



In Touch

Journeying Together:

Collaboration

Co-operation

Co-Responsibility

Twenty Second Sunday in OT (year A)
2nd / 3rd September 2023
No. 1349

Dear Parishioners

I hope that you and your families are well. I send you all my prayers.

This Sunday at mass we welcome into our community three new members through the sacrament of Baptism – Nova Gill, and Taya and Dylan Rana Keynes, together with their parents, Elise and Deep, and Sophie and Neil, who have recently joined our parish. Do please make them welcome. Our baptism is perhaps the most important moment in our lives until our death, being the occasion when we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, a share in the life and love of God, in which, by His grace, we grow throughout our lives, and begin our close relationship with Jesus. St Paul expresses this as *putting on Christ*, which in the ceremony is symbolised by the clothing with a white garment. At the moment of anointing with oil the prayer asks that, *As Christ was anointed Prophet, Priest and King may you be given strength to share in his ministry*. This offers each of us the opportunity to reflect on our own Christian vocation and mission. Please pray for them and for each member of our community, that we may be able to fulfil our vocation faithfully.

Later this month we begin our new programme of **Family Catechism**. It is clear that, in a non-Christian, and frequently hostile, world a new approach to catechism is needed, to equip all of us with a sure knowledge of the content of our faith, a strong relationship with Jesus and a real sense of belonging to our local Christian community. All the research into the transmission of faith shows that continuous accompaniment, parental support and a sense of belonging to the Parish community leads to young people growing and staying in relationship with the Lord. So, we have devised a series of groups that will offer sessions for families to attend, and these will replace Sacramental Preparation courses as we currently know them. This is in line with recommendations from the Diocesan Youth Adviser. This year we offer two groups: **All Saints—A group for 6-9 year olds** and their families which will replace the First Holy Communion Programme as we know it. This will enable children to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist when they are spiritually ready, rather than when they are in a particular academic year. And also **Inspired—A youth group that will allow 12-16 year olds** to discover what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. At the same time parents will be supported in how to respond to some of the bigger questions their children may be asking. This group will replace the Confirmation programme, allowing young people to receive the Sacrament when they feel called to respond to the Lord by saying yes to this significant milestone in their faith journey.

I invite any families who are interested to get in touch straight away, and we will send you any information which you need. *All Saints* begin on Sunday, 17th, after mass, and *Inspired* on Sunday, 24th, after mass. You might also like to look at the new Diocesan Pastoral Plan, which explains the new approach at length in #7 – [Pastoral Plan](#) or please see our parish website : [Family Catechism](#)

Meanwhile, we enter into **The Season of Creation**. Please use the prayer below, an invitation, by St Francis, to find in God's Creation a reflection of God's own beauty and love. Please see the parish website: [Season of Creation](#)

I send you all my very best wishes. Yours, Fr Paul

Prayers

Please pray for Mary Baker, who is seriously ill in hospital.

Please continue to pray for our parishioners Jill Carter, Laura Rawlinson
Peter and Antee Greene, Fred Green, Hugh Hurdman, Severina and Norbert D'Souza.

Praying with creation

“For the believer, to contemplate creation is to hear a message, to listen to a paradoxical and silent voice.”
(LS 85)

*Most High, all-powerful, good Lord, yours are the praises, the glory,
and the honour, and all blessing.*

To You alone, Most High, do they belong, and no human is worthy to mention Your name.

*Praised be You, my Lord, with all Your creatures, especially Brother Sun,
Who is the day and through whom You give us light.*

And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour; and bears a likeness of You, Most High One.

*Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,
in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,
and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather,
through whom You give sustenance to Your creatures.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water,
who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom You light the night,
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.*

From the Canticle of St Francis

A prayer for Pope Francis

Please pray for Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, in thanksgiving for all he has done for our Church, and that
he may have the strength and courage to complete the task which God has given him.

Almighty God, look kindly on your servant Pope Francis.

You invited him to shepherd your flock. Guide and protect him in his daily work.

Inspire him in your ways to embrace Church unity.

A prayer for Peace and Justice in Ukraine

*God of peace and justice, who change the hardened heart and break the power of violence,
we entrust the people of Ukraine to you.*

Protect them in this time of peril; let them know, not death, but life, not slavery, but freedom

You are Father of all; we are brothers and sisters

Give us the strength to live that truth in love, choosing peace, not war

Amen

Anniversaries

Please pray for the Souls of – Margaret Owers, David Carter, Reg Parker, Rorie Duncan,
Bridget Cheal Snelling, Norman Maddock, Alexandra Church, Charles Hurdman, Michael Burke and
Matthew Lovell.

**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in
peace. Amen.**

Daily Readings – w/c – 4th September

Monday – 1 Thess 4:13-18 Luke 4:16-30

Tuesday – 1Thess 5:1-6, 9-11 Luke 4:31-37

Wednesday – Col 1:1-8 Luke 4:38-44

Thursday – Col 1:9-14 Luke 5:1-11

Friday – Mic 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30 Matt 1:1-16, 18-23 **(The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary)**

Saturday – Col 1:21-23 Luke 6:1-5

Next Sunday's Readings: **Twenty Third Sunday in OT (Year A)**
1st Reading – Ezekiel 33:7-9 2nd Reading – Romans 13:8-10
Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20
If your brother listens to you, you have won back your brother

Parish Events

St Dunstan's, West Hoathly

After conducting a long process of consultation, the Diocese has concluded that they cannot provide a priest to serve the chapel of St Dunstan in West Hoathly, and that it will therefore be closed permanently. Preparations are being made to sell the property.

Junior Church will begin again Next Sunday, 10th September.

Do you have any leftover foreign currency? You can Pop it into our collection basket, we will happily accept it.

There will not be a mass in the Abbey Church on Saturday 9th September at 9am. However, everyone will be welcome at the school mass which will begin at 11am.

Dates for your Diary

This Saturday, 2nd September – There will be refreshments after the 5pm mass.

Next Sunday, 10th September – There will be brunch in Compass House from 11am.

Saturday 23rd September - Diocesan Catechists' Day - 10.30am - 4pm at Worth School.

The day aims to encourage and inform catechists during a day of reflection and networking.

This year the keynote speech will be by Brendan Thompson from Catholic Voices and the theme, taken from the recent book, is 'Christendom to Apostolic Mission: Our challenge'.

The day is for all catechists, including those involved in Children's Liturgy. Please go to this link for more information and to book: [Catechists' Day \(23-Sep-2023\)](#)

Catechesis Group 2023-2024 (RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

In September we are starting a new **RCIA group** for those planning to be received into the Catholic Church. The aim of the group is to give an overview of Church teaching, some in-depth exploration of doctrine, and formation in the basic aspects of Christian living. The group will be led by Geoff Chapman, and will follow a course called *Sycamore*, a very helpful series of high-quality videos that give a good balance between input and group discussion. Each session is 60 to 90 minutes long, and the course will run weekly, during school term time, from September through to Easter. The group is informal and discussion based and is a great way to get to know people in the Parish better.

In previous years, we have also found that the course is very suitable for anyone who is exploring the Catholic faith, even if they are not sure about becoming Catholic, as well as Catholics who wish to grow in their understanding. This extra participation is also very helpful for those who are in RCIA, so we would encourage you to come along to support them if you have the time.

If you are interested in joining, whether for RCIA or just to explore the Catholic faith more deeply, please contact Geoff by email at gchapman@worth.org.uk, or by phone on 01342 710273, or [meet him after mass in the narthex](#).

House Group Gathering

All welcome! We have a very informal house group gathering in Balcombe on the last Friday of each month. All Worth parishioners are very welcome to come, socialise, relax, have a drink and some snacks and get to know your community better.

Upcoming dates are: 29th September, 27th October, 24th November and 29th December.

We gather from 7.30pm.

Please let Charlie Tibble know on 07845956243 if you intend to come the week before and she will send you directions

Worth Abbey Pilgrims

As part of the High Weald Walking Festival, join us for accompanied walks through the Worth Estate on **Thursday 14th and 16th September at 11am or 2pm.**

These walks will be led by Fr Patrick and we will have some local experts on hand to point out areas of interest on our farm, and about our trees, woodland, wildlife and birds. This walk will be a leisurely walk and the duration will be approximately 1.5 to 2hrs.

Accompanied children and dogs are welcome.

Alternatively, you may wish to join our walk from Three Bridges Station to Worth on **Saturday 16th September at 11am.**

This walk will be led by Christina and George Fitzsimons and will depart promptly at 11:00am from outside the station. The walk duration is 4.5 hours including a lunch stop at Worth Abbey.

The walk is suitable for accompanied younger walkers who have experience of walking longer distances on trails and off-road paths. Please note, no dogs, except assistance dogs.

There will be refreshments available to purchase on the Piazza of the Abbey Church and walkers are very welcome to join the Monastic Community for **Midday Prayer at 1:00pm.**

Accompanied children are welcome. Please wear appropriate footwear.

All walks must be booked through the [High Weald Walking Festival website](#)

A Message from Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group (GDWG)

"As the weather is getting colder, we wanted to let you know that the GDWG clothing store needs some of the below men clothes. It would be greatly appreciated if you are able to help. Please contact Nasima Karimi on email: nasima@gdvg.org.uk. Thank you".

Or you can leave items in the Parish Office Porch.

Jumper size M-L

Jacket size M-L

Trainer's size 08,09,10,11,12

Trousers size 32-34-36

T-shirt- size M-L

Tracksuits all sizes.

Webinar - How can we protect our common home?

7pm, Tuesday, **12th September**

This September marks a year since the Bishops of England and Wales republished The Call of Creation, a document that encourages us to repair our relationship with God's creation. It recognises the interconnectedness of the biggest challenges of our times and urges each of us to ask ourselves how we can protect our common home. Watch a panel discussion on the 'Call of creation'.

Register: [bigmarker.com/caford/signsoftimes](https://www.bigmarker.com/caford/signsoftimes)

A Day of Reflection for Grandparents

26th September, 11am-3.30pm at The St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley RH10 6RP.

Fr Stephen Ortiger will explore how we can see the hand of God in our lives with our Youth Adviser, Lizzie Wakeling offering some hints and tips for communicating with young people. Register your free place [here](#)

Crawley Open House Sleep Out

Every year Open House hold a sponsored sleep out and this year it takes place on the night of

Thursday 26th October, either in Crawley's Queen's Square or at home.

The main event will see a large group spending the night in the Square, but the option is there for people to do it in their homes or place of work if that suits them better.

Crawley Open House say *"We are well aware that these sleep outs offer only a tiny glimpse of the disorientation, tiredness and discomfort that too many have to endure EVERY night. However even one night on concrete under the stars can be an eye-opener for many. It is our largest fundraising event this year, and we hope to raise over £10,000 from peoples' combined sponsorship. We face unprecedented demand for our services currently, whilst seeing a marked drop in individual and community giving as a result of the cost-of-living crisis, so we hope this event will attract even more participants and support than usual"*

Sign up for your sponsorship at the campaign page

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/cohbigssleepout2023> Or

Please contact ian.wilkins@crawleyopenhouse.co.uk if you have any questions.

Creating a safer environment - sessions

Please see below upcoming dates for our 'Creating a Safer Environment' training sessions (all on Zoom).

This training is aimed at PSR's, Group Leaders, and Coordinators of activities in parishes, who also need to know the elements of our 'Creating a Safer Environment' policy. We would be grateful if you could spread the word to relevant individuals within your parishes and ask them to email Safeguarding@abdiocese.org.uk to register.

- 📅 Wednesday 6th September 10-11.30am
- 📅 Wednesday 11th October 10-11.30am
- 📅 Thursday 26th October 2-3.30pm
- 📅 Tuesday 7th November 7-8.30pm

Engaging the Disengaged

How to accompany the non-religious person in day-to-day life, **21st November**, 6pm, online (£10). The evangelist, speaker and author Sherry Weddell will explore how Catholics can fulfil their mission to bring everyone to Christ. The seminar is particularly relevant to people who are active in evangelisation: priests, deacons, religious, catechists, teachers, pastoral ministers and parishioners.

Find out more & book [here](#).

*If anyone would like to attend and would like the parish to pay, please let us know.

Links for Our Common Home

[Help Reduce Food Waste](#) [Greenpeace 101 ideas to live more sustainably](#)

[Help Reduce Plastic Waste](#) [Laudato Si' Movement](#)

[WSCC Environment and Climate Change Newsletter](#)

[Nature on your doorstep](#) <https://www.sussexgreenliving.co.uk/>

<https://www.recyclenow.com/repeatthecycle> [Greenpeace Big Plastic Count](#)

[West Sussex Climate Action](#) [The Joyful Environmentalist](#) [Greener Living](#)

[CAFOD climate crisis campaign](#) [grow wild uk news](#) <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>

For other regular items, please see the website:

For readings, see Universalis: [Universalis](#) Parish Leadership Team: [Parish Leadership Team](#)

Our Facebook page: [Parish Facebook](#) Children's Junior Church liturgy: [Junior Church](#)

Diocesan Family Materials: [Family Materials](#) Parish Giving: [My Dona Parish Giving](#)

For D'Arcy's music, please visit our homepage under Organ volunteers:

<https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/>

Please use the QR code for donations to the Parish. Thank you



Parish Priest: Fr Paul Fleetwood (Mobile: 07764 260216)

Parish Office Email: parish@worth.org.uk Parish Office Tel: 01342 710313 Parish Website: www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk

Secretary: Maria Stribbling, available 9.15am-1.15pm Mon-Fri

Night time emergencies only: 01342 710331

Any cheques to be made payable to – Worth Abbey Parish

In Touch: If you would like anything to appear in 'In Touch', please contact Maria Stribbling at parish@worth.org.uk (by Wednesday 10am)

Safe Spaces: 0300 303 1056 Web: www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk/ Email: safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk

If you are unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, or if you have any prayer intentions, please let Fr Paul know.

REGULAR EVENTS IN THE PARISH

Mass Times - Saturday: 9.00 am (Concelebrated) and 5.00 pm (First Mass of Sunday),
Sunday: 9.30 am
Daily Mass: 5.30 pm (Concelebrated), Holy Days of Obligation: 7.30 pm;
Feast Day: 5.30 pm



Confessions (Sacrament of Reconciliation) – In the Church, Sundays 08.45am – 09.15am
(If anyone cannot come at this time, please make a special appointment with Fr Paul)

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament – Every Sunday at 6.30pm in the Church, after vespers.

Rosary Group – Mondays in the Abbey Church after Vespers – 7:10pm until 8:00pm. Please get in touch with Rachel Davies: 07801 696354. **Resumes on Monday 11th September**

Lectio Divina – Tuesday evenings at 8pm via Zoom. Please contact Jenny Chapman
jenny_chapman@sky.com

Christian Meditation Group – 7.00pm in the Unity Room, please contact Richard by email
rbrownd1@gmail.com Next Dates – **27th September**, 25th October and 29th November.

Vigil for Vocations - (1st Friday). After Compline 8.30pm - 9.00pm.

Bible Study Group – 2pm on Mondays in Compass House. Please contact Jenny Chapman. **Resumes on Monday 4th September**

Adoration – Wednesdays from 2pm–3pm in the Abbey Church. **Resumes on Wednesday 13th September.**

Worth Abbey Parish is committed to safer recruitment. Arundel and Brighton Diocese and Worth Abbey Parish are committed to safeguarding all children and vulnerable groups at risk within its community. The Diocese aims to embed a culture of safeguarding to prevent abuse and to provide support to individuals who have been hurt by abuse, taking the necessary actions to reduce the likelihood of further harm.

Our Worth Abbey Parish Safeguarding Reps are Charles and Ann McCarthy
Email: sg1.worth@abdiocese.org.uk