WORTH ABBEY PARISH

In Touch

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
7th November/8th November 2026
No. 1488

Dear Parishioners

I hope that you and your families are well, and that those with children at school will have enjoyed some good time together over half term.

Last Sunday, November 1st, Christians around the world celebrated a Day of **International Prayer for persecuted Christians**; and on Wednesday of next week, we mark what is known as **Red Wednesday**, when we remember all those who are persecuted for their faith. This year marks the 10th anniversary of this day. This cause is promoted by several organisations, including Aid to The Church In Need, and Christian Solidarity Worldwide. CSW remind us that religious freedom is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in article 18: *Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.* They write that this is defined according to Internal and External forum: The former is absolute - *It includes the right to form and hold opinions based on conscience, including those beliefs that may be deemed objectionable, or even offensive to others.* The latter can be limited by governments only if limitations are prescribed by law and are necessary to protect public safety, order, health or morals, or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others.

CSW play an important role in publicizing abuses of religious freedom around the world, including in Latin America, Africa and Asia. One clear example of their prophetic stance has been to demand that the Premier Football League should raise the issue of the war in Darfur, Sudan, with Manchester City. The club is owned by Sheikh Mansour of the United Arab Emirates, where he plays a leading role in governance as Vice President. The UAE has profited from its support of the Rapid Support Forces, which have been responsible for the displacement of 14 million people, and the deaths of over 100,000 during 2025.

Please pray for the work of CSW, and please see more information about their work: https://www.csw.org.uk/our-work/

I send my best wishes to you all. Fr Paul

Mass Times at Worth Abbey:	**Inside this week's In Touch…**
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 –** n/a	✓ Prayers and Mass Readings, page 2 ✓ Worth Parish Community Billboard, pages 2-5 ✓ **NEW! Bishop Stephen Welcome Mass photo essay - pages 2-5** ✓ Parish Activities and Announcements, pages 6-7 ✓ Other Activities and Announcements, pages 7-8

Mass Readings: (8 November – 15 November)

Sun 8 Nov: 1st Reading – Wisdom 6:12-16 2nd Reading – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Gospel - Matthew 25:1-13

Mon – Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; John 2:13-22
Tue – Titus 2:1-8, 11-14; Luke 17:7-10
Wed – Titus 3:1-7; Luke 17:11-19
Thu – Philemon 7-20; Luke 17:20-25
Fri – 2 John 4-9; Luke 17:26-37
Sat – 3 John 5-8; Luke 18:1-8

Sun 15 Nov: *1st Reading – Proverbs 31:10-13* *2nd Reading – 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6* *Gospel - Matthew 25:14-30*

Prayers

Please pray for the sick of our parish: Jan Bristow, Lin Eade, Michael Wilson, Mary Baker, 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 parishioner Paul Pemble who died recently and keep his family in your prayers. Please pray for the souls of Bob Perry, Dom Eric Booker, Judith Wright, Noreen Short (formerly Fieldwick), Bridie Ricketts, John Hicklin, Michael Keating, Christine Genders, Raymond Huckstep, Brian Haynes, Philipa Edwards, Victoria Sheppard, Myrtle Buckland, Geoffrey Teal and Carolyn Pickering whose anniversaries are this week. ***Eternal rest grant unto them, oh Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.***

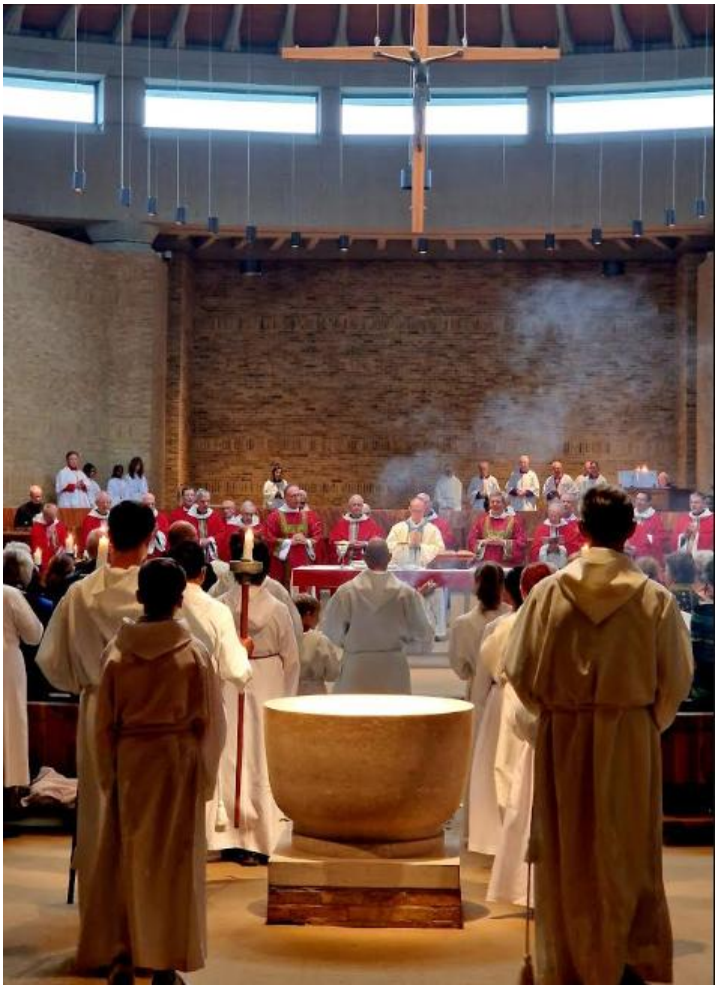
Worth Parish Community Billboard

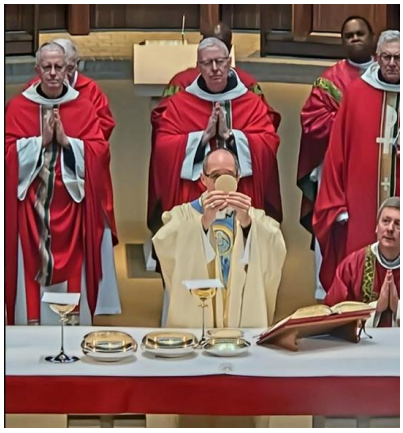
Bishop Stephen's Welcome Mass – Photo Essay

Nearly 1000 people from across our Diocese gathered at Worth Abbey on Saturday 24th October to celebrate a special Mass of Welcome for Bishop Stephen Wang. Twenty-two priests, including from the Worth Community concelebrated with our new Bishop.

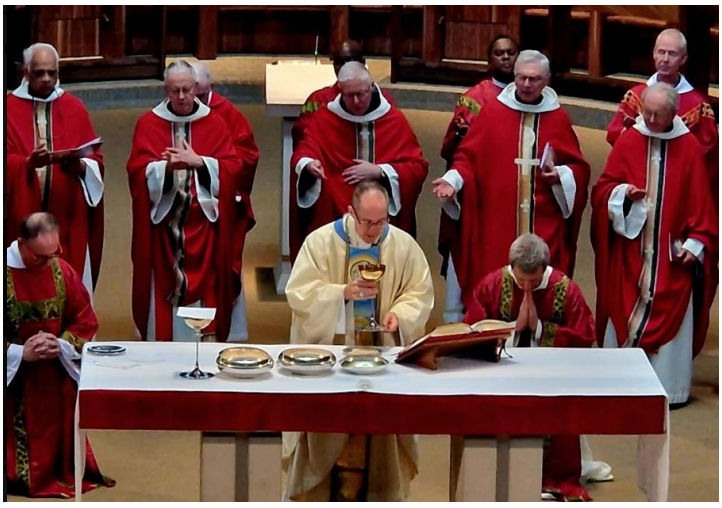




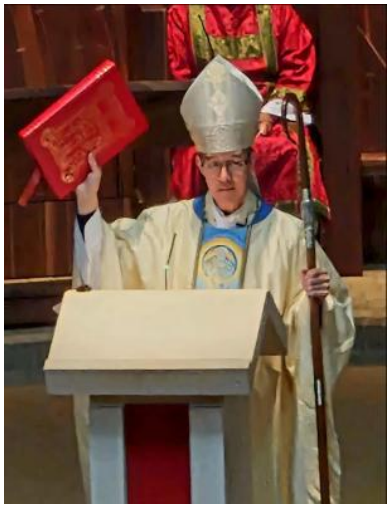




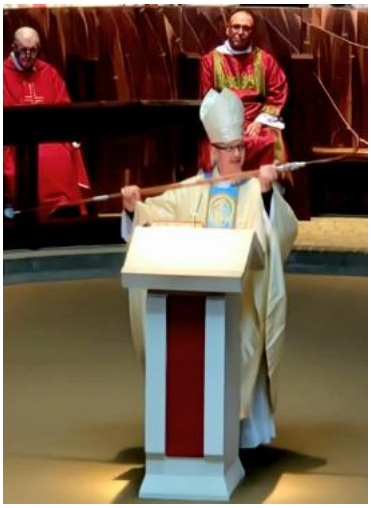




Speaking during the homily, Bishop Stephen reflected on the gifts he received at his ordination and the mission that they represent: to grow in holiness, to love and support one another, and to share the love of Jesus with everyone we meet.







It was a blessed day, with beautiful liturgy, both solemn and joyful – much laughter at Bishop Stephen's new 'light saber' joke! The wonderfully inclusive Mass, attended by representatives of the different parishes, schools, choirs and charitable organisations across the diocese, was truly inspiring and grace filled. May we all live Bishop Stephen's motto "Veritas in caritate" (truth in charity or love).








WORTH
ABBEY
Bishop Stephen
24th October 2026







Parish Activities and Announcements

Away dates: I will be away attending a course between **2nd – 13th November**. Fr Paul will be available, if necessary.
Maria our parish secretary, can always be contacted in the parish office.
Fr Rod

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.

Thank you

Many thanks to all those who came to help Jim Tierney during mass on 1st November. I am pleased to be able to tell you that after his visit to hospital he was able to return home. Please pray for him and his wife, Teresa – Fr Paul

For those of you who may need to know, the defibrillator is kept in the kitchenette in the narthex.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES...

Saturday 7th November – Our Lady of Fatima Holy Rosary (First Five Saturdays) - 9.45am at Lady Chapel

Sunday 8th November – Parish Brunch in Compass House at 11am.

Sunday 15th November – Family formation groups continue

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!

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.

Out of hours access will not usually be available. Enquiries to abbot@worth.org.uk

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.

There is also a **Parish Rosary Group** which meets Monday evenings 7.10pm to 8pm in the Lady Chapel – you would be most welcome to attend!

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

The **'Holy Hour'** on Friday 6th and Friday 13th November will be a times of silent adoration. There will not be reflections or music on these two evenings.

Advent and Christmas at the Fair Trade Stall

The Fair Trade stall now has Advent Calendars, Chocolate Coins and Christmas Cards available for sale.
We will be in the Narthex as usual every Sunday.
Please do come and take a look!

Other Activities and Announcements

'Red Wednesday' 18th November:
'Holy Hour' 7pm - 8pm Worth Abbey to pray for persecuted Christians

Aid to the Church in Need

Every year, **Aid to the Church in Need (ACN)** hosts a **Week of Witness**, a week of campaigning and prayer for persecuted Christians around the world.
This year's Week of Witness begins on **15th November and runs through to 22nd November**.

Since 2016, the Wednesday during the Week of Witness has become known as Red Wednesday. This year, Red Wednesday falls on 18th November. Red is the liturgical colour for the feast days of martyrs, representing the blood of those who suffered death for their faith.

We are encouraged to come together to pray for persecuted Christians and for the work of Aid to the Church in Need. The Holy Hour on Wednesday 18th November will give us an opportunity as a parish community to do this.
You will be most welcome to come along.

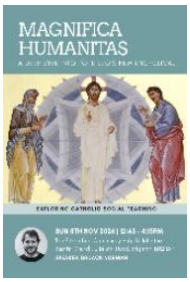
Arundel & Brighton Young Adults Retreat days in the Diocese - standard ticket price £20

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. If you have any questions email Bex Driver, Diocesan Youth Project Officer: E:bex.driver@abdiocese.org.uk

East Brighton "Magnifica Humanitas" Conference



8th November, 12.45pm to 4.15pm, The Fitzherbert Community Hub, St John the Baptist, BN2 1AP**.**

Find out more about Pope Leo's recent encyclical Magnifica Humanitas on safeguarding the human person in the age of artificial intelligence.

All are welcome.

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:
https://www.tickettailor.com/events/abbatialrequiemconcert/2064698

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.

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
12.30pm – Midday Prayer

Please note that Midday Prayer following this talk will take place at 12.30pm, not 1.00pm as previously advertised. We apologise for any confusion.
All are warmly welcome. Please do join us for this opportunity to enter more deeply into the season of Advent.

Monastic Internship: July – August 2027

We are inviting applications from men between eighteen and thirty -five for the internship that will run in the summer of 2027. Interns will live alongside the monastery for two months, following a way of life similar to the monks. During this time, they will learn about the Benedictine tradition and have the opportunity to live in community, to deepen their prayer lives and their personal engagement with scripture. They will be expected to contribute by their work to the welfare of the monastery and in return will receive board, lodging, teaching and guidance. For further details please contact Fr Luke:
ljolly@worth.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