



Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER
Ezekiel 47:9, 12



In Touch

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
26th September/27th September 2026
No. 1482

Dear fellow Worth Parishioners,

This year's CAFOD Harvest Fast Day will be on Friday 2nd October. Please would you consider participating? CAFOD asks that we all consume less than we normally would on Harvest Fast Day and donate the value of what we went without to their campaign. Donations can be made via the envelopes that you will find in the Narthex, online at CAFOD.org.uk, or by the touchpad near our bookshop. Next weekend's second collection on the 3rd and 4th of October will also be dedicated to CAFOD.

During each bi-annual CAFOD Fast Day initiative, CAFOD draws our attention to a specific example of how they are providing aid around the world. This Harvest Fast Day they would like us to be aware of their efforts to provide nutrition in the form of support towards self-sustaining food cultivation and water access in Zimbabwe. We are all witnessing our global challenges as a human race becoming increasingly complicated. We first needed to try to understand better that the poorest parts of the world are growing even poorer because of how climate change is amplified upon them. Now we also must digest and try to understand how the development of new technologies, like 'AI', will impact the environment. It is a multi-headed ever-expanding set of challenges, it seems. We are blessed by the fact that CAFOD is a multifaceted organization with impressive global reach. This is due to its collaboration with so many different countries and organizations on the ground around the world; CAFOD's Catholic aid structure within Caritas is invaluable. CAFOD endeavours to remain on the front foot in understanding the needs of the developing world and how help can be delivered effectively within an ever-evolving crisis.

When we donate our funds, this Harvest Fast Day, please trust CAFOD to deploy them in the way that can best help combat the challenges at hand. Even if WE start to lose track of how these monumental challenges fit together, CAFOD has its finger on the pulse of the developing world's needs and how best to provide support and comfort. Additionally, and in regards specifically to the crisis in our Common Home, during the CAFOD Harvest Fast Day weekend our parish's environmental ambassadors, Worth Pro Earth, have organized a screening of the film, People's Emergency Briefing, at 3.30pm on Saturday 3rd October in the Unity Room. Rather than headlines or politics, this film offers a concise, evidence-based overview from experts across areas including climate, food, health, economics, national security and extreme weather. More information can be found in the Narthex. Please give generously this Harvest Fast Day, both in resources and in prayer. *Yours, Kir Bennett Horner - Worth Parish CAFOD Volunteer Representative*

Harvest Festival

We will be celebrating **Harvest Festival** at the masses this weekend. We invite everyone to bring offerings of food; this weekend only, we ask for perishable, along with imperishable, items, which the children will bring up during the offertory procession. Rachel Davies will kindly organise this, so please be prepared to respond to her requests! Also, for children, there will be an activity after mass which will involve collecting seeds to take home and plant. This will take place near the piazza; so, after your children have plundered the biscuit tin to their satisfaction, please bring them out to meet the Worth Pro Earth Team, who are organising this activity. Christie will also be there to provide a familiar face.

The following weekend, Saturday 2nd October, we will show a **film** entitled *The People's Emergency Briefing*. This was made by a team of scientists who are involved in monitoring global warming and climate change. The purpose of the film is to raise our awareness and understanding of what is happening, so that we may encourage our leaders to take action to avoid further damage to our world. The film will begin at 3.30 in the Unity Room. It will be followed by the usual mass at 5pm, and then refreshments, when we will have an opportunity to discuss our response to the film. Please see the poster below; please use the QR code to let us know if you can attend. I look forward to meeting you there. *Yours, Fr Paul*

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 – Next weekend CAFOD

Inside this week's In Touch...

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Mass Readings: (27 September – 4 October)

Sun 27 Sept: 1st Reading – Ezekiel 18:25-28 2nd Reading – Philippians 2:1-11 Gospel - Matthew 21:28-32

Mon – Job 1:6-22; Luke 9:46-50

Thu – Job 19:1-12,14-16; Luke 9:57-62

Tue – Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; John 1:47-51

Fri – Job 19:21-27; Luke 10:1-12

Wed – Job 9:1-12, 14-16; Luke 9:57-62

Sat – Job 38:1,12-21,40:3-5; Matthew 18:1-5,10

Sun 4 Oct: 1st Reading – Isaiah 5:1-7

2nd Reading – Philippians 4:6-9

Gospel - Matthew 21:33-43

Prayers

Stella Higham's Funeral will be held at the Surrey and Sussex Crematorium on **Monday 5th October** at 11.45am.
All are welcome.

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 of Barry Pierce, Peter Burrows, Ada Fieldwick, Allan Chamberlain, Nellie Tester, Terence Crannigan, Dom Joseph Marshall, Archbishop Peter Amigo, Dom Richard Davey, Kathleen Wheatley, James Hearn, Peter Constable, Fred Billings, Iris Higgins and Anne Albert whose anniversaries are this week. ***Eternal rest grant unto them, oh Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.***

CAFOD Harvest Family Fast Day Prayer

"Living God, who sent your only Son to walk among us, to teach and heal and nourish us,
We sing a song of your praise and thank you for your gifts.
Grant that we may draw closer to you through our prayer and our fasting,
opening our eyes to the needs of our bruised and broken world.
Lead us to hunger and thirst for a better world,
where we put our faith into action and seek to love our neighbour so that all your children may flourish.
Amen."
(Catherine Gorman/CAFOD)

Worth Parish Community Billboard

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.

This Fairtrade Fortnight and beyond, opt for 'Fairtrade'; choose to advocate for climate justice, support farmers who are at the forefront of climate change, protect our planet, and safeguard the future for generations to come.



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.

Adoremus National Eucharistic Congress 2026 - Saturday 10th October

Adoremus is the name given to the National Eucharistic Congresses that periodically take place in England and Wales.

In 2024, [Adoremus](#) took place at Oscott College on the outskirts of Birmingham. In 2018, [Adoremus](#) took place in Liverpool.

On **Saturday, 10 October**, thousands of pilgrims will gather in London to celebrate, worship, and bear witness to the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

More information in next weeks 'In Touch' or details can be found about **Adoremus** on the website for the Bishops Conference of England and Wales.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES...

Sunday 27th September – Prayers for Healing: This short service of healing prayers is an opportunity to come together before the Blessed Sacrament, to pray for the healing for our families, those we know in need and for ourselves. All welcome – after 9.30am Mass in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Monday 28th 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 28st 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

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.



Volunteers needed to support GDWG's clothing collections

GDWG is looking for volunteers to help us strengthen and expand our clothing collection network.

Access to suitable clothing is an important part of the practical support we provide to people in immigration detention, particularly during the colder months. Regular donations help us respond to changing needs and ensure that people have access to clean, comfortable and seasonal clothing.

We are looking for volunteers who can help us by staying in touch with existing donors and volunteers who already support our collections, approaching local businesses and organisations that may be willing to donate, and working with the GDWG team to identify new avenues for sourcing clothing.



Refugee Tales

We would also love volunteers to think creatively about engaging younger people, including students and youth groups, who may be interested in organising collections or contributing to the programme. This would suit someone who enjoys outreach, building relationships and coming up with new ideas.

October – the month of the Holy Rosary and an invitation to the Five First Saturdays

October is the month of the Holy Rosary. To mark this month and give thanks for the gift of the Rosary, we will start on **Saturday 3rd October** the devotion of the **Five First Saturdays**, as requested by Our Lady of Fatima.

Following mass at 9am, we will meet in the Lady Chapel at 9.45am. Before we pray the Rosary together, I'll explain this devotion and the importance of it. There will be an opportunity for Confession following the Rosary.



An invitation to hear about the parish 'Discipleship Group'

You are invited to attend an initial meeting following mass on **Sunday 11th October at 11am – 12 noon in the Unity Room**. This will be an opportunity to hear Giancarlo and Catherine share their plans for developing a discipleship group within our parish.

Giancarlo will explain the purpose of this group, how *by sharing about their ministry experiences*, talks, prayer, and fellowship we can journey together in deepening the understanding of our faith and the relationship we have with *God as our true Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit*, so that all will be equipped to minister as the Lord will call each one of us.

Following this initial meeting, parishioners who would like to be part of the discipleship group, will be invited to meet twice a month after the Sunday mass. The meetings will be held at St Benedicts – the parish centre. The first meeting will take place on Sunday 18th October.

Other Activities and Announcements

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



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](mailto:bex.driver@abdiocese.org.uk)

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