Hugo Hammond, Cillian Hammond, Raphael Thomas, baby Theo and baby Leo. Please see below a selection of photos from this special day.

(Our thanks to the Spancerski, Hammond and Savoy families for providing photos of their special day, and to Hazel G-F for additional photos)





Parish Activities and Announcements

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES...

Saturday 9th May - Join Worth Pro Earth on a walk around Worth Estate at 10:30am

AND OUR REGULAR ACTIVITIES...

Sacrament of Reconciliation – Sundays 08.45–09.15am in the church, or by appointment with Fr. Paul / Fr Rod

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

Healing Service - 4th Sunday of the month 10.45am to 11.15am in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel

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!**

Prayers for Healing - Sunday 26th April

Our monthly healing service will take place in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel following the 9.30am Mass, 10.45am - 11.15am. This will be an opportunity to gather in the presence of the Lord, to pray for our families, those we know in need of prayer and for ourselves. All welcome.

LOST AND FOUND

*Please check the lost property box in the Narthex alcove for anything you think you may have lost recently in the abbey church. The contents in the box will be disposed of shortly!

*Has anyone lost their phone? It was found a couple of weeks ago in the Parish Office Sitting Room. *Please contact Parish Office for further information.*



Parents and Children – a gentle reminder!

There have been several 'health and safety' concerns raised recently. A reminder to parents that children do remain their responsibility at all times: in the church, the narthex or areas outside the Abbey church. Many thanks

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.

Curious about the Catholic Church? Would you like to find out more about it!

We are inviting anyone who would like to hear more about the Catholic Church or is interested in becoming a Catholic, to join a small informal group exploring questions concerning faith: what it actually is, the implications for how we understand our lives and how it can change us! The group would meet on a weekday evening between 7.30pm and 9pm



If you know anyone who might be interested in joining the group, please do invite them!

Please speak with Fr Rod or Fr Paul or simply contact the parish office directly if you would like more information.

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 or Fr Paul.





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

Parish Walk

Saturday May 9th 2026

Join Worth Pro Earth and our expert guide, parishioner, Mark Tibble to learn about the Worth Abbey estate, followed by tea/coffee and biscuits and the opportunity to join Midday Office.

Meet at 10:30am on the piazza for a 10:45am start
Return to the piazza ca 12:45pm

Children are very welcome, as are dogs on leads
Sturdy walking shoes and long trousers required due to the hilly and in part damp terrain and the menace of tick bites.

Register here: <https://forms.office.com/r/rk9a9asEPG>

Other Activities and Announcements

A Year On - Pope Francis Remembered

Pope Leo XIV praised the example of his predecessor whom he remembered for "truly living out closeness to the most poor."

"He left so much to the church, with his witness and his word," Pope Leo said, recalling the late pope's efforts of "looking to promote an authentic respect for all men and women, promoting this spirit of fraternity."

Francis dedicated Fratelli Tutti, [one of his four](#) papal encyclicals, one of the most authoritative teaching documents a pope can issue, on the theme of "fraternity and social friendship."

Leo also remembered his example of mercy, recalling his predecessor's [first Sunday Angelus address as pope](#), in which Francis said that "God never ever tires of forgiving us."

Pope Leo noted how, in that instance, Pope Francis "spoke from the heart of the mercy of God, how he spoke from the heart of this great love, of forgiveness, of this generous expression of the mercy of the Lord."

"And he wanted to share this spirit with the whole church," he continued.

Excerpts taken from: <https://www.ncronline.org/vatican/pope-leo-remembers-predecessors-legacy-mercy-first-anniversary-death>



St Carlo Acutis Eucharistic Miracles exhibition to visit Weybridge

Christ the Prince of Peace, Weybridge, is to host a fantastic St Carlo Acutis Eucharistic Miracles exhibition this summer. Pope Leo declared London-born Carlo Acutis the Catholic Church's first Millennial saint on Sunday 7 September. St Carlo, who died in 2006 at the age of 15, is a saint for our times. He once said, "The Eucharist is my highway to heaven!" and his commitment to the fundamental truths of Catholicism, particularly his deep devotion to the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, is an inspiration to generations of young people.

St Carlo was given his first computer aged nine; and was soon begging his mother for books on how to code, to apply his skills to creating a **website** on Eucharistic miracles.

From 25 August to 3 September, Christ the Prince of Peace Church in Weybridge will host the International Eucharistic Miracles exhibition originally conceived and designed by St Carlo and presenting over 100 Eucharistic miracles which occurred over the centuries in various countries and are recognised by the Church.

Fr David Murphy, Parish Priest at Christ the Prince of Peace, said:

"It promises to be a very special time, filled with prayer and many inspiring moments. I believe this will be a meaningful opportunity for many to deepen their faith, especially through the witness of St Carlo.

This exhibition also leads us towards the first anniversary of his canonisation on 7 September. During these days, we hope to place a particular focus on youth, vocations, Eucharistic adoration, and the life of our new parish and diocese.

It may also be a lovely pastoral initiative to consider a novena across our churches during this time, entrusting these intentions to the Lord through the intercession of Carlo Acutis."

The new Parish of Weybridge was inaugurated on 7 December and includes 9 church communities in Weybridge, Addlestone, Chertsey, Englefield Green, Esher & Thames Ditton, Molesey & Hersham and Walton-on-Thames. Our diocesan shrine to St Carlo is located at **St Peter's**, Hove.

Source: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/news/st-carlo-acutis-eucharistic-miracles-exhibition-to-visit-weybridge>

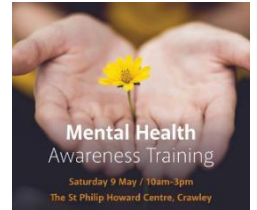


Mental Health Awareness training – Sat 9th May 2026 10-3pm @ St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley - Tickets are just £40 per delegate (usual price £120)

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



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.



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