



In Touch

Journeying Together:

Collaboration

Co-operation

Co-Responsibility

Twelfth Sunday in OT (year B)

22nd / 23rd June 2024

No. 1388

Dear Parishioners

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

This week we mark **Refugee Week**, when we are reminded to pray for refugees and to work for their welfare. This is a good moment for us all to meditate on the words of Jesus, *I was a stranger and you welcomed me.* (Mt 25.35). In our parish we celebrate Refugee Week most especially with a talk given by Anna Pincus after our Sunday mass, at 11 am in the Unity Room. Anna has worked for many years for the Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group, a group made up mainly of volunteers who visit and befriend those detained locally by immigration. I am sure that her talk will inspire you – and perhaps horrify as well. If you would like to find out more about volunteering, do come to her talk; and you might like to look at our website too - <https://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk/?s=refugees>

Pope Francis has often written and spoken about the need to support refugees. *See in the migrants of our time, as in those of every age, a living image of God's people on their way to the eternal homeland.* He calls us to recognize the Lord present in the millions of people who are forced to migrate due to conflict, persecution, poverty, and the climate crisis, “as a living image of God's people on their way to the eternal homeland.” Pope Francis reiterates his call to us to open our hearts and doors to our brothers and sisters on the move, reminding us that “the encounter with the migrant, as with every brother and sister in need, is also an encounter with Christ.” It is estimated that there were 281 million international migrants in the world in 2020, which equates to 3.6 per cent of the global population, and that number continues to rise.

You might also like to see the reflection by Bishop Paul McAleenan. He commented on the recent passing of the Rwanda Bill: *The UK Government has a responsibility to ensure that we have an immigration system that upholds the dignity of human life. The Rwanda scheme does not do that.*”

“During Refugee Week, I invite everyone to join in prayer and reflect on our understanding and belief that every person is made in the image and likeness of God. Let us remember that we all seek the same fundamental needs – safety, acceptance, and a place to call home.” Do see the Bishops' website: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/bishop-mcaleenans-reflection-for-refugee-week-2024/>

I send you my best wishes. Yours. Fr Paul

Prayers

Please pray for Sue Pearson

Please continue to pray for our parishioners Norbert and Severina D'Souza, Veronica Adnitt, John and Sue Rutherford, Demelza Waring, Liz Hicklin, Pamela Bagwell, Helen Sweetman, Jill Carter, Laura Rawlinson, Peter and Antee Greene, Fred Green and Hugh Hurdman.

A prayer of Pope Francis, marking Refugee Week

*God, Almighty Father, we are Your pilgrim Church
journeying towards the Kingdom of heaven.
but as if we were foreigners.*

*Every foreign place is our home, yet every native land is foreign to us.
Though we live on earth, our true citizenship is in heaven.
Do not let us become possessive of the portion of the world
You have given us as a temporary home,
together with our migrant brothers and sisters,
toward the eternal dwelling you have prepared for us.
Open our eyes and our hearts so that every encounter with those in need
becomes an encounter with Jesus, Your Son and our Lord.
Amen.*

A prayer for Christians preparing for the General Election

*Mary, model of encounter, you heard God's call.
Teach us to listen deeply in our polarised world.
Mary, woman of courage, you sang joyfully of God's justice.
Inspire us to challenge inequality and call for fulness of life for all.
Mary, seeker of sanctuary, you fled violence and persecution.
Be with us as we seek peace and respect for human dignity.
Mary, mother of community, you joined the disciples at Pentecost.
Pray that the Spirit will empower us as we act together for the common good.
Amen.*

In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year "Pilgrims of Hope", 2024 has been designated a Year of Prayer by Pope Francis.

"Prayer unites us; it makes us brothers and sisters.

*It is in prayer that our hearts find the strength not to be cold and insensitive in the face of injustice.
In prayer, God keeps calling us, opening our hearts to charity." (Pope Francis)*

God of peace may your kingdom come. May fear strike no longer, let pain fade away, may earthly power be challenged, when it plunders the poor, and tramples on hope.

God of peace may your kingdom come. Help us put away the weapons of war, help us destroy the tools of destruction, let earthly power be challenged, when it plunders the poor, and tramples on hope.

God of peace may your kingdom come. Teach us to follow the ways of justice, teach us to walk the paths of truth, let integrity challenge the power that plunders, when it tramples the poor and pours scorn on our hope.

God of peace may your kingdom come. Bring peace sweet as honey, bring peace like a shield, and may we be the challenge to earthly power that plunders and tramples on hope.

God of peace may your kingdom come.

Amen.

(Linda Jones/CAFOD)

Please pray for the people of Israel and Palestine and of Russia and Ukraine

*God of peace, who are peace itself,
and whom a spirit of discord cannot grasp, nor a violent mind receive,
grant that those who are one in heart may persevere in what is good.
and that those in conflict may forget evil and so be healed.*

Through Christ our Lord. Amen

(Prayer: Roman Missal, p.1361)

Anniversaries

Please pray for the Souls of – Ian Gibson, Ted Spice, Dora Bridger, Nigel Daniels, Alan Harris, Colette Hélène Rowland, Mary Carling, Valerie Maitland, Bert White, Fr Charles Hallinan, Rudi Weisweiler, Lesley Sayward and Dom Edward Cruise.

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

Daily Readings

Monday – Isa 49:1-6 Acts 13:22-26 Luke 1:57-66, 80 (**The Nativity of St John the Baptist**)
Tuesday – 2 Kgs 19:9b-11, 14-21, 31-35a, 36 Matt 7:6, 12-14
Wednesday – 2 Kgs 22:8-13, 24:1-3 Matt 7:15-20
Thursday – 2 Kgs 24:8-17 Matt 7:21-29
Friday – 2 Kgs 25:1-12 Matt 8:1-4 (**St Irenaeus**)
Saturday – Lam 2:2, 10-14, 18-19 Matt 8:5-17

Next Sunday's Readings: **Saints Peter and Paul (Year B)**

1st Reading – Acts 12:1-11 2nd Reading – 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-19

You are Peter and, on this rock, I will build my Church

Parish Events

Dates for your Diary



This Sunday, 23rd June – After mass in the Unity Room. A talk to mark Refugee Week given by Anna Pincus who for many years has been working on behalf of immigration detainees at the centres near Gatwick airport. Please come and find out about everything which is happening on our doorstep and ask all the questions which you have wanted to ask about immigration. (see box below)

Sunday, 30th June – The Family Catechesis groups continue in Compass House and the Unity room after mass. **(moved from 16th due to the London – Brighton bike ride).**

Sunday, 7th July – Parish picnic, after mass.

Saturday, 21st September - This year the Catechists' Day will be held again at Worth Abbey & School. This year we are inviting Catechists and those involved in Children's Liturgy and all forms of adult formation. The theme will be in response to the Pastoral Plan: Call to Mission - are we Equipped for Mission? More details in the summer.

Mark and Charlie's House Group Gathering

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. Please contact Charlie Tibble c.tibble@stwilfrids.com
Next Date: **Friday, 5th July (Please be advised of change of date for this session) at 7.30pm.**

Refugee Week Talk – This Sunday 23rd June at 11 am in the Unity Room

Worth Abbey Parish has invited Anna Pincus, Director of the local charity Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group (GDWG), to come and talk to us about the current state of immigration detention in the UK. GDWG supports people held in immigration detention at the two local Immigration Removal Centres – Brook House and Tinsley House. These are just up the road on the perimeter of Gatwick Airport. GDWG's volunteer visitors are there to befriend and listen to the experiences of those detained. Anna's talk will give a valuable insight into the lives of those who have fled their home countries seeking sanctuary in the UK.

Please show your support

If our Spring Newsletter [here](#) inspires you to support our work, please consider becoming a Friend of GDWG to enable our frontline work to continue. Our Friends sign up to regular giving with monthly donations from as little as £5 per month. These donations mean the world to us! Donations assist us to offer trained volunteer visitors for emotional support to people in detention and phone credit that is a lifeline for detained people to stay in touch with their families, legal advisors and support networks. Donations enable us to provide clothing to detained people so they have the basic dignity of a change of clothes. We support over 2,000 people a year and here is the link to donate. Please share with your friends and invite them to become a Friend of GDWG: [donate online](#). *Thank you for your support, Anna.*

Monks in the City – Season 3

Pray with us – The Divine Office at St John the Baptist’s Church, Brighton

Lauds (morning prayer) – Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat at 9am

Vespers (evening prayer) – Mon, Tue, Wed at 6pm

Special Vespers:

Nativity of St John the Baptist – **Mon 24th June at 6pm**

Midday Stillness (until 19th July)

Every Friday, noon – 1pm. An hour of music, prayer and reflection in St John the Baptist’s Church.

Saturday Sanctuary

22nd June from 10.10am – 12.15pm. A morning of fellowship, reflection, prayer and silence at Fitzherbert Community Hub.

St John the Baptist’s, 2 Bristol Road, Kemptown, Brighton, BN2 1AP – 07444 802368

Aid to the Church in Need

Aid to the Church in Need supports persecuted Christians in over 140 countries around the world and is currently involved in 5,000 projects.

ACN work directly with bishops, priests and religious sisters and brothers to make sure that any aid goes directly to those that it is intended for. Many of these religious members, risk their own lives every day to provide help and spiritual support to our suffering brothers and sisters.

Your kind prayers and support would be greatly appreciated. <https://acnuk.org/get-involved/donate/>

New appeal from GDWG

Informal (young) men’s. Do you have any men's clothing - all sizes - for our clothing store? We'd appreciate donations very much. our shelves are bare and the need does not abate. If you have any clothes you can donate, please drop them off at the Parish Office. Thank you.

ELECTION

We are asked to publish the following information.

To cast a vote at the polling station it is necessary both to be registered and to have valid identification.

The General Election on 4th July will be the first at which photo ID has been required.

The [Electoral Commission](#) has details on its website of the forms of ID which are acceptable, And how voters who do not possess it can apply for a [Voter Authority Certificate](#) – for which the deadline is **17:00 on Wednesday 26th June.**

Please see an item on general election on our website - [General Election](#)

CSAN has also published a resource called *Do Justice: A Vision for Spiritual and Civic Renewal in England and Wales*. The booklet sets out a renewed vision for the nations of England and Wales, centred on Christ and Catholic Social Teaching. It is an invitation to the Catholic communities of England and Wales to fulfil ever more deeply our baptismal vocation and it is the foundation of Do Justice. It could be a good place to begin your preparations for a Catholic response to the General Election, underpinned by Gospel-inspired principles. You can access it towards the bottom of [this page](#).

CAFOD car wash

The Parish is pleased to support the Worth School CAFOD Young Leaders in the following fundraising initiative. Please try to drive by!...



CAFOD annual car wash is back this year on **Thursday 27th of June**, from 9:30am to 3pm at Compass House car park.



A new addition to our fabulous fundraiser will be; complementary coffee as customers wait for their car to be sparkly clean.

Additionally, there will be Krispy Kreme donuts on sale for £2, as well as ice lollies on offer for £1.”

Next weekend there will be a Second Collection for "Peter's Pence".

The purpose of the Peter's Pence Collection is to provide the Holy Father with the financial means to respond with emergency assistance to those who are suffering as a result of war, oppression, natural disaster, and disease. This collection was started centuries ago to provide financial support for the Pope and has evolved to fund the Holy See's charitable actions for those in need.

Our Diocesan Liturgy and Music Adviser, Catherine Christmas, is producing a monthly "Scripture for Reflection and Intentions for Prayer" booklet for people across our community of faith.

Catherine writes: "There is nothing 'ordinary' or commonplace about Ordinary Time! It is so called because this is the ordered time – outside the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter – when Sundays are counted (using ordinal numbers) ... In this season we are encouraged to grow and mature in daily expression of our faith. This is a time to deepen our prayer life, to read and reflect on the Scriptures, and to unite ourselves more deeply with the Lord in the Eucharist." [Click Here](#) to read this month's resource and find out more.

Church Closure

From
Monday 15th July – Friday 2nd August
the church will be closed for
necessary Maintenance.
We expect the Unity Room will be
available.
We will keep you updated.

Would anyone be able to join a group in your home area who could watch out for anyone who may not be able to attend mass for any reason?

We hope it will help to keep an open door to the parish for those who cannot be physically present, either by taking Holy Communion into their home or by simply making a social visit. Do please get in touch if you can help. Thank you very much.

In preparation for the election, Cardinal Vincent Nicolls writes to us:

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, encourages Catholics to vote in this July's General Election :

"Engage with [parliamentary] candidates in any way that you can - you want to know what that candidate will think and say on your behalf, when that candidate gets into parliament.

"There are lots of questions you might want ask, there is a theme, though, that I would like to put forward and that is 'how do we seek to construct a society in which families can flourish?' that theme is the bedrock and all sorts of things flow from that..

"Criminal Justice depends a lot on the stability of family life; poverty and plenty and how we adjust and share the resources of our society; International Affairs and Education are important for the flourishing of family life, as are Life Issues, the beginning and ending of life, those principles that are so crucial to our mutual respect and regard for one another."

Cardinal Nichols signposts a number of resources in the recording which offer guidance on key topics of interest to Catholics. You can access these resources and find out more on the [Bishops' Conference Website](#). The St Vincent De Paul Society (SVP) have teamed up with CAFOD to offer election resources with a particular focus on tackling poverty. You can find out more on the SVP website [here](#).

(Please see the printed sheets available by the church doors.)

Worth Pro Earth

The General Election

With the important issue of a General Election on the **4th July**, WPE are going to concentrate on that for the next 3 weeks.

We steer away from politics as much as this is possible when dealing with climate and ecological issues as we focus on individual and community actions. While these are extremely important it is difficult to deny that our actions need to be supported - or at least not sabotaged - by our government.

With this in mind CAFOD have created an interesting piece on questions that we - as Catholics - should be asking any candidates we meet at hustings or on our doorsteps.

Here is one extracted from that article - the full text of which can be found on the CAFOD website CAFOD.org.uk/encounter (and some hard copies of which can be found in the Narthex)

'Some of the world's poorest communities are facing the greatest burden of the climate crisis. With millions of people already displaced as a result of extreme weather events, how would you support working with other countries to raise new taxes from the most polluting industries such as shipping, aviation and fossil fuels to support countries suffering the impacts of climate catastrophes?'

Worth Pro Earth (Cont.)

The Lead Bishop for the Environment, Bishop John Arnold, has written:

to the leaders of the main political parties to ask them to take environmental issues seriously during this summer's election campaign. Thanking them for their service in public life, Bishop John highlighted the urgent need to address global warming and its consequences as predictions now show the earth is warming at a faster rate than previously thought, writing:

“The challenge of climate change is urgent, and its effects are already being felt across the world, often affecting the most vulnerable communities who have contributed least to the crisis. It is a challenge that can only be addressed by global co-operation, together with support for countries that are less able to afford a transition away from carbon-intensive fuels.”

Bishop John has called on the parties to show strong leadership in the global endeavour to reduce carbon emissions; ensure the UK assists poorer countries to meet their targets and obligations; produce credible policies to reduce net carbon emissions to zero by 2050; and commit to working with key institutions like schools and faith communities to help them act as good custodians of the natural world. [Click here](#) to visit our website and read Bishop John's message in full.

Sussex Nature Recovery Update

Local Nature Recover Strategy (LNRS) County webinars

Two LNRS webinars last week covered firstly East Sussex and Brighton & Hove, and the second, West Sussex. Topics included:

The rare and special habitats and species found in each county.

Feedback to their surveys.

How your Local Nature Recovery Strategy is progressing.

If you missed the webinars, you can watch back here at the following link: [webinars](#)

Interim LNRS publications

Three interim elements of the LNRS have been published on the website:
Draft shortlist criteria - a method for shortlisting the long list of priorities for nature's recovery that is currently being gathered - published 5 June 2024.

Threats and Pressures Report - published 24 May 2024.

Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIB) Maps -
published 27 May 2024

They can all be viewed at the following link: [publications](#)

Gathering the long list of priorities

Various steps need to be completed when creating a Local Nature Recovery Strategy. We are now in the final stages of gathering together a long list of priorities for nature's recovery. This list is being drawn from four sources:

- What the **ecological evidence** tells us;
- Existing priorities identified through a comprehensive review of all **published plans and strategies** across Sussex, from Local, Catchment or Neighbourhood Plans to Tree and Climate Strategies;
- Priorities gathered through workshops with organisations and landowners;
- What **local people** tell us is important - over 1,800 of you have completed a survey to date.

The long list will be finalised in early July, and there's still two weeks to add your voice by taking our public survey. [Public Survey](#)

Have a Question about Sussex Nature Recovery read the FAQs: [General FAQ's](#)

WPE Welcome new members. We meet once a month on a Wednesday at 2pm in St Benedict's. Our next meeting is on Wednesday, **10th July** at 2pm. Please get in touch if you would like to attend.

*Creator God, we thank you for the wondrous gifts of creation.
Inspire us to take only what we need, so that your people may benefit equally
from the gifts you give us all.*

Amen

Non-Parish Events

Grandparents Pilgrimage

Pope Francis often highlights the importance of Grandparents and the elderly in our communities. We are celebrating them with two special events this Summer:

Grandparent's Pilgrimage to West Grinstead on **26th June 10.30am – 3pm** at The Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation & St Francis, West Grinstead

Led by Bishop Richard, a day of prayer including Benediction and Mass, tours of the secret chapel and lots of chat and cake, at our Diocesan Shrine.

Please sign up through the link provided <https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/h4bozjok> or through the Diocesan website.

Santa Marta Group – Modern slavery & human trafficking presentation

Saturday 29th June 11-1pm at St Peter's Hall, Shoreham

By kind invitation of Bishop Richard Moth all are invited to attend a presentation and discussion on Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking – Communities and Parishes. In 2014 Pope Francis instructed Cardinal Vincent Nichols to lead the work of the Santa Marta Group as an important mission for the Catholic Church.

It now has partners in over 40 countries; from acorns oak trees grow. Places can be booked through the attached link [Santa Marta Group - Modern slavery & human trafficking presentation \(29-Jun-2024\) · ChurchSuite Events](#)

If you wish to discuss your engagement with this event before booking please contact Tessa Ricketts, Diocesan Advisor E: tessa.ticketts@abdiocese.org.uk

Mass for Engaged Couples

Join Bishop Richard for a special Mass on **Friday 5th July** at 7pm in Arundel Cathedral, celebrating the momentous journey of discernment that is engagement towards the lifelong commitment made by couples preparing for marriage.

Join us afterwards for a drink's reception in the Cathedral Centre. We look forward to meeting many engaged couples from across the Diocese and sharing in their joy.

Please book here <https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/tha4tc8y>

If you wish to discuss your engagement with this event please contact Katherine Bergin, marriage & Family Life Advisor E: katherine.bergin@abdiocese.org.uk

Catholic Podcasts

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW) produces a number of podcasts throughout the year. Their main strand is called "Catholic News" but they also have podcasts covering social justice, Scripture and the Gospels with standalone series like "Journeying with Newman" looking at the life and teachings of St John Henry Newman. You can find out more on their website, [here](#)

The Catholic Truth Society (CTS) offers a seasonal podcast called [Beautifully Told](#), created by members of the CTS team. Available on Spotify, Apple and Google Podcasts, it offers subscribers an opportunity to "listen in on an honest conversation between two Catholic friends as they tackle the essential questions of life and faith".

All Kinds of Catholic launched earlier this week and is presented by Theresa Alessandro, a Catholic who has worked for two Catholic organisations. Theresa hosts the weekly Wednesday episodes with conversations with different Catholic guests exploring how each contributor lives their faith in the world today – sharing their hopes, joys and disappointments. You can find out more on the Buzzsprout website, [here](#).

Adoremus Saturday

Members of clergy and people from across our diocesan community are invited to join Bishop Richard at Adoremus 2024, the National Eucharistic Congress taking place at St Mary's College, Oscott, Birmingham, on **Saturday 14th September**. The day will include a keynote address, Mass, a Eucharistic Procession and Benediction and a range of campus activities including a Carlo Acutis presentation, Rosary Walk, and Adoration in the chapel. The Diocese is organising a coach to the venue leaving from St Wilfrid's Catholic School, Old Horsham Road, Crawley, West Sussex, RH11 8PG at 06.45am and returning to Crawley around 9pm that same day. The cost per person is £40 which includes parking at St Wilfrid's, coach travel, and entry to the event. A number of the coach seats have been booked, so please do encourage people to book soon. Registration for the event is made on churchsuite, so please ask people to visit: abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/8xokz3ru.

Please contact Laura Maydew-Gale, E: communications@abdiocese.org.uk with any questions.

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](#)

or use our QR code.



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

Nighttime 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 and on Wednesdays from 2.30pm-3.30pm in the main Church.

Rosary Group – Mondays in the Abbey Church after Vespers – 7:10pm until 8:00pm. Please contact Rachel Davies: 07801 696354.

Lectio Divina – Tuesday evenings at 8pm via Zoom. Please contact Jenny Chapman jenny_chapman@sky.com If you would like to join us, please contact Jenny Chapman by email or speak to her after Mass any weekend.

Christian Meditation Group – 7.00pm in the Unity Room, please contact Richard by email rbrownd1@gmail.com. Forthcoming dates are **26th June** and **24th July** (this one will be held in St Brunos)

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

Bible Study Group – 11am on Mondays in St Benedict's (Parish Office). Please contact the Parish Office.



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