



In Touch

Holy Week (A)
4th April / 5th April 2026
No. 1465

Dear Parishioners

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

On Sunday we began our celebration of Holy Week, with the commemoration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem with his disciples, and his passion and death at the hands of the Jewish and Roman authorities. During the course of this week, we are invited to walk with Jesus through the final days of his earthly life, to his Resurrection. I commend to you the liturgies of the Triduum, from Maundy Thursday to the Easter Vigil. This liturgy is called "the night of nights" and represents the climax of the Church's celebration of the mystery of God's saving love.

We offer below, as a meditation to prepare us for this moment of glory, an ancient Christian homily of Holy Saturday, which dwells on Jesus' descent into the underworld to raise up all of sinful humanity.

Something strange is happening - there is a great silence on earth today, a great silence and stillness. The whole earth keeps silence because the King is asleep. The earth trembled and is still because God has fallen asleep in the flesh and he has raised up all who have slept ever since the world began. God has died in the flesh and hell trembles with fear.

He has gone to search for our first parent, as for a lost sheep. Greatly desiring to visit those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death, he has gone to free from sorrow the captives Adam and Eve, he who is both God and the son of Eve. The Lord approached them bearing the cross, the weapon that had won him the victory. At the sight of him Adam, the first man he had created, struck his breast in terror and cried out to everyone: "My Lord be with you all." Christ answered him: "And with your spirit." He took him by the hand and raised him up, saying: "Awake, O sleeper, and rise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

I am your God, who for your sake have become your son. Out of love for you and for your descendants I now by my own authority command all who are held in bondage to come forth, all who are in darkness to be enlightened, all who are sleeping to arise. I order you, O sleeper, to awake. I did not create you to be held a prisoner in hell. Rise from the dead, for I am the life of the dead. Rise up, work of my hands, you who were created in my image. Rise, let us leave this place, for you are in me and I am in you; together we form only one person and we cannot be separated. For your sake I, your God, became your son; I, the Lord, took the form of a slave; I, whose home is above the heavens, descended to the earth and beneath the earth. For your sake, for the sake of man, I became like a man without help, free among the dead. For the sake of you, who left a garden, I was betrayed to the Jews in a garden, and I was crucified in a garden.

See on my face the spittle I received in order to restore to you the life I once breathed into you. See there the marks of the blows I received in order to refashion your warped nature in my image. On my back see the marks of the scourging I endured to remove the burden of sin that weighs upon your back. See my hands, nailed firmly to a tree, for you who once wickedly stretched out your hand to a tree.

I slept on the cross and a sword pierced my side for you who slept in paradise and brought forth Eve from your side. My side has healed the pain in yours. My sleep will rouse you from your sleep in hell. The sword that pierced me has sheathed the sword that was turned against you.

Rise, let us leave this place. The enemy led you out of the earthly paradise. I will not restore you to that paradise, but I will enthrone you in heaven. I forbade you the tree that was only a symbol of life, but see, I who am life itself am now one with you. I appointed cherubim to guard you as slaves are guarded, but now I make them worship you as God. The throne formed by cherubim awaits you, its bearers swift and eager. The bridal chamber is adorned, the banquet is ready, the eternal dwelling places are prepared, the treasure houses of all good things lie open. The kingdom of heaven has been prepared for you from all eternity.

I wish you all a holy and happy celebration of Easter. *Fr Paul*

Mass Times at Worth Abbey:

Sundays - 9.30am (family Mass, with choir)

Mondays to Fridays - 5.30 pm

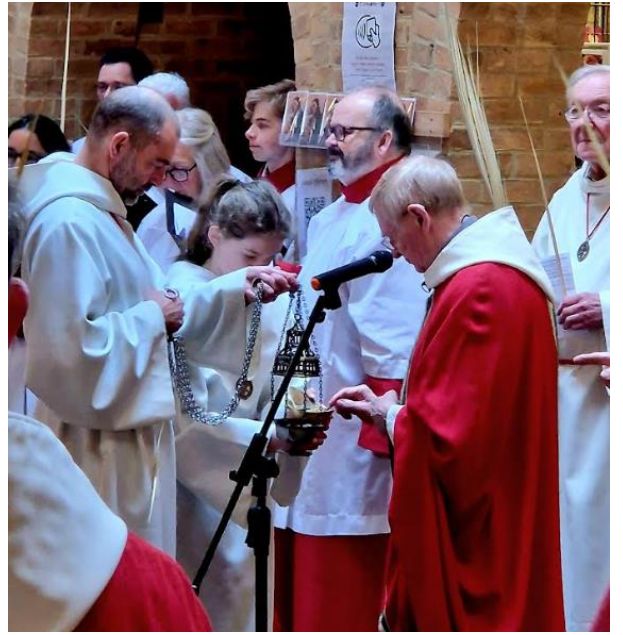
Saturdays - 9am & 5pm (First Mass of Sunday), Feast Days 5.30pm

Days of Obligation - see *website*

Second Collection - The Holy Places – Good Friday

Inside this week's In Touch...

- ✓ Prayers and Mass Readings, page 2
- ✓ Worth Parish Community Billboard, page 2
- ✓ **New!** Palm Sunday at Worth Abbey, page 2-4
- ✓ Parish Activities and Announcements, pages 5-7
- ✓ Other Activities and Announcements, page 7-8





Parish Activities and Announcements

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES...

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

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!

No Lectio Divina on Tuesday 7th April

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!**

For those that have requested them, Gift Aid envelopes are ready to collect in the Narthex

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



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.



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.

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.*



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
Email: interns@worth.org.uk Phone: 01342 710370

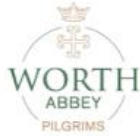


Worth Intercessory Team (WIT):

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



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

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| 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.

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| 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

Other Activities and Announcements

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 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



Life In The Spirit Seminars - St Joseph's, Redhill, starting Tuesday 14th April – 2nd 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/>

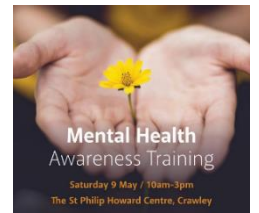


Mental Health Awareness training – Saturday 9 May 2026 10-3pm at the St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley
- Tickets are just £40 per delegate (usual price £120)

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>)



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

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 Rod



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