



# In Touch

6<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter (A)  
9<sup>th</sup> May / 10<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
No. 1469

Dear Parishioners

I hope that you and your families are well. I hold you all in my prayers and ask God's protection for you.

Next Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension, a feast which celebrates the power of God's love at work in Jesus on our behalf. In an older form of the liturgy, this was marked by the extinguishing of the Paschal candle during mass, thus signifying the end of the period of forty days during which, according to Luke's scheme, Jesus appeared to his disciples. (It is significant that St Paul did not share in these appearances and therefore did not qualify as an apostle according to St Luke's criterion.) Today, we no longer extinguish the candle, as this can give the impression that the feast is about Jesus leaving us, his absence. In fact, of course, it is not about his absence, but about his triumph, and, as such, forms an equal part with the celebration of Easter. Both feasts celebrate his exaltation but using different symbolism. At Easter we speak of Jesus' triumph over death, and his return from the place of the dead; at the Ascension, we speak of his triumph over hostile spiritual powers – anything which might separate us from God – and his going up to heaven to share his Father's reign.

In the second reading of the feast, we hear: *God raised him from the dead and made him sit at his right hand, in heaven...He has put all things under his feet. (Ephesians 1.20-23)* The cloud which receives him (Acts 1.9) signifies the presence of the Father, alluding to the cloud of glory, or shekinah, which followed the Israelites through the desert after the Exodus, and filled the Temple in Jerusalem when it was dedicated by King Solomon. Our celebration reminds us that this is all for our sake: *Where the Head has gone before in glory, the Body is called to follow in hope.* (Collect of the day) It is especially significant for us that Jesus ascended in bodily form – fully human, and fully divine – so that we may hope to share in his glory. Indeed, elsewhere in the letter to the Ephesians, Paul writes: *God raised us up with Jesus and gave us a place with him in heaven. (2.6)* We already share in Jesus' triumph through our baptism, and, in hope, share in his glory. In the earliest Christian liturgy, the entire period of fifty days from Easter to Pentecost was regarded as one 'great Sunday', a continuous celebration of the triumph of Jesus. Later, the liturgy adopted Luke's chronology – he is the only New Testament author who distinguishes the Ascension from the Resurrection – and divided the time, distinguishing Easter, Ascension and Pentecost. Today's feast leads into Pentecost, which we celebrate on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>, by emphasising that Jesus sends the Holy Spirit from his place 'at God's right hand', sharing in the power and authority of the Father.

I hope that during these days you will be able to give time to prayer, begging the Lord to grant us a renewal of His Holy Spirit, to strengthen all His disciples, and to give our parish fresh energy to work with Him to build a community of love.

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** - next weekend (16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>) there will be a second collection for World Communication Sunday

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

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### Mass Readings: (10 May – 17 May)

<b>Sun 10 May:</b> 1st Reading - Acts 8:5-8	2nd Reading – 1 Peter 3:15-18	Gospel - John 14:15-21
<b>Mon</b> – Acts 16:11-15; John 15:26-16:4a	<b>Thu</b> – Acts 1:15-17,20-26; John 15:9-17	
<b>Tue</b> – Acts 16:22-34; John 16:5-11	<b>Fri</b> – Acts 18:9-18; John 16:20-23	
<b>Wed</b> – Acts 17:15, 22-18:1; John 16:12-15	<b>Sat</b> – Acts 18:23-28; John 16:23b-28	
<b>Sunday 17 May:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading - Acts 1:1-11	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading – Ephesians 1:17-23	Gospel - Matthew 28:16-20

### Prayers

**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 this 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 Jim Kilduff, Hilary Walker, Peter Hutchings, Sam Bryant, Stan Bogacz, Pamela Kennedy, Wendy Horton, Mrs Neve and Anita Weston-Burt whose anniversaries are this week. ***Eternal rest grant unto them, oh Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.***

## Parish Activities and Announcements

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES...

**Saturday 9th May** - Join Worth Pro Earth on a walk around Worth Estate at 10:30am. Please see below for information and the link to register.

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May - Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)**

- Monastic Mass with the school (everyone is welcome) at 4.30pm
- Mass at the Abbey celebrated by Fr Rod at 7.30pm

**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.

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May** – School Confirmation Service at 11.30am

### 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](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!**

## Worth Abbey Parish - Summary of collection for April 2026

<b>Offertory General</b>	<b>Standing Orders</b>
<b>£3,698</b>	<b>£6,257</b>

### **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



### **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.

### **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](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.



# **REGISTER NOW! Parish Walk THIS SATURDAY** **Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> 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

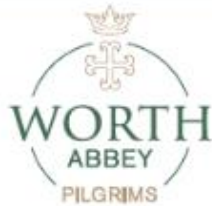
Children are very welcome, as are dogs on leads

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.

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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

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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

#### **First anniversary of Pope Leo XIV' pontificate**

On May 8th we will celebrate **the first anniversary of Pope Leo XIV' pontificate**. We thank God for his ministry, for his significant journeys, and for his constant closeness to the suffering of so many nations. From the very beginning of his service as the Bishop of Rome, the Holy Father has clearly indicated that the presence of the Church is not measured by appearances, but is recognized if she knows how to listen to the cry of those who suffer, to support those in need, and welcome those who are forced to leave their land and their homes.

Hence his constant appeal not to turn our gaze away from our wounded brother or sister, an appeal that finds resonance in the **theme of the upcoming World Day of Migrants and Refugees**: even just one of these children, because even a single life is of supreme value. At the time when too many people look away from suffering, humanity needs Good Samaritans, able to approach the other as a neighbour, to silence the weapons, and return to the path of dialogue, negotiation, and peace.



### **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).



### **Mental Health Awareness training – Sat 9<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk)



### **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*