

Jubilee Year 2025



Pilgrims of Hope

In Touch

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year C)
21st / 22nd December 2024
No. 1408

Dear Parishioners

I hope that you and your families are well. I send you all my prayers. This will be our last copy of In Touch before Christmas, so I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and holy celebration of Christmas.

On Christmas Eve Pope Francis inaugurates the **Jubilee Year** in Rome. This is a moment when we, the Church, try to promote peace, reconciliation and justice. CAFOD write: *In the Catholic Church, a Jubilee or Holy Year is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. The theme is **Pilgrims of Hope**. Pope Francis has invited Catholics to renew our hope and discover a vision that can "restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone". We are also invited to rediscover a spirituality of God's creation in which we understand ourselves as "pilgrims on the earth" rather than masters of the world. Our attention will be focused on the remission of the debts of the poorest countries, a theme which was at the heart of the Biblical Jubilee. The word Jubilee comes from the Hebrew word yobel, which is a ram's horn. This wind instrument is blown to mark the start of a Jubilee Year in the Bible (Leviticus 25:9). In the Bible the Jubilee Year occurred every 50 years and involved the cancelling of debts, a period of rest for people and the earth, and land being restored to the landless. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus makes clear his own mission is to bring Jubilee. In the synagogue at Nazareth he reads from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah, proclaiming the year of the Lord's favour: "The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the Lord's year of favour." (Luke 4:18-19)*

After reading, Jesus announces: "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." Jesus shows us what God's Kingdom of justice, compassion and freedom looks like. He invites us to join him in making it a reality.

Please see below for more information about the Jubilee and ways in which we can become involved, especially the webinar organised by CAFOD on January 18th, and the resources offered on their website.

I send my very best wishes to you all. Fr Paul

Prayers

Please pray for Pollyanna Thacker, who died on 13th December and for her community at Duckyls Farm.

Please continue to pray for our parishioners Jenny Chapman, Gillian Maher, Krysia Smith, Maureen Evans, Joan Wells, Pamela Bagwell, Terry and Susan Scoble, Sue Pearson, John and Sue Rutherford, Demelza Waring, Liz Hicklin, Helen Sweetman, Jill Carter and Laura Rawlinson.

As we celebrate Advent and approach the Feast of Christmas, please pray especially for the Church in Palestine, and all who live in Palestine and Israel. The Latin Patriarch writes: *“By our celebrations we will echo the Christmas story itself, where the angels announced to the shepherds’ glad tidings of Christ’s birth in the midst of similarly dark times in our region (Luke 2:8-20), offering to them and to the entire world a message of divine hope and peace.”*

We offer the official Jubilee Prayer by Pope Francis

*Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.
May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.
May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.
Amen.*

Prayer for Creation

*All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.
Amen*

Please pray for Peace around the World

*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 – Josephine McLoughlin, Alec White, John Hall, Joanna Mackey, Jack Mantelow, Stanley Pitt, Joy Argent, Veronica Lamarche, Ambrose Rigby, Eve Dodwell, John Edward Clarke, Faith Shine, Mrs Duncan, May Lane, Revd George Church, Paul Rubridge, Donald Nicolson, Muriel Price, Marie Rogue, Patricia Langridge, Fr Richard Wilson, Frances Mary Webb, Albert Laithwaite, Henry Hyslop, Emmie Walford, Noella McGahan, Basil Hull, Vivian Trowbridge, Alistair Stone, Elizabeth Figg, Josette Previtt, Joseph Loftus, Tom Harrison, Reginald Ball, Ken Cooper, Julia Herrick, Mary Needham, Marguerite Pointer, David Gesden, Philip Curran, Philip McNulty and Paul Bonner.

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

Daily Readings –

Monday – Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Luke 1:57-66

Tuesday – 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Luke 1:67-79

Wednesday – **Christmas Day**

Thursday – Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59 Matt 10:17-22 (**St Stephen**)

Friday – 1 John 1:1-4 John 20:1a, 2-8 (**St John**)

Saturday – 1 John 1:5 – 2:2 Matt 2:13-18 (**Holy Innocents**)

Next Sunday's Readings: **The Holy Family (Year C)**

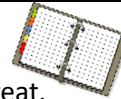
1st Reading – 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28 2nd Reading – 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

Mary stored up all these things in her heart

Parish Events

Dates for your Diary



Wednesday 18th – Friday 20th December – Monks are in Retreat.

Tuesday, 24th December – Children's Crib mass with carols from 3pm

20th September 2025 - Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Diocese and the Universal Jubilee Year, for families and friends, on the Ardingly Showground. Free tickets will be distributed through parishes in the New Year.

Charlie and Mark Tibble'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 at c.tibble@stwilfrids.com

Next Date: **Friday 31st January 2025 at 7.30pm**

Tea & Coffee

Would anyone be able to help with the refreshments after mass? Please contact the Parish Office or speak with Jenny Chapman.

Junior Church

Will resume on Sunday 5th January 2025.

Would anyone be able to help with the Baby Saints group in Family Formation? The children are aged from three to five years old, and the method followed comes from the Catechesis of The Good Shepherd.

All training will be provided. All you need is enthusiasm and a gift for small children!

Please get in touch with Maria Welch - marialarawelch@gmail.com

Your help will be greatly appreciated.

In Touch is now taking a break.

We will return for the weekend of 11th / 12th January.

We wish you all a Very Happy Christmas



Prayer for Sundays of Advent

Maranatha!

Open our eyes to the dignity of all people
And our ears to the cries of the earth.

Maranatha!

Let us walk in solidarity with the poor
And cleanse our world from oppression.

Maranatha!

Let us shout out for justice for all
And renew our hope for change.

Maranatha!

The Lord is coming
Let us share the Good News!
Amen.

Crib Mass

Please join us for a Crib Mass and celebration of the Nativity on **Christmas Eve at 3pm** at Worth Abbey. The Mass will begin with carols at 3pm and will conclude no later than 4pm. This Crib Mass welcomes all ages and will be family friendly in length, concept and language.

We are particularly looking forward to welcoming the children's choir that will visit us to perform at this Mass, Louise Callinan's Singing Studio.

The Crib Mass will be a celebration for adults and children of all ages. Children who would enjoy dressing up as nativity figures are encouraged to do so! We also ask that children bring an animal (of any kind) or angel to add to our nativity scene. The children will be invited to join the entrance procession to the nativity scene at the front of the church to place their figure at the altar. These animals and angels will be 'on loan' during the Mass and should be collected after Mass. (No live animal loans please!!)

Jubilee Year

CAFOD write: *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor."* Luke 4:18

The Year of Jubilee, 'Pilgrims of Hope' - This special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, invites us to return to a right relationship with God, one another, and all of creation. CAFOD have many resources and opportunities to get involved on our [Jubilee webpage](#). I wanted to draw your attention to:

Introducing Jubilee online session – 18th January 2025: 10:30am-12 noon.

Join us for [An introduction to the Jubilee Year](#) with special guests **Fr Jan Nowotnik**, Director of Mission for the Catholic Bishop's Conference, **Christine Allen**, CAFOD Director, and **Kayode Akintola**, CAFOD's Head of Africa Programmes. Hear how we're celebrating Jubilee as a global Church and how we can be tangible signs of hope, building a better world together throughout this holy year.

[Our Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of hope reflection guide](#) is ideal for groups and individuals deepening faith and renewing hope in Jubilee through four reflection sessions. Guides can be ordered free from the above webpage, (downloadable Leaders' Guide also available).

Worth Pro Earth

As we continue the season of **Advent**, days to prepare ourselves to receive the Child God who comes to meet us in the womb of Creation: **it is the Good News!**

Advent encourages us to reflect on the mystery of Christ in creation. As we focus on His light in the darkness, we see more clearly. You're invited to join in this profound moment of contemplation.

[Download the Advent Calendar](#)

What will you find on the calendar?

- A daily Advent prayer
- The day-by-day calendar with liturgical feasts, saints and suggestions for living Advent
 - A proposed prayer for each Sunday of Advent
 - A special Christmas Day reflection

Remember that by sharing this calendar you are helping many more people to prepare their hearts to receive the Creator God this Christmas.

Climate Action and Adaptation Plan

The West Sussex Climate Action and Adaptation Plan is crucial to protecting the environment in West Sussex, focusing on six pathways aligned with our Climate Change Strategy. The actions taken under the 'resources and influence' pathway reflect our commitment to put climate change at the heart of the decisions we take for our organisation and our communities.

A key initiative is encouraging all our staff to complete Carbon Literacy Training. This helps foster climate awareness and shared responsibility for climate action and adaptation. Nearly 600 staff members, including Chief Executive Leigh Whitehouse, have now achieved Carbon Literate certification and are each taking two new carbon reduction actions, helping to driving positive change.

To coincide with COP29 last month, our resilience, sustainability, and fire & rescue teams conducted Climate Action Roadshows, educating staff on our emergency responses to flooding and wildfires to better protect our communities.

We are also developing tools like the [Climate Vulnerability Index](#) mapping tool, which helps decision-makers understand how the changing climate may affect different communities in West Sussex, and informing service planning for greater resilience.

Climate action and adaptation plan

Tackling Climate Change: Progress Report

West Sussex council have been working diligently to cut the carbon footprint of our buildings, encourage environmentally friendly new developments, replace halogen traffic signals with LED technology, introduce hundreds of new electric vehicle charge points, and develop a new system to help parents select low-carbon school meals.

You can find out more about all the steps we have taken towards becoming a carbon neutral and climate resilient organisation by 2030, by reading our Tackling Climate Change: Progress Report, April 2023 to March 2024.

[tackling climate change](#)

WPE welcome new members. We meet once a month on a Wednesday at 2pm in St Benedict's. Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 29th January 2025 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

Christmas 2024 and New Year 2025 Liturgy Times at Worth Abbey

You are advised to arrive at least five or ten minutes before the times published here.

Tuesday, 24th December 2024, Christmas Eve:

06:15 - 06:50	Matins
07:30 - 07:55	Lauds
09:00 - 09:40	Concelebrated Mass of Tuesday 4 of Advent – 24 th December)
13:00 - 13:10	Midday Prayer
15:00 - 16:00	<i>Parish Children's Crib Mass</i>
18:45 - 19:10	Pontifical Vespers (of Christmas)
20:15 - 20:45	Vigils
22:30 - 23:00	<i>Carols and Organ Music to prepare for...</i>
23:00 - 00:00	Concelebrated Midnight Mass (followed by refreshments in the Narthex)

Wednesday, 25th December 2024, Christmas Day:

08:30 - 08:55	Lauds
10:00 - 11:00	Concelebrated Christmas Day Mass
18:45 - 19:10	Pontifical Vespers (of Christmas)

Thursday, 26th December 2013, until Friday, 27th December 2024, Christmas Octave:

07:00 - 07:30	Matins
08:30 - 09:00	Lauds
17:30 - 18:00	Concelebrated Mass
18:45 - 19:10	Solemn Vespers (of Christmas)

Saturday, 28th December 2024, Christmas Octave:

07:00 - 07:45	Matins & Lauds
09:00 - 09:40	Concelebrated Mass
17:00 - 18:00	Parish Vigil Mass of Sunday (Holy Family)
18:45 - 19:10	Solemn First Vespers (of Holy Family)

Sunday, 29th December 2024, Holy Family:

07:30 - 08:15	Matins & Lauds
09:30 - 10:30	Concelebrated Sunday Mass (Holy Family) (followed by refreshments)
18:00 - 18:30	Solemn Vespers (of Holy Family)

Monday, 30th December 2013 until Thursday, 2nd January 2025.

07:00 - 07:30	Matins
08:45 - 09:10	Lauds
17:30 - 18:00	Concelebrated Mass
18:45 - 19:10	Solemn Vespers

From Friday 3rd January 2025:

The normal timetable is resumed

Bishop Richard writes concerning the New Lectionary

The new Lectionary will use the English Standard Version – Catholic Edition of the Bible and the Abbey Psalter. The changes are intended to make the biblical translations more faithful to the original languages, biblical scholarship, and to provide a text for use in a liturgical setting that is easier to proclaim, and, where appropriate, more inclusive.

The *God Who Speaks* project has produced a new *Lectionary-Scripture Formation Resource* to help parishes and schools deepen their love of Mass, the Bible, and living the Gospel in daily life.

You can find the resource [here](#).

I commend this resource to you all for your study, and most especially to those of you who serve as Readers in church, and those who take part in Bible study.

Non-Parish Events

Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies

CCRS – South – beginning Tuesday 14th January 2025 – Fee payable.

The CCRS (Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies) will be run at Cardinal Newman School in Hove on Tuesdays from 3.45-5.45pm. Each module (5 sessions) will be delivered over a term and the course will complete in 2 academic years. There is a £20 registration fee which enables us to register you with the national administrator of this course. Additionally, £30 is charged for each of the 8 modules. This may be paid by the student, or they may be sponsored by their school/parish. Teachers, TAs, Catechists and anyone wishing to develop their understanding of the Faith are welcome. Register your place [Here](#)

Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Word

25th January, 11am-4pm, St Wilfrid's Parish Centre, Burgess Hill.

Join Bishop Richard for talks on the Scriptures, the Lectionary, the Liturgy of the Word and preparing to minister as a reader; includes Lectio Divina & the celebration of Mass. Reserve your place [Here](#)

Rethinking Abortion

Saturday 8th February 10am-5pm at The St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley (no cost)

The Diocese is hosting an event organised by Rethinking Abortion, a national pro-life organisation. Rethinking Abortion will provide educational sessions looking at the lived experience and reality of women that lead them to choose abortion. The aim is to help build understanding and explore how to tactfully and empathetically talk about abortion with those around you in a meaningful way. Attendees will increase their understanding of the full reality of the pro-life agenda, becoming more articulate and effective in holding conversations with those considering this pathway. The day begins with Mass at 10am, followed by a programme of discussion and talks. Please bring a packed lunch. Register your place [Here](#)

If you have questions about the event please contact Formation Advisers,
Tessa; E: tessa.ricketts@abdiocese.org.uk or Simon E: simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk.

You can find out more about the day here: <http://www.marchforlife.co.uk/rethink-abortion/>

Abortion affects men too

It's a heartbreaking truth that while many of us celebrate new life and family with joy at Christmas time, others are experiencing life changing fear and grief.

We are very pleased to announce that Life's National Helpline now has a male counsellor available as more and more men ask for support because of an unexpected pregnancy or, devastatingly, because the mother of the child has had an abortion against their wishes.

We recently had a call from a young man who we supported with the news of an unexpected pregnancy and soon after, his mother contacted us:

"I don't need any help, I just wanted to reach out and say thank you to whoever it was my son spoke to this morning. He told me about his call to you, you asked so many questions, not just about his girlfriend and her feelings but also his too and gave him such good support. I have never heard of your site before now but whatever you are teaching your staff, you're doing amazing work. Thank you so much for all of your help for my son and his girlfriend."

This is what we're here for, to support EVERYONE facing unexpected pregnancy and pregnancy loss, so that less and less lives are ripped apart by abortion decisions.

Sadly, not every man is able to reach help for him and the mother of his child before her decision is made, but we're glad to have been there for another man, Joe, as he processed his grief. [Read Joe's Story Here](#)

Jubilee for Youth – Pilgrims of Hope

Rome 28th July – 4th August 2025

A pilgrimage for young adults aged 18-30 to celebrate this special year of forgiveness and reconciliation. Join with other like-minded people, as we travel to the beautiful city of Rome for opportunities to hear from, and pray with, Pope Francis on the theme of Hope. Including flights, half-board hotel and entry to events, the Diocese is offering this trip for only £995. Contact [\[formation@abdiocese.org.uk\]](mailto:formation@abdiocese.org.uk) to find out more.

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 9am – 1pm 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.

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

More dates to follow.

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

Please report any concerns about safeguarding directly to the Diocese, or, in an emergency, call the police on 999.

If you are concerned about the welfare of a child or adult at risk, do not delay in contacting the police.

Telephone 999 if a child or an adult is believed to be in immediate danger.

If you need to contact our Safeguarding Office you can do so here:

T: [01293 651148](tel:01293651148) E: safeguarding@abdiocese.org.uk