

Times of Monastic Liturgy  
in the Abbey Church of  
Our Lady  
Help of Christians,  
Worth Abbey

*It is best to arrive at least five minutes  
before the commencement times listed.*

Monday - Friday

06:20 Office of Readings

07:30 Morning Prayer

08:00 Said Mass

13:00 Middy Prayer

17:30 Conventual Mass \*\*\*

18.45 Evening Prayer

21:00 Compline (Not Thursday)

Saturday

06:20 Office of Readings

07:30 Morning Prayer

09.00 Conventual Mass

13:00 Middy Prayer

18.45 Evening Prayer

21:00 Vigils of Sunday

Sunday

07:30 Morning Prayer

09.30 Sung Mass

18.00 Evening Prayer

\*\*\* N.B. Mass at 17.15 on some Thursdays  
in School Term. See page 1 or 2 for further  
details and other variations.

Weekend Masses:

Worth Abbey:

5.00pm First Mass of Sunday

9.30am (Concelebrated)

West Hoathly:

11.30am at St Dunstan's Chapel

Holy Days of Obligation:

Worth Abbey: Vigil Mass 7.30pm

8.00am, 5.30pm (Concelebrated)

To contact the Editor:

Erica Ballard

Email:

worthintouch@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 01444 230221

Designed and printed at Worth Abbey

Tel: 01342 710315

Email: bosullivan@worth.org.uk

## REGULAR EVENTS IN THE PARISH

Adult Faith Formation - Talks each  
month in term time. Contact: John  
Cooper Tel: 01342 825540 or E-mail:  
cooperjohn888@gmail.com.

Car Share - For requests and volunteers  
for getting people to Mass on Sundays:  
Contact: Jill Carter Tel: 07836 316525.

Emmaus - Meets at 7.45pm on the  
second Wednesday of each month at  
St Benedict's. Contact: Jill Carter E-mail:  
jill@carterclan.co.uk.

Child Protection Representative - Our  
Parish Representative is Rachel Davies  
Tel: 0780 169 6354.

Christian Meditation Group - Meets at  
8.00pm to 9.00pm each Wednesday in  
the Unity Room. Contact: Caterina Brown  
E-mail: caterina.brown@ntlworld.com  
Tel: 01737 211728.

Confirmation - Courses are run annually  
for 14 - 18 year olds. Details will be in  
In Touch and on the Parish Website.  
Contacts: Julia Newton Tel: 0771 427  
0959, E-mail: julia.newton@uclmail.net  
or Alice Pack: Tel: 07798 863108, E-mail:  
alice.pack@dsl.pipex.com.

Faith Group - RCIA - For those who are  
interested in the Catholic Church meets  
weekly in term time to understand what  
church membership means. Contact: Fr  
James if you would like to join.

Healing Service - First Wednesday each  
month at 7.15pm in Abbey Church led  
by Fr Rod.

Junior Church - With songs and worship  
is available for children: Pre-School in  
the Unity Room & those at school, in the  
Seminar Room (Choir Vestry). For further  
information Contact: Rachel Davies Tel:  
0780 169 6354 or E-mail: rfrmaison@  
gmail.com.

Lectio Divina - A group meets every  
Tuesday evening in Parlour 1 from  
8.20pm to 8.55pm. Contact: Fr Aidan  
E-mail: amurray@worth.org.uk.

Lost Property - If you have lost anything  
recently in the Abbey Church or  
anywhere at Worth, ring the Parish  
Secretary to make enquiries Tel: 01342  
710313.

Marriage Preparation - The Parish runs  
two one day courses in the Spring for  
all marriages in the twelve months

following. Contact: the Parish Office to  
book a place on the next course.

Marian Prayer Group - Meets every 2nd  
& 4th Monday of each month at 7:45pm  
in the Lady Chapel. Contacts: Fr Rod or  
Rachel Davies (07801-696354) or E-mail:  
rfrmaison@gmail.com.

Parish Necrology - The list of deceased  
is on the Welcome Table in the Narthex.  
For alterations and additions Tel: 01342  
710315.

Prayers for Healing - A simple liturgy  
of Prayers for Healing takes place at  
10.45am to 11.15am in the Blessed  
Sacrament Chapel, usually on the first  
Sunday of the month. Next services - 4th  
January and 1st February.

Prayer Vigil for Vocations to the  
Monastery - This takes place on the  
first Friday of every month in the Abbey  
Church from 9.00pm till 6.00am. Monks  
will pray before the Blessed Sacrament  
exposed on a half hourly rota through  
the night, and look to parishioners and  
visitors to support this prayer vigil. Come  
at any time during the night or morning  
for as little or as long a time as you wish.

Sacrament of Reconciliation - The  
sacrament is offered on Sundays before  
the 9.30am Mass.

Silent Adoration - 7.00pm to 8.00pm,  
Friday evenings in the Blessed  
Sacrament Chapel, Adoration of the  
Blessed Sacrament.

The Rosary is prayed each Saturday  
morning at 9.30am in the Lady Chapel,  
following the 9.00am Mass.

Parish Priest:

Fr James Tel: 01342 710313 or 07817  
656036 E-mail: jcutts@worth.org.uk.

Parish Secretary: Mandy Horton Tel: 01342  
710313 E-mail: mhorton@worth.org.uk.

By Post: Worth Abbey, Crawley, West  
Sussex RH10 4SB

Parish on the Web: <http://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk>

Website editor:

Meg Rew Tel: 01444 811507

E-mail: megrew@btinternet.com

Abbey on the Web: <http://www.worthabbey.net>



WORTH  
ABBAY PARISH

# IN TOUCH

20th/21st December 2014

Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)

No 990

*Share alike in bearing arms in the service of the one Lord, because whether slave or free,  
we are all one in Christ (Rule of St Benedict 2: 20)*

*Welcome to all our Visitors* - Please  
join us in the Narthex for coffee, tea and a  
chat after the Sunday morning Mass. If you  
would like to gift aid a donation, please pick  
up an envelope at the Welcome Desk.

*Food Bank* - Thank you for your donations  
of food to the Food Bank. Please leave  
non-perishable items in the bins outside  
St. Benedict's.

*First Collection* last weekend amounted  
to £802.54 (57% Gift Aided). Thank you.

### *Thank you and Farewell to Fr James as Parish Priest*

Fr James sent the following message "After  
12 years as Parish Priest I am finally hanging  
up my biretta. Thank you for being so  
patient with me, and for offering me such  
tremendous support. I am sure you will  
be equally kind to Father Aidan. With best  
wishes for the Christmas season and for the  
coming year, Fr James"

Fr James' last weekend as Parish Priest  
will be 27th/28th December and Fr Aidan's  
first weekend will be 3rd/4th January 2015.

**Christmas Services** - Midnight Mass  
begins at 11.00pm (preceded by carols  
and organ music from 10.30pm) and St  
Dunstan's starts at 11.15 on Christmas  
morning. **The only change this year is  
that Christmas Morning Mass will be  
a concelebrated Mass beginning at  
10.00am and not 9.30.**

*Irundu* - We are still £3000 short of our target  
figure of £12,000 annually to support the Health  
Centre in Irundu. Some marvellous work was  
being done there when the last group visited in  
November. A particularly contented group were  
the mothers and children in the post-natal clinic.  
The HIV clinic is also busy. It is a big ask but could  
you donate, if you already haven't, £5 a month as  
your offering for the poor in this part of Africa?

*Visiting Irundu* - There is an opportunity  
for anyone who has the time, to go out and spend  
some weeks or months in the Friendship House  
in Irundu Uganda. It is a comfortable place with  
a cook and housekeeper, Christine, and the charge  
is a very modest one. The house needs a caring  
eye and a willingness to do some handyman jobs  
around the place. Please contact the parish office  
if you are interested.

*New Parish Email Address* - A new  
general email address has been set up for any  
enquiries: [parish@worth.org.uk](mailto:parish@worth.org.uk). Both Fr Aidan  
and Mandy will be able to pick up the emails even  
when one is away.

*Congratulations* - To Nick and Mandy  
Horton, who celebrate their 20th Wedding  
Anniversary on December 28th.

*Junior Church* - Term begins again on  
Sunday 11th January. Songs and worship for  
younger children in the Unity Room and those  
at school in the Seminar Room (Choir Vestry).  
No need to pre-book, just come along.

### *EVENTS AT THE ABBEY*

**Traditional Carol Service - THIS SUNDAY**  
21st December at 4.00pm. An opportunity for  
everyone, family and friends, to celebrate the

coming feast of Christmas. Enjoy an hour of compelling music, traditional carols and readings; followed by refreshments in the Narthex. Retiring collection to send a sick pilgrim to Lourdes with the A&B Diocese Lourdes Pilgrimage. There will also be a crib collection for Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice.

**Please try to arrive as early as possible for the carol service.** If you are familiar with the school grounds, please would you kindly park there to allow visitors to use the Abbey car park. Donations of cakes would be much appreciated for the refreshments afterwards. Please bring along to the carol service or give to the following parishioners: Carol Morice (5.00pm Mass) Christina Fitzsimons (9.30am Mass) Nick Horton (11.30am Mass). Thank you.

### *Dates for Your Diary*

**A Marian retreat with a Benedictine flavour** – Medjugorge 3rd-11th September 2015. This retreat is primarily for those who have never been to Medjugorge before and those who have and will bring someone who has never visited before. Total cost (est. £490 + flight) crucially depends on how soon you book your EasyJet return ticket Gatwick-Split so decide now and book today. More details and help from Fr Alex Tel: 01342 710 328 E-mail: dalex@worth.org.uk.

**Free to Follow!** – Saturday 7th February 2015 10.00am to 5.00pm at The Dominican Sisters Convent, Gossops Green, Crawley. A day for YOUNG ADULTS (18-35) exploring the Gospel call to leave everything and follow Christ. Speaker: Fr Richard Ounsworth OP – Dominican Friar and Lecturer in Biblical Theology. For more information or to book, please email joziegilbert@hotmail.com.

**A&B News** – Please pray for Fr John Oliver whose funeral took place on 10th December and for Fr Geoffrey de Putron whose funeral will take place on Tuesday 23rd December at Our Lady of Ransom in Eastbourne at 12 noon. There will be a Vigil Mass for him on Monday 22nd December at 7.00pm also in Our Lady of Ransom. Please pray for the repose of their souls. May they rest in peace.

*In Touch returns* on the weekend of 10th/11th January 2015. Please email worthintouch@hotmail.co.uk.

### *Please pray for vocations to the priesthood for our Diocese.*

*What does Christmas say to people today?* – “It speaks of tenderness and hope. When God meets us he tells us two things. The first thing he says is: have hope. God always opens doors, he never closes them. He is the father who opens doors for us. The second thing he says is: don't be afraid of tenderness. When Christians forget about hope and tenderness they become a cold Church, that loses its sense of direction and is held back by ideologies and worldly attitudes, whereas God's simplicity tells you: go forward, I am a Father who caresses you. I become fearful when Christians lose hope and the ability to embrace and extend a loving caress to others. Maybe this is why, looking towards the future, I often speak about children and the elderly, about the most defenceless that is. Throughout my life as a priest, going to the parish, I have always sought to transmit this tenderness, particularly to children and the elderly. It does me good and it makes me think of the tenderness God has towards us.” *Pope Francis*

<http://www.lastampa.it/2013/12/14/esteri/vatican-insider/en/never-be-afraid-of-tenderness-5BqUfVs9r7W1CJIMuHqNel/pagina.html>

*Anniversaries* (to the end of December) – Please pray for the souls of: Josephine McLoughlin, Alec White, John Hall, Joanna Mackey, Jack Mantelow, Stanley Pitt, Joy Argent, Veronica Lamarche, Ambrose Rigby, Eve Dodwell, John Edward Clarke, Mrs Duncan, Hugh Vredenburg, Revd George Church, Paul Rubridge, Donald Nicolson, Muriel Price, Marie Rogue, Patricia Langridge, May Lane. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen.

*Next Week's Gospels* – **Monday** - Luke 1:46-56; **Tuesday** - Luke 1:57-66; **Wednesday** - Luke 6:7-9; **Thursday** - The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day) - **Midnight Mass:** Luke 2:1-14; - **Dawn Mass:** Luke 2:15-20; - **Day Mass:** John 1:1-18; **Friday** - Matthew 10:17-22 St Stephen; - **Saturday** - John 20:1a. 2-8.

## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

### FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY (B)

#### **First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6. 21:1-3**

‘Your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood.’ The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision. ‘Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield, your reward will be very great.’ ‘My Lord God,’ Abram replied ‘what do you intend to give me? I go childless.’ Then Abram said, ‘See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir’. And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, ‘He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood’. Then taking him outside he said, ‘Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants’ he told him. Abram put his faith in The Lord, who counted this as making him justified. The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

#### **Responsorial Psalm: Ps 127(128):1-2. 3. 4-5. R. cf. v.1**

#### **Second Reading: Hebrews 11:8. 11-12. 17-19**

The faith of Abraham, Sarah and Isaac.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore. It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

#### **Gospel: Luke 2:22-40**

The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom. When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, they took him up to

Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said: ‘Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel’. As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, ‘You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too-so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare’. There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem. When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

*From The Jerusalem Bible © 1966 by Darton Longman & Todd and Doubleday*