



In Touch

Pentecost (A)
23rd May / 24th May 2026
No. 1471

Dear Parishioners

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

This Sunday, the Feast of Pentecost, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church. The Spirit is the life and love of God which He freely chooses to share with us. Jesus, after his ascension to the Father, sharing now in His power and authority, sends the Spirit to us as *his first gift to those who believe*.

In his account in Acts cp 2, Luke draws on the traditions of the Jewish Feast of Pentecost (*fifty days after Passover*). Originally a harvest celebration, it eventually became a celebration of the gift of the Law at Mount Sinai. The later tradition told how all the nations of the earth were gathered there, and all heard the Law read in their own language, but only the Israelites accepted the Law and the Covenant. Luke applies this tradition to the gift of the Spirit; but now all nations receive the Spirit, and all are welcomed into the Christian community at baptism. (Maybe too there is a sense of the reversal of the confusion and division of the Tower of Babel here.)

John also has the sense of the creation of the community by the Spirit. Indeed, in cp 20 there is a scene of re-creation, remembering Genesis cp 2: Jesus breathes on his disciples, fear is turned to joy, and they embrace their share in the ministry of Jesus – *As the Father sent me, so I am sending you*. The Spirit in John is the one who makes Jesus present to us again: *The Father will give you another Paraclete (Encourager) to be with you for ever...He is in you, with you...I shall not leave you orphans*. (14.16ff)

Most important for the development of the idea of the Spirit in the New Testament perhaps is Paul, especially in Romans cp 8. Here he shows how the gift of the Spirit draws us into the relationship of love between Father and Son, making us adopted children of God, sharing in the inheritance of Jesus. The Spirit allows us to share in Jesus' resurrection and to live a life of holiness (*to walk according to the spirit*) and to share in Jesus' prayer to the Father. "Abba" was the characteristic and intimate word of Jesus' own prayer, which, in the Spirit, we may share: *The spirit of sons (and daughters), making us cry out Abba, Father...we are children of God, heirs of God and co-heirs of Christ*. (8.14ff)

Finally, it is worth noting that in the Eastern Christian tradition the Spirit was regarded as the feminine principle in God. Using Syriac or Aramaic, their word for Spirit was a feminine word (*ruah*), which lent itself to motherly images: in Genesis cp 1, the Spirit hovering over Creation is the motherly aspect of God; and in the psalms, words like *In the shadow of your wings I take refuge* (Psalm 57) were thought of as an appeal to the maternal protection of God in the Spirit.

Unity, love, joy, courage, tenderness, protection, prayer and intimacy with God, with Jesus and with one another. It is difficult to conceive of the riches we are offered by this feast. Let us give thanks for the gifts of the Spirit and embrace them with joy and boldness; and, in the face of social movements which would exclude from our community those who are in any way different from ourselves, let us remember that by welcoming the stranger we welcome Jesus, and his Spirit.

I send my very best wishes to you all. *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 - Missionary Endeavour of the Diocese (Gift Aid) – Diocese of Chulucanas

Inside this week's In Touch...

- ✓ Prayers and Mass Readings, page 2
- ✓ Worth Parish Community Billboard, page 2
- ✓ **New!** Thank you from CAFOD, page 2
- ✓ Parish Activities and Announcements, pages 3-5
- ✓ Other Activities and Announcements, page 5-6

Parish Activities and Announcements

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...

Monday 25th May - 5.30pm Mass will be in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

Starting Friday 5th 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. 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!**

Monthly Healing Service - 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. You are most welcome to come along to receive prayer for yourself, your family or someone you may know in need at this time.

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 – 24th May

There will be a cake sale after Mass on Pentecost Sunday. This is being organized 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'. Please speak to Emily if you'd like more information.

A Testimony to Grace - Sunday 31st May, Unity Room

Following the 9.30am Mass, Giancarlo and Catherine will be sharing with us their testimony of many years of ministry and evangelisation in countries throughout the world. All warmly welcome!

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

Last Call for Young adults! Curious about the Catholic Church? Would you like to find out more about it!

We are inviting any young adult 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: The group will have its first meeting on **Monday between 7.30pm and 9pm - starting on 1st June.**



If you know anyone who might be interested in joining the group, please do invite them to speak with Fr Rod or Fr Paul or simply contact the parish office directly.

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.

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



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.

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.



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



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

PA / Support Worker Needed – East Grinstead

Kind, reliable person sought to support an autistic teenage boy after school and during holidays.

27 hrs term time / 42 hrs holidays
£20 per hour

Ideally a young male with a calm and supportive nature. Experience with autism/SEND preferred. Enhanced DBS required.

Please contact Alice for more information on 07746716830

Arundel Cathedral Intercessors for Corpus Christi

Invitation to give an **HOUR** to spend time with **Jesus, our Eucharistic Lord** ...

Arundel Cathedral Corpus Christi Celebrations

Watchers of Adoration and Intercession in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel are needed throughout the days of **Wednesday June 3rd and Thursday June 4th** in preparation for the solemn Mass of Corpus Christi. You are invited to silently pray before the Tabernacle for the mission of the Arundel Corpus Christi celebrations, for all those involved in preparing and leading it, and for the intentions of all who will attend. The hope is for at least two people of Adoration each hour.

An advance sign-up rota has been prepared by Antonia Moffat so that individuals, parish groups, religious, deacons, and priests from the Diocese and beyond, might sign up for an hour, on the hour, from 10am to 7pm on Wednesday & from 10am to 3.30pm on Thursday. Wednesday will be especially difficult to fill - please kindly consider!

I look forward to hearing from you - antonia4161@gmail.com or by text to 07795192750 to sign up your hour.

Jesus awaits us ...

Meanwhile if you have some other time available you might like to contact Louise Sharp in the Cathedral Office to offer help with stewarding, cake making, hospitality, and much more!

- arundel@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