



In Touch

5th Week of Easter (A)
2nd May / 3rd May 2026
No. 1468

A month of Prayer for Priestly Vocations: Good Shepherd Sunday to Pentecost

Praying for the mission of the Church and for the priesthood in Arundel and Brighton.

'Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations'

Last Sunday I mentioned the invitation sent to every parish to join in prayer for priestly vocations for our diocese.

'The journey from Eastertide to Ascension and Pentecost calls us to mission. This year, the whole diocese is invited to come together for four weeks of prayer to the Holy Spirit to grant us a missionary spirit, through the raising up of new vocations to all walks of life in the Church.

Foremost among these vocations, we need priests.

The priesthood is a special gift to the Church, through which Christ is always present to pour out His Spirit on His people through the holy sacraments.

Why not see this time of prayer as a personal invitation from the Lord to spend an hour His company before the Blessed Sacrament?

A suggested Prayer Itinerary:

4th Week of Easter: Read about the living stones of the Church (1 Peter 2:4-9) and pray for our Catholic families.

5th Week of Easter: Read about the Spirit of truth (Jn14:15-21) and pray for all young people to have the gift of discernment in a changing world.

6th Week of Easter: Read about the spirit of sacrifice (1 Peter 4:13-16) and pray for greater numbers to respond generously, to celebrate the sacrifice of the Mass.

7th Week of Easter: Read about forgiveness of sins (John 20:19-23) and pray for more priests who will celebrate the sacraments of healing with the living and the dying.

Pentecost Sunday: Read about the variety of spiritual gifts that make up the Church (1Cor 12: 4-13) and pray for the Holy Spirit to be poured out on our diocese, to produce many vocations.

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

Inside this week's In Touch...

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Mass Readings: (3 May – 10 May)

Sun 3 May: 1st Reading - Acts 6:1-7	2nd Reading – 1 Peter 2:4-9	Gospel - John 14:1-12
Mon – Acts 7:55-60; Matthew 10:17-22	Thu – Acts 15:7-21; John 15:9-11	
Tue – Acts 14:19-28; John 14:27-31a	Fri – Acts 15:22-31; John 15:12-17	
Wed – Acts 15:1-6; John 15:1-8	Sat – Acts 16:1-10; John 15:18-21	
Sunday 10 May: 1st Reading - Acts 8:5-8	2nd Reading – 1 Peter 4:13-16	Gospel - John 17:1-11a

Prayers

Congratulations to Anha and Sean Thompson, whose daughter, Emilia Helena Rose, was born on the 6th of April!

Please pray for the sick of our parish: Michael Wall, Kryisia Smith, John Maher, John Mulhall, 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, Liz Hicklin, Mike and Jill Carter and Laura Rawlinson. And please pray for the healing of our Diocese Youth Adviser Lizzie Wakeling.

Please pray for Elfriede Huckstep who died this week. Her funeral will be held here, at the Abbey, on Friday 22nd May at 11am. Please pray for her family.

Please continue praying for the souls of Fr. Kevin Taggart and parishioners Gerry Loney, Rory Clarke, Tony Hicklin and Peter Annabring, who died recently. Please pray for the souls of Margaret Albert, Dom Bede Hill, 'Pop' Yaldren, Joan Moody, James Mackey, Judith Whelpton, Linsey Smith and Veronica Andrea Maria Paterson whose anniversaries are this week. ***Eternal rest grant unto them, oh Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.***

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](#)

Jim Beirne Walking to remember his Jackie - Macmillan Cancer Support

You will know Jim Beirne from Sunday morning where he welcomes everyone in the Narthex before mass. He then helps with our offertory collection, so you may have spotted him!

On May 10th, Jim is taking part in the Norfolk Coast Mighty Hike Half Marathon, helping to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Jim has a personal connection to Macmillan Cancer Support, during the most trying and difficult time, when he sadly said goodbye to his wife.

So many of us have been supported by the cancer charities, can you help by donating?

<https://mightyhikesfundraising.macmillan.org.uk/fundraising/james->



Mustard Seeds Group – Eastertide

Our Mustard Seeds group celebrated Easter where they presented the Empty Tomb and celebrated the Easter liturgy of light. (Photos courtesy of Maria Welch)



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!**

Saturday Evening Mass: Advanced notice – post mass refreshments are returning!

Following Mass on Saturday 6th June you are warmly invited to come along to the Unity Room for light refreshments. This will be an excellent opportunity to meet and spend a little time together. Thanks to Anna and Mike, we plan to offer refreshments after each 5pm Mass on the first Saturday of the month.

A Time to Pray: Friday Evening 'Holy Hour' - 7.15pm to 8.15pm

Starting on Friday 5th June in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. You are most welcome join in a time of adoration, reflection and music.

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.





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

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.



Parish Walk

Saturday May 9th 2026

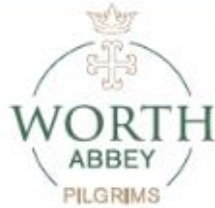
Join Worth Pro Earth and our expert guide, parishioner, Mark Tibble to learn about the Worth Abbey estate, followed by tea/coffee and biscuits and the opportunity to join Midday Office.

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>

Click here to register: [Worth Pro Earth - Parish Walk Registration](https://forms.office.com/r/rk9a9asEPG)



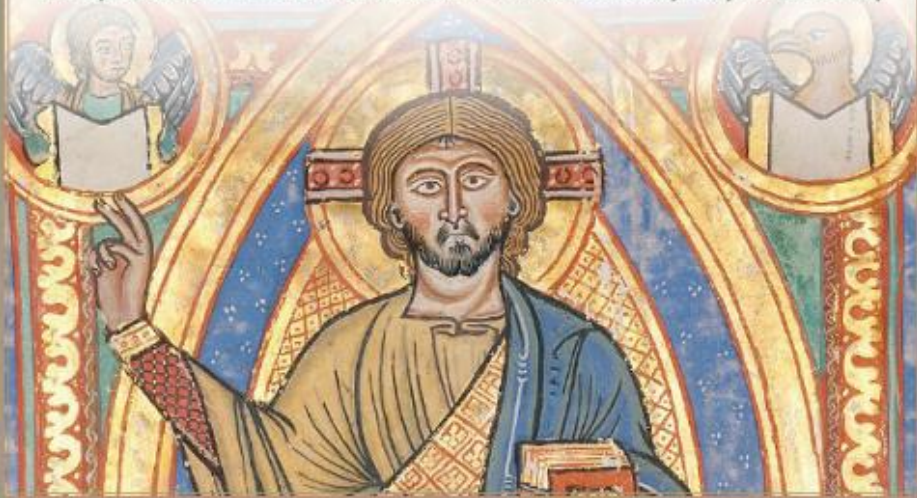
WORTH ABBEY PILGRIMS CELEBRATE CORPUS CHRISTI WITH US Sunday, 7th June

Join us for Mass, a joyful procession of the Blessed Sacrament, and a community gathering as we honour this feast.

9.30am	Mass in the Abbey Church
10.30am	Processions of the Blessed Sacrament
11.15am	Benediction
11.30am	Refreshments in the Narthex

Afterwards, enjoy the beauty of the Abbey Estate as we walk to the Quiet Garden, led by a member of the monastic community. Bring a picnic and take time to enjoy the grounds. Friends and families are especially welcome.

For updates and future events visit: www.worthabbey.net/latest-news/



Other Activities and Announcements

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.



Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day (24th April 2026)

Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day is held annually to commemorate the victims of the Armenian genocide of 1915, a series of massacres and starvation of 1.5 million Armenians.

Bishop Nicholas Hudson, Chair of the Department for International Affairs and Bishop of Plymouth, and Bishop Jim Curry, Vice-Chair of the Department for International Affairs and Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, have issued a statement to mark the 111th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

"On this occasion of the 111th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, we would like to assure the Armenian community, particularly the Armenian diaspora in England and Wales, of our prayers and remembrance at this time.

"As we remember the victims and survivors of the Armenian Genocide of 1915, we also remember the crucial role played by the Armenian Apostolic Church in providing sanctuary, solace and hope in the midst of persecution and tragedy.

"In the face of current challenges, such as the ongoing conflict in the Nagorno-Karabakh region and the forced displacement of the Artsakh Armenian population, we continue to stand alongside our Christian brothers and sisters of the Armenian Apostolic Church in a spirit of friendship and solidarity.

"May the Holy Spirit guide all Christians and people of goodwill on the path to healing, reconciliation and communion.

"St Gregory the Illuminator, pray for us." "St Gregory of Narek, pray for us."



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