

Mass during the day on the Solemnity of the Nativity

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 97:1-6

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title, which he has inherited is higher

than their own name. God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

Gospel: John 1:1-5. 9-14

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh he lived among us. 'And we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.'

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IN TOUCH

19th/20th Dec

4th Sunday of Advent, Year C

No. 1,034

As soon as wrongful thoughts come to your heart, dash them against Christ and disclose them to your spiritual father (Rule of St Benedict 4: 50)

Thursday Mass this week - 5:30pm.

Traditional Carol Service

THIS Sunday at 4pm in the Abbey Church. An hour of carols, readings and organ music, reflecting the Advent Season. Retiring collection for UNHCR. Followed by refreshments.

Christmas Services

Midnight Mass begins at 11.00pm (preceded by carols and organ music from 10.30pm). On Christmas Morning Mass in the Abbey begins at 10.00am (not 9.30) and in St Dunstan's at 11.15am (not 11:30).

The *In Touch* production team - Erica Ballard, Fred Green and Fr Aidan (now retired) – wish all our readers a Happy and Holy Christmas. We now take a break, returning on the weekend of 9th/10th January 2016. Please email worthintouch@hotmail.co.uk with news for inclusion. Copy day is now Wednesday.

Junior Church returns on 10th January. Songs and worship for younger children in the Unity Room and an older group in the Seminar Room (Choir Vestry).

Jesus is the light who brightens the darkness

In our personal history.. there are both bright and dark moments, lights and shadows. If we love God and our brothers and sisters, we walk in the light; but if our heart is closed, if we are dominated by pride, deceit, self-seeking, then darkness falls within us and around us...

The grace which was revealed in our world is Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary, true man and true God.. He came to free us from darkness and to grant us light.

In Him was revealed the grace, the mercy, and the tender love of the Father: Jesus is Love incarnate. He is the meaning of life and history, who has pitched his tent in our midst... God loves us, he so loves us that he gave us his Son to be our brother, to be light in our darkness.

Jesus is the light who brightens the darkness. He is our peace.....

(Pope Francis Christmas homily 2013)

Weekend Masses:

Worth Abbey: Saturday 17:00; Sunday 09:30

West Hoathly: Sunday 11.30

Holy Days:

Worth Abbey: 08:00, 17:30 [Vigil 19.30]

Weekday Masses:

Mon—Fri: 08:00, 17:30 (see above for Thurs); Sat 09.00

Farewell and Welcome

Fr Aidan writes "Thank you all for your support in the short time I have been Parish Priest, especially to those who serve on teams, committees and organise rotas. I have enjoyed the 12 months immensely and hope to continue to have some pastoral involvement with Worth Abbey Parish. **A warm welcome** to Fr Paul, not unknown to many, (he was PP twenty years ago. His first weekend in his new role will be 2nd/3rd January 2016.

Cake Sale and UNHCR Thank you to all the bakers and buyers of cakes. The sale last Sunday raised £179 for the UNHCR Fund for the refugee crisis in Europe. The new UNHCR winterisation plan for the Refugee Crisis in Europe is to avert the risk of increased tragedy between November and February. Please be generous. *Christina Fitzsimmons*.

Advance notice of the Parish AGM, to be held on Sunday 6th March after the 9:30 Mass, 11-12noon in the PAC. Will include presentation on Laudato Si Annual reports and elections to the PPC.

World Day of Migrants and Refugees, will be observed on Sunday, January 17th, 2016. This is an annual commemoration by the Church that raises awareness of the migration phenomenon; it logically enters into the context of the Year of Mercy and Pope Francis has given the theme: "Migrants and Refugees challenge us. The response of the Gospel of Mercy".

Prayers are requested for:

Clare Brookes, Mary Carling, Robin Ingham, Pat O'Grady, Rose Osborne, Grace Peterson, Clem Watson, Archie Whitby, David Wilks, Jane Willcox and Jo Wright.

Church Flowers

We all appreciate the impressive floral decorations in the Church, especially at Christmas and Easter. There is a small team of volunteers who do this work. The team is led by Christine Barwell, with Jill Carter, Hilary Langdon, Jane O'Dwyer and Chrissie White. Brother Anthony grows some of the flowers. Additional flower arrangers are wanted to join the rota. Whether you are an expert or have never done it before and would like to "have a go" ring up for a chat with Christine Barwell 01342 323330 or 07866 412439 or email barwell66@gmail.com.

Irundu Charity Meal

ADVANCE NOTICE: There will be a fundraising meal for Irundu at *Java and Jazz* in Forest Row on the evening of Monday 8th February 2016. Keep the date and details to follow in the New Year, but it will be delicious. If you know you would definitely like to come at this stage then please reply to Ali at: alisonstooks@hotmail.co.uk

Holy Door

Several hundred people including the Anglican Bishop of Chichester and clergy from around the Diocese attended Bishop Richard's opening of the Holy Door at Arundel Cathedral on Sunday to officially begin the Year of Mercy. Holy Doors were also opened at West Grinstead and at Weybridge. The Holy Door at Mayfield Convent will open in the new year, when the school returns from holidays.

Children Liturgy 5pm on First Saturday of the month. Dates for 2016: 6th Feb; 5th Mar, 2nd April, 7th May, 4th June, 2nd July

SAVE THE DATE:

2016

- 9th Jan, 11am **First Communion** programme begins, St Benedict's.
- 16th Jan, 10am to 4pm Justice & Peace Assembly at DABCEC
- 17th Jan: "Overcome indifference and win Peace". **Peace Sunday**
- 17th Jan: World Day for Migrants and Refugees
- 17th-23rd Jan Year of Mercy **Icon Retreat**, Crossbush (01903 882536)
- 18th-25th Jan: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - "**Salt of the Earth**"
- 27th Jan: Holocaust Memorial Day
- 29th Jan - Woolly Hat Day for the Homeless. See St Mungo's Broadway
- 8th Feb: Meal for **Irundu**, *Java & Jazz*, Forest Row, 7.30pm
- 8th - 11th Feb. Understanding Islam course Campion Hall Oxford
- 10th Feb: Ash Wednesday
- 19th Feb: **CAFOD Lent Fast Day**
- 27th Feb: A&B Youth Festival, St Joseph's, Redhill, 6:30 to 10:30pm
- 6th March, 11-12noon Parish AGM
- 12th - 19th March Dementia Prayer Week ' His Mercy is from Age to Age'.

Parish giving from the offertory and standing orders in September was £6,091 (73% Gift Aided), in October £6,192 (76% GA) and in November £7,040 (70% GA). Thank you very much indeed.

REGULAR EVENTS IN THE PARISH

Prayers for Healing - First Sunday 10:45-11:15, next session 6th January

Marian Prayer Group

2nd/4th Mon, 7:45pm, Lady Chapel

Lectio Divina

Tuesday, 8:20pm, Parlour 3

Mass & Prayers for Healing First

Wed of month, 7:15pm. Next 3rd Jan

Faith Group—RCIA

New enquirers invited.

Christian Meditation Group

Wed, 8:00pm, Unity Room on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays. Meets next 26th Jan.

Silent Adoration Friday 7.00pm

Vigil of Prayer for Vocations

First Friday of the month, 9pm to midnight. Next Vigil 8th January

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, 9:30 to 10:00am
Sunday before 9.30am Mass

Rosary Saturday, 9.30am

Prayers please for Lily Low RIP, the mother of Mandy Horton, and Gabriel Wilson RIP, brother of Theresa Tierney who have both died recently. Also for Ernest Constable, Fr Alan Downs, Josephine McLoughlin, Alec White, John Hall, Joanna Mackey, Jack Mantelow, Stanley Pitt, Joy Argent, Veronica Lamarche, Ambrose Rigby, Eve Dodwell and John Edward Clarke.

Parish contacts: parish@worth.org.uk 01342 710313; 01342 710351

Parish priest: Fr Aidan Murray 07732 012565 Secretary: Mandy Horton

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