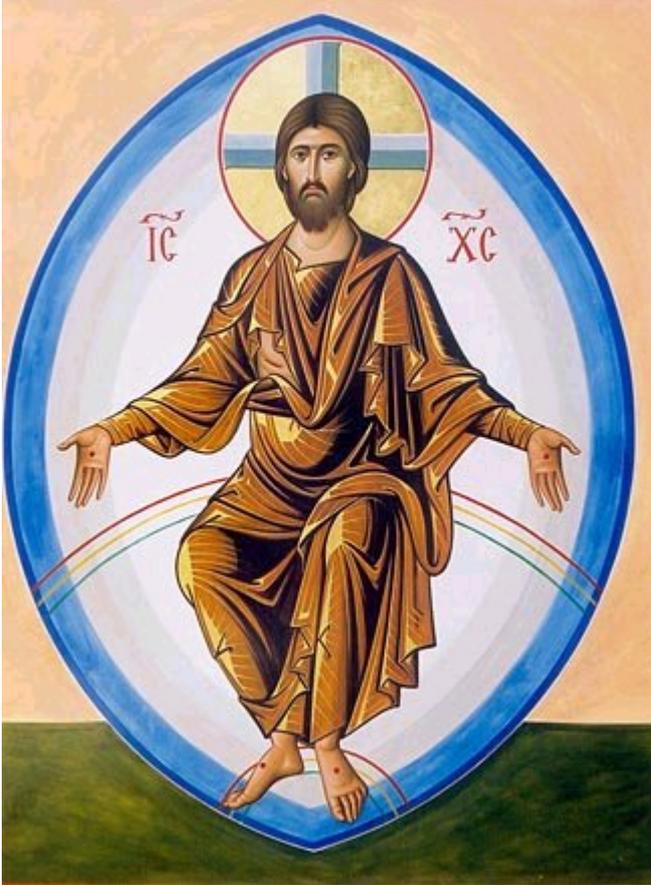


This is an occasional message from Worth Abbey to those who have indicated a willingness to receive it¹.

Worth Abbey | The Open Cloister

«GreetingLine»



But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.”

Matthew 28: 5 - 7

As we celebrate and reflect on the mystery of the Easter miracle we would like to invite you to grab a coffee and sit quietly and reflect on this very special time of year and what it really means...

So take a few minutes to read on as we bring you up to date with what's been happening in The Open Cloister at Worth Abbey...It has been a very exciting time here, a time of challenge, change and refocussing as we have welcomed back old friends and met new ones, and we just want to let you know about some important developments for 2016!

2016 has seen a change in leadership for The Open Cloister.... As many of you will already know, Fr Roderick has successfully held the reins as Director of The Open Cloister for over ten years, and he has now moved on to a new role and handed the baton on to a new – yet already familiar! - face to The Open Cloister....

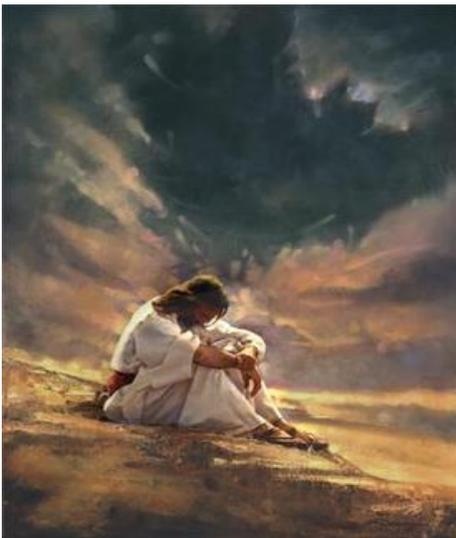
*We are delighted to announce that **Fr Gabriel Dobson** has taken over this very important role with effect from 1st January 2016. Many of you will already know Fr Gabriel, who is a true 'home grown' member of the Worth Community, having nurtured his faith through the Young Adult Programme here at Worth. Over to you Fr Gabriel...*



Fr Gabriel writes....

'I am looking forward to serving the community and all our many retreatants in this important ministry. Having experienced The Open Cloister growing up I know how important times of spiritual renewal can be, and I am looking forward to offering all those that come to stay with us the same opportunity'.

The Abbot and Community have been reviewing the ministry of The Open Cloister and how we work. Our focus will continue to be encouraging everyone in their faith journey at all stages of their lives, and to do so we will be expanding our mid-week programme of retreats. Along with our most popular retreats, you can expect to see new subjects with new guest presenters in a much busier mid-week programme and we are delighted to announce the following additions to our programme for 2016...



*"Come away to some lonely place...and rest for a while"
(Mark 6:31)*

Looking ahead through 2016 we are delighted to announce the following mid-week retreats...

The Face of Mercy 5th – 7th April 2016 with Michael Woodward

Some of you will already know Michael Woodward who has presented retreats here for us in the past, and we are delighted that, to tie in with the Year of Mercy, he will be presenting his The Face of Mercy Retreat.

Forgiveness 23rd – 25th May 2016 with Fodhla McGrane

We are thrilled to welcome Fodhla back to Worth for this very popular retreat, which we are running mid-week this year.

To Heaven with Dante 21st – 23rd June 2016 with Stephen and Elizabeth Serpell

Stephen and Elizabeth have a long association with Worth Abbey and The Open Cloister, and we are very pleased they have chosen Worth to present their To Heaven with Dante retreat.

Business and Spirituality 5th – 7th July 2016 with Stephen Payne

We are delighted to welcome Stephen back to Worth to present his ever popular retreat, which we are running mid-week this year.

Cost for all these midweek retreats: £227 per person for a single room, or £200 per person for a shared room

(available when two people book in together).

In addition to the new mid-week retreats we are also pleased to offer the following weekend retreat:

Watchfulness in the Gospels 29th April – 1st May 2016 with Shaun Lambert

Some of you will know Shaun from his previous retreats here and also his radio appearances. We are pleased to welcome him back to present a new retreat for Worth, Watchfulness in the Gospels.

Cost: £249 per person for a single room, or £221 per person for a shared room (available when two people book in together).

Places on these retreats are likely to fill up quickly so we would strongly advise you to book early to avoid disappointment! If you would like to book a place please contact Alison Schillinger, our Bookings Secretary to reserve a place; see <http://www.worthabbey.net/Abbey-Contact-Us>

To ensure we are offering you the sort of retreats you are looking to attend, we will be continually developing the programme as the year unfolds, so do please keep a close eye on our [Website](#) which we will be regularly updating with details of our new events. Alongside this, the exciting news is that the Community will have an increased focus on evangelization, which I am sure you agree is a very important area on which to focus. To help focus this ministry, we have welcomed a new residential Youth Community known as The Forerunners who are now resident on the top floor of Compass House. They are a group of young Catholic evangelisers who will be working alongside both Worth School and the Monastic Community. You can expect to hear much more about this very exciting development in future Newsletters, so make sure you keep checking your In Box for our emails!

Quiet Fridays

*Back by popular demand as always are our Quiet Fridays – time to step away from the busyness of your everyday life for a short time to re-evaluate and refocus yourself. Designed especially for those people who can't manage a whole weekend or who wish initially to have a shorter introduction into the retreat experience, we recommend our **Quiet Fridays**, held monthly as detailed below:*

April 8th

July 8th

November 11th

May 13th

September 9th

December 9th

June 10th

October 14th

An opportunity to encounter God through prayer and reflection in space and silence. Take time for stillness and solitude; enjoy the attractive grounds and Quiet Garden. Join the monastic community for Midday Prayer in the Abbey Church, followed by the opportunity of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. Please bring your own packed lunch, we will provide tea and coffee for you. Arrivals from 10:15 a.m. for a 10:45 a.m. start, with the day finishing at 3:30 p.m. Held in

the Day Centre of Compass House, Quiet Fridays are exclusively for individuals to have a time of quiet and reflection, and we continue to warmly welcome men and women of all Christian denominations and none.

***Per person** £13 (£9 concessionary) Deposits are not required but pre-booking is essential please.*

*Details of our current programme for 2016 will be available very shortly on our Website, starting on the web page: <http://worthabbey.net/Retreat-Program> then click on the link for the **Retreat Programme**. Please do feel free to enquire about any of our events by contacting Alison Schillinger, our Bookings Secretary, who will be pleased to hear from you.*

Warm Invitation

*If you have been thinking about attending a retreat here at Worth, whether for the day or longer, why not make 2016 the year you do it? You can be certain of a very warm welcome in a friendly, informal and relaxed atmosphere. We welcome people of all faiths and none, those who are certain of their faith, those who are taking their first tentative steps in discerning it, and everyone else in-between - **let's take the next step on your journey together!***

May I ask you to keep The Open Cloister and all who come here in your prayers as we continue with our mission to spread the word of the Lord amongst his people in these challenging times for us all?

Yours, with Blessings, especially in this Easter season as we celebrate the resurrection of Our Lord,

Fr Gabriel Dobson

*Fr Gabriel Dobson
Director of The Open Cloister*

¹ *I have included, on this e-mail list, those with whom we regularly communicate by e-mail and those for whom we have only an e-mail address.*

Should you wish to change your mailing options for these occasional messages from Worth Abbey please reply, or send a new message to TOC@worthabbey.net, with the following options (delete

Yes/No *as appropriate):*

Yes/No *I would like to continue to receive occasional e-mail notices from Worth Abbey*

Yes/No *I would prefer to receive the printed programme by post*

Yes/No *Please delete my details from your mailing list.*

Yes/No *Please note my new contact details:*

Name:

E-mail:

Postal Address:

Post Code:

Home/Work Telephone:

Mobile Telephone:

² *To view 'pdf' documents you may need to*

