



# In Touch

7<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter (A)  
16<sup>th</sup> May / 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
No. 1470

## A letter from our Diocesan Administrator Canon Jonathan Martin

My dear brothers and sisters,

It's become a regular Sunday evening 'thing' for me to flick through parish websites and social media platforms to get a glimpse of the life of our communities of faith. How blessed we are to be in such good company with one another in our discipleship of Jesus and in our service of the Gospel. I recently spent a week in Rome with the Bishops of England and Wales, amongst whom there was much talk of, and encouraging interest in our Diocesan Pastoral Plan. I know that, across the Diocese, you are working closely with your priests and deacons to help realise the beautiful vision Bishop (Archbishop) Richard set out for us in 'The Word Who is Life'.

I pray for you all daily. I'm especially mindful of the people of the parishes in which I have been privileged to serve; of the specific needs, sorrows, and joys marking the life of our parish communities in any given week; and of those whose names appear in your newsletters by reason of receiving the Sacraments, or in sickness or bereavement, and the souls of those of our number who have died. All of these prayers I gather together in the Mass I am asked to offer each Sunday 'for all the people of the Diocese'. Please pray for me; and keep praying, each day, for the election of a new Bishop for our Diocese.

God bless you all.

Father Jonathan Martin

I do encourage us to keep Canon Jonathan in our prayers at this time and as he asks us, to pray for all involved in the appointment of a new bishop for our diocese. May the Holy Spirit grant them discernment and wisdom.

*Fr Rod*

### 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 Communication Sunday

### Inside this week's In Touch...

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### **Mass Readings: (17 May – 24 May)**

**Sun 17 May:** 1<sup>st</sup> Reading - Acts 1:12-14      2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – 1 Peter 4:13-16      Gospel - John 17:1-11a  
**Mon** – Acts 19:1-8; John 16:29-33      **Thu** – Acts 22:30,23:6-11; John 17:20-26  
**Tue** – Acts 20:17-27; John 17:1-11a      **Fri** – Acts 25:13b-21; John 21:15-19  
**Wed** – Acts 20:28-38; John 17:11b-19      **Sat** – Acts 28:16-20,30-31; John 21:20-25  
**Sun 24 May (Pentecost):** 1<sup>st</sup> Reading - Acts 2:1-11      2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7,12-13      Gospel - John 20:19-23

### **Prayers**

Please do remember in your prayers Christopher McSharry and the students from Worth School who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this coming Sunday morning. May the Holy Spirit come powerfully upon them and fill their lives with a deep desire to grow in love and service of the Lord.

**Please pray for the sick of our parish:** Michael Wall, Krysia Smith, John Maher, John Mulhall, 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, Liz Hicklin, 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 last week. Her funeral will be held here, at the Abbey, on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 Charles Wilson, Keith Owers, Emma Brackpool, Russell Brailey, Brian Groombridge, Dick Wheeler, Jacque Dickenson, Abbot Victor Farwell, Kathleen Maddock and Patricia Napier-Munn 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

### **Worth Pro Earth (WPE) Parish Estate Walk - 9<sup>th</sup> May**

On Saturday Worth Pro Earth (WPE) organised a tour of the beautiful Worth Estate for parishioners led by fellow parishioner and woodland expert Mark Tibble. Mark was hugely insightful into the challenges and opportunities that exist in Woodlands today here in the UK. WPE will share those insights in the June issue of our newsletter. Do check it next month.

On the tour we also heard from Tim Atkinson the Worth estate farm manager, who gave an outline of some of the initiatives he is currently working on, including the Worth Bee Hives and so much more. Do keep an eye out for more information in the WPE newsletter in the coming months.

If you would like to know more about WPE, do contact us via the parish office email address.





## Parish Activities and Announcements

### **Ascension Hymn Tune - Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 9:30am Mass**

This coming Sunday (7th Sunday of Easter), one of the hymns will be set to a tune we do not regularly sing. Please take the opportunity to familiarise yourself with the melody of this wonderful Ascension hymn in advance of the weekend (but please ignore the final verse's descant!) - the YouTube video is only three minutes long: <https://youtu.be/dX0VK-bnRvo?si=LbYoOZNUMnbg6M5L>



### **Enlarged Service Sheets for Conventual Mass**

For any parishioners with sight issues, there will be enlarged service sheets available at the East Door of the Abbey Church.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES...**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May** - World Communication Day - There will be a second collection to support the work of the Catholic Communications Network - providing facilities and training for those working in the apostolate of the mass media – vital work in today's world!

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May** - School Confirmation Service at 11.30am, Abbey Church

**Starting Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June** - A Time to Pray: Friday Evening 'Holy Hour' - You are most welcome to join in a time of adoration, reflection and music - 7.15pm to 8.15pm, Blessed Sacrament Chapel

## **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](mailto:jenny_chapman@sky.com). All welcome!

**Christian Meditation** - Unity Room, 7-8pm, 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month

**Healing Service** - 4<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. **New parishioners, all families welcome!**

### **A Time for Healing - Sunday 24th May 'Pentecost Sunday'**

You are most welcome to gather in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel after the 9.30am Mass for a short service of prayers for healing. This is a time to come together in prayer - to pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon us, our families and all those we know in need of God's healing presence. Giancarlo and Catherine will be available after the service, to pray with anyone who would like to receive individual prayers for healing.

### **Pentecost Cake Sale – 24<sup>th</sup> May**

There will be a cake sale after Mass on Pentecost Sunday (24th May). This is being organised by the Faith Alive group. If parishioners are able to contribute some cakes that would be very much appreciated! All money raised will be going to support the wonderful charity 'Mary's Meals'.

mary's  
meals



### **A Testimony to Grace - Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May, Unity Room**

Following the Sunday mass on 31<sup>st</sup> May in the Unity Room, you are warmly invited to join with our parishioners, Giancarlo and Catherine. They will share their testimony with us of the many years of service and ministry they have given to the Lord, both here in the UK and abroad. I'm sure it will be a story to inspire and encourage us all!

### **Clothing Donations Needed! - Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group**

As we head into the warmer months, we're putting together a summer clothing collection for those we support at Brook House Immigration Removal Centre and Tinsley House Immigration Removal Centre. If you happen to have any items to spare, or can arrange a collection, we would be so grateful. Thank you again for your kindness and support, it genuinely makes a difference.

We're particularly looking for:

- Men's clothing in Medium and Large sizes
- Light, second-hand summer clothing (T-shirts, joggers, light layers)
- Slippers or comfortable footwear



Refugee Tales

### **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.

### **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!



### **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](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 or Fr Paul.





**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.

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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/](http://www.worthabbey.net/latest-news/)



## Other Activities and Announcements

### **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*