



In Touch

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
17th October/18th October 2026
No. 1485

100 years of World Mission Sunday

Pope Pius XI established World Mission Sunday in 1926. It began as a simple appeal to support missionaries through prayer and giving. Today, one hundred years later, it continues to unite Catholics in a celebration of the Church's missionary identity.

World Mission Sunday is held every year on the penultimate Sunday of October. Every Catholic parish in the world celebrates Mass and contributes according to its means, so that churches in greatest need receive support from the worldwide Catholic family. The funds support missionaries and local churches serving communities that are new, young or poor, helping to provide pastoral care, education and healthcare.

This year's theme, chosen by Pope Leo, is 'One in Christ, united in mission.' Being 'one in Christ' calls us to keep Our Lord at the centre of our lives and communities, and our mission is lived by witnessing to God's love through our words and deeds.

In his message for World Mission Sunday, Pope Leo XIV shared: 'Your prayers and practical support, particularly on World Mission Sunday, will be a great help in bringing the Gospel of God's love to everyone, especially the poorest and those most in need. Every gift, no matter how small, becomes a meaningful act of missionary communion.' This year's celebration encourages every Catholic in the world to bring to life the mission given to them through baptism – to share the love of God with everyone, everywhere – by supporting missionaries who live alongside and serve communities in greatest need, wherever they are. Missionaries' work is rooted in peace, dignity and hope, and offers help to everyone, regardless of their background or belief. Pope Leo shares his own personal connection to World Mission Sunday: 'The realisation of Pope Pius XI's aim has borne fruit in my own life. Looking back on my youth, I can see how the prayers offered to the Lord of the harvest mysteriously helped prepare my heart to hear Jesus' call to follow him as an Augustinian missionary. Moreover, the prayers and contributions of the faithful encouraged and sustained my missionary work in Peru, as well as that of countless others throughout the world. For this reason, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has supported World Mission Sunday over the years.'

There will be a second collection after mass this weekend to support the work of Missio. Cards can also be used on the Dona machines at the east entrance to the church and in the narthex.

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 – World Mission Sunday

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Mass Readings: (18 October – 25 October)

Sun 18 Oct: 1st Reading – Isaiah 45:1,4-6 2nd Reading – 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b Gospel - Matthew 22:15-21

Mon – Ephesians 2:1-10; Luke 12:13-21 **Thu** – Ephesians 3:14-21; Luke 12:49-53

Tue – Ephesians 2:12-22; Luke 12:35-38 **Fri** – Ephesians 4:1-6; Luke 12:54-59

Wed – Ephesians 3:2-12; Luke 12:39-48 **Sat** – Ephesians 4:7-16; Luke 13:1-9

Sun 25 Oct: 1st Reading – Exodus 22:20-26 2nd Reading – 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10 Gospel - Matthew 22:34-40

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 of Elizabeth Leksinska, Patricia Stanford, Audrey Mary Davies, Jim Farmer, Fred Green, Elizabeth Montgomery, Cecily Evans, Miss Millet, Peter Cole, Marie Hesketh, Cecily Hallack, Alexander Duncan, Audrey Sherwin, Lady Dora Wilkinson, Gerry McGiven and Jean Whigham 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

Abbey Church Opening Hours

The following opening hours for the Abbey Church will apply from Monday 5th October:

The Abbey Church is usually open for prayer from 5.00am to 11.00pm daily. The Abbey Church will usually be closed between 11.00pm and 5.00am.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES...

Saturday 17th October – Our Lady of Fatima Holy Rosary - 9.45am at Lady Chapel

Sunday 18th October – Family Formation Groups continue after mass, at 11am.

Monday 19th October – Curious about the Catholic Church? Young Adults group - 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!

Ordination of Bishop Stephen

Fr Stephen Wang will be ordained Bishop of Arundel and Brighton at Arundel cathedral on Monday 19th October. Please do keep Fr Stephen in your prayers at this time. (Log onto the diocesan website for the live stream of the Ordination Mass).

On Saturday 24th October at 11.30am the diocese will be celebrating a 'Welcome Mass' for Bishop Stephen here at the abbey. Because numbers were limited, attendance was by booking only. For those who have not booked, the service will be live streamed on the abbey website.

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.

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.

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



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 started on Saturday 3rd October, the devotion of the Five First Saturdays - as requested by Our Lady of Fatima.

The next **'First Saturday'** will take place on **November 7th**. Following mass at 9am, we will meet in the Lady Chapel at 9.45am. There will be an opportunity for Confession following the Rosary.



An invitation to attend the parish 'Discipleship Group'

You are invited to attend the Discipleship Group, following mass on **Sunday 18th October at 11am** in a Parlour on the west side of the abbey church. Giancarlo will lead the group in a time of sharing, prayer, and fellowship - to journey together in deepening the understanding of our faith and the relationship we have with God 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.

Join Us for the Mass for All Souls on Monday 2nd November

Join us at Worth Abbey to commemorate the faithful departed, with an opportunity to remember and pray for loved ones who have gone before us.

The Benedictine monks of Worth Abbey pray daily for all the faithful departed. We warmly invite you to share the names of those you would like to be remembered at our All Souls' Mass on Monday 2 November at 5.00pm, and in our prayers throughout the month of November.

If you would like your loved ones to be remembered, please write their names on the card provided in the Narthex and place it in the accompanying box. Alternatively, you can submit names online via our website at: <https://worthabbey.net/allsouls/> These names will be printed and placed in the remembrance box, which will remain on the altar of the Abbey Church throughout the month of November.



Worth Parish Community Billboard

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.

Help plant the First Trees in the Anniversary Orchard

We are looking for volunteers to help plant the first batch of apple trees in the new Worth Anniversary Orchard on **Saturday 21st November**.

Whether you enjoy digging, planting, staking, watering, or simply being part of a community project, there will be plenty of jobs for all abilities. Tools and refreshments will be provided.

This is a wonderful opportunity to help create a lasting legacy for future generations and contribute to a space that will help sustain and enrich our community for years to come.



If you are able to help, please let **Emma Hickmott** know by emailing ehickmott@worth.org.uk

Other Activities and Announcements

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.

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.

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.



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 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

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