



Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER
Ezekiel 47:9, 12



In Touch

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
19th September/20th September 2026
No. 1481

A letter of thanks from Archbishop John Sherrington

Last Friday 11th September, our MP's voted against the Bill to allow assisted suicide. This was certainly a significant day for our country. I do thank all of you who did make contact with your MP concerning the Bill. I thought I'd share with you what Archbishop John Sherrington has written to express his gratitude.

'We are pleased that MPs have voted to oppose the passage of the *Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill*. We would like to thank those who wrote to their MPs to stop the bill's progression and who assisted the campaign against the bill in other ways.

I would like to express my gratitude to those MPs who voted against the Bill and the many people from across society who made their voices heard – doctors, legal professionals, disability groups, other faith communities and those of no faith who stood up for the dignity and sanctity of every life. We are thankful for the many prayers which have been offered during these weeks.

Throughout this debate, we have argued that our response to those facing serious illness, disability or the challenges of old age should be rooted in solidarity, care and respect. The true measure of a compassionate society is its willingness to support people through difficult circumstances rather than encouraging them to end their lives.

Every day, families, friends, carers and healthcare professionals demonstrate extraordinary generosity in accompanying and supporting those who are suffering. Their dedication reminds us of the value of human relationships and of our shared responsibility to care for one another, especially at life's most vulnerable moments.

We remain convinced that the most effective way to address suffering at the end of life is through greater access to excellent palliative and end-of-life care. Ensuring such care is available to all who need it can help people experience comfort, dignity and support in their final days. We will continue to promote these as priorities and to stand alongside those who devote themselves to caring for the dying in hospices, hospitals, care homes and communities.

May all the sick and frail find comfort in the support of their loved ones, and the love of God, which transcends all suffering. I ask the Catholic community to continue to pray for our legislators, that they will ensure that our laws always uphold the dignity of human life.

Archbishop John Sherrington
Lead Bishop for Life Issues
Archbishop of Liverpool

Mass Times at Worth Abbey:

Sundays - 9.30am (Family Mass, with choir)

Mondays to Fridays - 5pm

Saturdays - 9am & 5pm (First Mass of Sunday)

Days of Obligation - *see website*

Second Collection – Home Mission Sunday

Inside this week's In Touch...

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Mass Readings: (20 September – 27 September)

Sun 20 Sept: 1st Reading – Isaiah 55:6-9 2nd Reading – Philippians 1:20c-24,27a Gospel - Matthew 20:1-16a

Mon – Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13; Matthew 9:9-13

Thu – Ecclesiastes 1:2-11; Luke 9:7-9

Tue – Proverbs 21:1-6, 10-13; Luke 8:19-21

Fri – Ecclesiastes 3:1-11; Luke 9:18-22

Wed – Proverbs 30:5-9; Luke 9:1-6

Sat – Ecclesiastes 11:9-12; Luke 9:43b-45

Sun 27 Sept: 1st Reading – Ezekiel 18:25-28

2nd Reading – Philippians 2:1-11

Gospel - Matthew 21:28-32

Prayers

Please pray for the sick of our parish: Lin Eade, Michael Wilson, Mary Baker, Paul Pemble, Michael Wall, Krysia Smith, John Maher, John Mulhall, Margaret Ogden, Anne Wise, Mandy Horton, Patricia Horsman, Jim Tierney, Catherine Elia, Patrick Cambridge, Barry Wingrove, Rowena Leaney, Beryl McNulty, Jelly Labto, Sheila Charman, Gillian Maher, Terry and Susan Scoble, Sue Pearson, John and Sue Rutherford, Liz Hicklin and Laura Rawlinson. And please pray for the healing of our Diocese Youth Adviser Lizzie Wakeling.

Please pray for parishioners Stella Higham and Jill Carter who died recently. Please pray for the souls Janette Curry, Dorothy Neve, Nellie Bond, Joan Edey, John McCall, Dom Thomas Symons, Revd Francis Hunter, Dr Bob Jackson, David Leslie and Zofia Tywon'ska whose anniversaries are this week. ***Eternal rest grant unto them, oh Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.***

***We expect that the funeral of Stella Higham will take place on Monday, 5th of October.
Please watch for confirmation.***

Worth Parish Community Billboard

Home Mission Sunday – Second Collection

There will be a second collection to support the vital mission of evangelisation in England and Wales.

Those with long memories will be familiar with Home Mission Sunday. It is the title given to the day we ask our parishes to pray for the work of evangelisation and to support this vital work through a [second collection](#). A few years ago, this day was re-named Evangelii Gaudium Sunday after Pope Francis's Apostolic Exhortation the 'Joy of the Gospel'. Now, in 2026, we revert to using the original name – Home Mission Sunday.

On Home Mission Sunday, the bishops of England and Wales ask the faithful of our countries to look for ways in which we can all do our part in sharing the beauty and joy of knowing Jesus Christ.

When we speak of 'Home Mission' we are not neglecting our sisters and brothers around the world (World Mission Sunday gives due attention to this important work), but we recognise that we are called to witness to Christ in our homes, at work, in our friendships and in every aspect of our daily life.

Being part of the family of God means we should feel 'at home' but this also challenges us to be missionary disciples in England and Wales so that we can make a home for all who hunger and thirst for the God who loves them and wants them to come home to him.

Fairtrade Fortnight – 21st September - 4th October 2026

Monday 21st September marks the commencement of Fairtrade Fortnight. Over three decades of collaboration have established the Fairtrade mark as a leader in creating life-changing impacts for farmers and workers globally.

Are you aware that cocoa, bananas and coffee may soon become significantly harder to find on our shelves? Climate change is increasingly making the cultivation of these crops more challenging. Coupled with profoundly unjust trade practices, the communities that produce these crops are being driven to the edge.

The Worth Abbey Fairtrade stall offers an extensive range of Divine chocolate. Divine is the sole chocolate company worldwide that is 100% 'Fairtrade' and owned by cocoa farmers. While 'Fairtrade' guarantees that farmers receive a fairer price for their cocoa and additional income to reinvest in their communities, ownership of the company allows farmers to share in Divine's profits and have a more substantial voice in the cocoa industry.



Film Screening of
THE PEOPLE'S EMERGENCY BRIEFING
 Get the latest facts from the UK's top experts



How is climate change affecting our homes, gardens, health, household budget and water supplies. And how can we respond?

**Saturday October 3rd
 3:30 - 4:30pm
 The Unity Room
 RSVP via the QR Code**



Hosted by Worth Pro Earth as part of the parish' celebration of the Season of Creation
 After the screening you are invited to attend the Vigil mass at 5pm followed by refreshments and discussion in the Unity Room
 If you have any queries please contact the parish office.

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...

Sunday 20th September – Family Formation will begin again

Monday 21st September – Curious about the Catholic Church? - 7.15pm in the Parish Office

AND OUR REGULAR ACTIVITIES...

Sacrament of Reconciliation – Sundays 8.45am - 9.15am in the church, or by appointment with Fr. Paul / Fr Rod

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament – Fridays 3.45 to 4.45pm; Friday 7pm to 8pm 'Holy Hour'; Sunday 5.55pm – 6.25pm before Vespers. Every 1st Sunday of the month from 10.30am to 11am following the Sunday 9.30am Mass.

Rosary Group – Mondays 7:10-8pm in the church after vespers. Please contact Rachel Davies: 07801 696354.

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!

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 now have a group 'up and running' for young adults who would like to hear more about the Catholic Church or who are interested in becoming Catholic.

The next meeting of the group will be on Monday 21st September at 7.15pm in the Parish Office.

Please do contact the parish office or speak directly with Fr Rod or Fr Paul if you would be interested in finding out more about the group. You would be most welcome to join us!



Adoration at Worth Abbey

Friday Adoration - afternoons 3.45pm to 4.45pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel – Please do contact Fr Rod or the parish office, if you would be interested in supporting this time of Adoration.

Friday Evening 'Holy Hour' - 7pm to 8pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. You are most welcome to come and join in a time of adoration, reflection and music.

Sundays - 5.55pm to 6.25pm with the monks



Memorial concert for Fr Stephen Ortiger

A choral concert in memory of Fr Stephen Ortiger, third abbot of Worth, is being held in the abbey church on Sunday 22nd November at 7.15pm. London-based choir Vox Cordis along with Worthian singers will perform the premiere of Julian Gairdner's Abbatial Requiem along with anthems by Parry and Elgar. Julian is a former pupil of the school, and the concert is in support of the Fr Stephen Ortiger Bursary Fund, and The Catholic Diocese of Arundel & Brighton Lourdes Pilgrimage.

Tickets costing £16.50 can be purchased from: tinyurl.com/abbatial-requiem

Sowers Faith Formation Group: (Date to be confirmed)

Welcoming parents with their babies and toddlers (ages 0–3) as they begin their journey of faith together in Worth Abbey Parish.

Sowers is a special gathering for parents with their newly baptised babies and toddlers. Led by team leader Lucy, it offers a gentle, supportive space for parents to network, share fellowship, and prepare their young children to eventually become Mustard Seeds as they grow up together in our parish community.

Sessions take place immediately after the 9.30am Sunday Mass and last for 30 minutes.

Family Formation: starting up again on Sunday 20th September!





Naming What We Long For: A Benedictine Advent

On **Saturday 28th November**, Abbot Mark will offer a morning reflection entitled *Naming What We Long For: A Benedictine Advent*. Drawing on Scripture, the Great O Antiphons of the Advent liturgy, and the wisdom of the Benedictine tradition, he will explore how Advent teaches us to recognise our deepest desires and direct them towards God.

The Talk is now open for booking. Further details and online registration can be found at: <https://worthabbey.net/advent-talk/>

Programme

10.30am – Refreshments in the Narthex

11.00am – Talk and Q&A

12.00pm – Optional light lunch

1.00pm – Midday Prayer

All are warmly welcome. Please do join us for this opportunity to enter more deeply into the season of Advent.

Other Activities and Announcements

Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group (GDWG) Appeal

We are currently in need of clothing donations to support people in detention, and any items you are able to collect for us would be very much appreciated. With the weather beginning to turn and the colder months approaching, having warm and comfortable clothing becomes especially important for people in detention. At the moment we are particularly in need of **T-shirts, jumpers and jackets in medium and large sizes. MENS CLOTHING ONLY PLEASE**



Refugee Tales

Arundel & Brighton Young Adults Retreat days in the Diocese - standard ticket price £20

Young Adults (18-35) from across the UK are invited to join the Youth team from the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton for Retreat Days in parishes across the diocese. An opportunity to meet other young adults outside of your own parish community for fellowship, formation and faith. The theme for our year of Young Adult retreats is **"You also are my witnesses, because you have been with me" (Jn 15:27)**. From Pope Leo XIV's message for the 40th World Youth Day.

Booking for retreat days is available through the events page of the Diocesan website at the following churches:

- **St Wilfrid's Parish, Burgess Hill on Saturday 26th September 2026** [Young Adults' Retreat \(26-Sep-2026\)](#) · [ChurchSuite Events](#)
- **St Richard's Parish, Chichester on Saturday 7th November 2026** [Young Adult Retreat \(07-Nov-2026\)](#) · [ChurchSuite Events](#)
- **Arundel Cathedral of Our Lady & St Philip Howard, Arundel on Saturday 23rd January 2027** [Young Adults' Retreat \(23-Jan-2027\)](#) · [ChurchSuite Events](#)

The day will include guest speakers, discussion groups, Mass, a shared lunch (included in the ticket price) and workshop sessions including Lectio Divina, Spiritual Direction and Scripture art.

Any questions about these events should be directed to Bex Driver, Diocesan Youth Project

Officer E:bex.driver@abdiocese.org.uk

Childminder Needed

Looking for a reliable person with their own car to be able to pick up 2 children (age 6 and 10) from Lingfield and take them home to Copthorne at 3:30pm and stay with them until max 8pm. It would be on ad hoc basis 5-6 days a month (any day except Thursday), rota given well in advance. Pay £20/hour.

Please get in touch with Ida on 07845456873 for more information.

Retrouvaille - Marriage in a rut? Or need help with deeper issues?

Retrouvaille has helped thousands of couples find hope and healing in their marriage.

Next dates: 2- 4 October 2026 [W: www.retrouvaille.org.uk/info](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk/info) T: 07887 296983



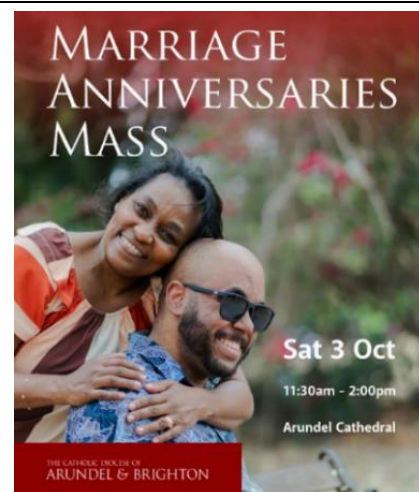
Marriage Anniversaries Mass – Saturday 3 October at Arundel Cathedral

Whether you are celebrating a special anniversary or simply giving thanks for your marriage this year, come and join us for our annual celebration of the joys and grace of sacramental marriage.

Mass will be celebrated at 11.30am. There will also be a wonderful opportunity to renew your wedding vows during Mass. This will be followed by a small drinks' reception in the Cathedral Centre. Family and friends are very welcome. The Cathedral and Centre are wheelchair friendly.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact Deacon Simon South, Marriage and Family Life Adviser at E: simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk.

To book your free place, you can scan the QR code on the poster or go to the Events page of the Diocesan website W: www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events



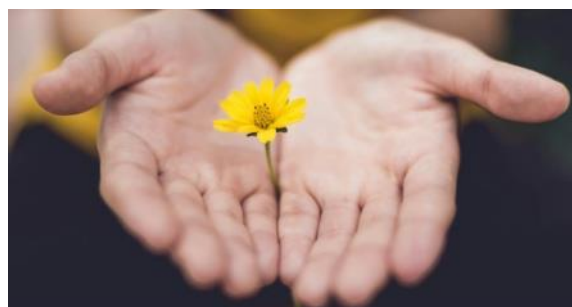
Mental Health Awareness training – Saturday 17th October 10-3pm at The St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley – cost £40

Thanks to the support of Mental Health England, we are able to offer this "Mental Health Awareness" training, to explore the realities, symptoms and impact of living with these many debilitating conditions. 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.

The training is being highly subsidised, and tickets are just £40 per delegate (usual price £120).

If you have any questions about this training do not hesitate to contact Deacon Simon South, Marriage and Family Life Adviser at E: simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk.

To book your place go to the Events page of the Diocesan website W: www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events



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