

Jubilee Year 2025



Pilgrims of Hope

In Touch

The Presentation of the Lord (Year C)
1st / 2nd February 2025
No. 1412



Dear Parishioners

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

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of **The Presentation of The Lord**. This feast always falls on February 2nd, and this year it falls on a Sunday. Traditionally it marked the end of the Christmas season, and in some churches, you will still find the Christmas Crib on display until this day, forty days after Christmas. The feast has had various names over the centuries – including The Meeting, i.e. of Jesus with Simeon; the Purification of Our Lady, and Candlemas. These reflect different emphases which have been given it. All of them are drawn from the gospel of the day, Luke cp 2.22-40, which recounts how Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to the Temple to offer him to the Lord, and the entry of Simeon and Anna at that moment, who then make prophecies over the infant. The Song of Simeon, which is sung each evening at Compline, contains the phrase, a *light to enlighten the Gentiles*, a quotation from Isaiah, which Luke uses throughout his gospel and Acts, to advance the theme of the mission to the Gentile (pagan) world. It is also the origin of the carrying and blessing of candles on this day. In his account St Luke combines two Jewish rites which are enjoined in the Jewish Law – the purification of the mother, forty days after giving birth to a baby boy, and the offering (Presentation) of the first-born son to God. Both of these rites come from the conviction that all life comes from God and therefore is sacred. Childbirth itself is something sacred, and the fruit of birth is sacred, and must therefore be brought into God's presence with thanksgiving, since it belongs to Him.

In our Year of Jubilee, it is good to celebrate this feast with this emphasis on the sacred quality of the gift of life. The purpose of the Biblical Jubilee is to restore the quality of life of those who have fallen into debt and poverty. We offer below links to the material prepared by CAFOD for our participation in the Year. I hope that some of you will have been able to watch their webinar which was broadcast last week. In case you missed it you can access it on the [CAFOD website](#) or direct from [YouTube](#). Please consider how our parish can be fully involved.

I send my prayers and best wishes. Fr Paul

CAFOD Jubilee resources:

[Pope Francis, Bull of Indiction for the Ordinary Year of Jubilee of the Year 2025](#)

[Vatican Jubilee website](#)

[Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales Jubilee page](#)

[CAFOD Jubilee page](#)

[Jubilee Icon – downloadable poster](#)

[Ooberfuse Jubilee Hymn](#) and [Soundcloud link](#) and [Ooberfuse website](#)

[Pilgrim Ways](#) and [Podcast interview, Hearts in Search of God](#)

[CAFOD Pilgrimage](#)

[CAFOD Lent Appeal](#) and [CAFOD Big Lent Walk](#)

[CAFOD Jubilee for schools](#)

[CAFOD Weekly Reflections and Monthly Giving](#)

[Global Church petition calling for action on the debt crisis](#)

[Columbans Schools competition on Jubilee](#)

[National Justice and Peace Network, Opening the Doors to Freedom from Human Trafficking](#)

[Pope Francis, Thought for the Day, BBC, 28 December 2024](#)

[CJM Music version of the Jubilee Hymn](#)

Anniversaries

Please pray for the Souls of – Mike Brayshaw, Maurice Johnson, Mrs Rutherston, Alice Yaldren, Joseph Curran, John Hull, Ernest Walker, Rosemary Jansen, Violet Ferguson, Dom Hugh O'Neill, Dom Oliver Brayden, Michael Godfrey, Elizabeth Fresne, Edgar Stanford, Josephine Chamberlain, Eda Dunbar, Joan Witham, Jim McClusky, Fra Andrew Bertie and Angus MacDonald.

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

Daily Readings –

Monday – Heb 11:32-40 Mark 5:1-20

Tuesday – Heb 12:1-4 Mark 5:21-43

Wednesday – Heb 12:4-7, 11-15 Mark 6:1-6 (**St Agatha**)

Thursday – Heb 12:18-19, 21-24 Mark 6:7-13 (**St Paul Miki & Comp**)

Friday – Heb 13:1-8 Mark 6:14-29

Saturday – Heb 13:15-17, 20-21 Mark 6:30-34

Next Sunday's Readings: Fifth Sunday in OT (Year C)

1st Reading – Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8 2nd Reading – 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

They left everything and followed him.

Dates for your Diary



Saturday, 1st February – There will be refreshments after mass, in the Unity Room.

Sunday, 9th February – Parish Brunch in Compass House after mass.

Monday, 10th February – Mass with school at 4.30pm. (There will not be mass at 5.30pm)

Sunday, 16th February – Family formation continues.

Saturday, 20th September - Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Diocese and the Universal Jubilee Year, for families and friends, on the Ardingly Showground. Free tickets

Prayers

Please pray for Stella and Joe Russell. Stella gave birth to twins Francis and Genevieve on 15th January.

Please pray for Sheila Charman who is unwell.

Please pray for Hal Clarke, who is recovering after an accident.

Please pray for Joan Wells, RIP, and for her daughter, Mary and her family.

The funeral will be celebrated at Worth on Thursday, 6th February at 11am

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

A Prayer for Holocaust Day, Monday 27th

Today we come before you to remember the victims of the Holocaust.

Help us all to turn away from hatred

and division, and to build a world where genocide is no more.

*Strengthen us so that we, in our own ordinary ways, may show
extraordinary love in the world today.*

A Prayer for Our Earth

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

(Pope Francis published this prayer in 'Laudato Si' and is meant for sharing with all who believe in our Creator God.)

The Jubilee prayer

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

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)

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day

Thank you all for your generous donations in October. We collected a total of **£328.64**.

Parish Events

Vivaldi's Gloria

Take part in an afternoon of beauty and joy as Worth Abbey Choir prepares and performs Vivaldi's Gloria alongside a professional orchestra on **Saturday 1st March**.

Guests keen to sing are invited to arrive for 1:30pm, and those keen to listen to the performance are invited to arrive for refreshments from 3:15pm; the concert will begin at 3:45pm.

If you would like to sing, please register your interest as soon as you are able by emailing Edward Dean (Abbey Director of Music) at edean@worth.org.uk

If you would like to attend the concert, please contact Kelly O'Hara (Assistant to the Abbot) at kohara@worth.org.uk

Further information about the day will be sent to guests who register by email at least two weeks in advance of the event.

Timings

Welcome	1.00 - 1.30pm
Rehearsal for singers	1.30 - 3.15pm
Refreshments for all	3.15 - 3.45pm
Concert	3.45 - 4.30pm

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**

2nd Collection for St Catherine's Hospice in Pease Pottage, at masses on 1st and 2nd February.

This is an initiative of some students in the school who have made St Catherine's their charity for the year. They would like to invite the parish to join them.

"Dear Worth Abbey community, we are students from Worth School who would like to invite you to join us raising money for St Catherine's Hospice. The Hospice provides care across West Sussex and Surrey, supporting people in our community daily. Every year St Catherine's supports around 2,100 patients and families, both at the hospice and at home. They recently went through an expansion to further serve the patients and their families. However, even with this expansion the hospice has multiple empty beds they cannot use due to limited funding. By contributing to St Catherine's, you help fund essential services, from expert medical care to emotional support for patients and their loved ones. Donations also support vital community programs and home care services, allowing the hospice to reach more people in need. Your generosity ensures that no one must face their journey alone and helps maintain the high standard of care that St Catherine's is known for. Every contribution, no matter the size, makes a profound difference in the lives of those who need it most. Thank you."

The Wisdom of St Benedict

14th - 16th February, Worth Abbey, RH10 4SB (Cost £220). Fr Martin McGee OSB leads this retreat focussing on the spirituality of the Rule of St Benedict, which is a spirituality of the everyday. The retreat will include monastic services and Mass, time for silence; Lectio Divina (sacred reading); reflection, discussion and questions. [Click Here](#) to book.

Apologetics Course

We are hoping to launch an apologetics course at Worth after Easter.

The aim of the course is to address the questions of various groups of people, from lapsed Catholics and Protestants to doubters and seekers alike.

Christian apologetics is an interesting resource often not utilised effectively enough by many churches.

There is a treasury of good argumentation to defend Christian beliefs and we hope to use a book called "The reason for God" by the late Tim Keller as the basis.

Keller was qualified to speak on such things due to his huge success in reaching many thousands of people through his ministry over five churches in New York city, one of the most secular and sceptical places on earth. His writing engages with people's real concerns and blocks to belief and as such, provides a relevant and vibrant way to engage people on the basis of our faith.

I envisage that the course will be run remotely over 7 weeks and, in each week, we will address one of the first seven chapters of his book. I have written a study guide and facilitator notes to help run these sessions.

I'm looking for anyone who's interested in facilitating the course to get in touch with me via Father Paul.

The audience we are trying to reach may include friends and relatives of members of the parish, parents with children in Catholic schools and anyone else who we feel might benefit from it. Timings and group size are still to be determined, but I would think groups of less than 10 would be suitable to allow people to discuss and think more deeply.

It is different to Alpha in the sense that it is less focused on arguing for a certain denomination of Christianity, goes deeper in those areas that people question and as such could be described as very ecumenical, transcending any denominational differences but focusing on those areas which all Christians agree on.

With very best wishes to you all, Jamie Parsons



MONASTIC INTERNSHIPS

Worth Abbey, a Benedictine monastery in Sussex, is inviting applications from men between the age of eighteen and thirty-five for a limited number of monastic internships

Experience a two-month stay alongside our monastery, with full board and lodging. Participate in the daily life of the monks, including their prayer and work. Immerse yourself in reading and embrace the wisdom of the monastic tradition



"At the end of the experience I have grown closer to God and know Jesus is the foundation of my life. It has been the happiest and most serene two months of my life."

James, Abbey Intern, December 2024

For further information please visit worthabbey.net/interns or email Fr Luke at interns@worth.org.uk or phone 01342-710370

Worth Pro Earth



Sussex Green Living - Focusing on Food Waste Prevention in 2025

This year Sussex Green Living are putting the spotlight on food waste prevention, eating real food, and embracing sustainable habits like buying local, loose, and packaging-free produce. With food waste contributing significantly to climate change and household costs, they want to empower individuals and businesses to make smarter, greener choices that benefit both their wallets and the planet. We can and must, all take meaningful steps no matter how small, towards reducing waste and living more sustainably.

From March 2025, businesses in West Sussex will be able to benefit from a new food waste collection service provided by West Sussex County Council. This will be followed by a home food waste collection trial in selected areas from February 2026, with full household collections rolling out by March 2026. While these initiatives are a positive step, we believe that waste prevention and home composting remain the best solutions to tackle the issue at its root. Composting at home reduces landfill waste and methane release as the food waste decomposes, Methane is more than 28 times as potent as CO₂ at trapping heat in the atmosphere. Composting also creates nutrient-rich soil that can support local gardening and food production. Through our events, workshops, and partnerships, we aim to help people to understand the importance of reducing food waste, composting organic materials, and supporting local food systems, encouraging them to switch to packaging-free shopping, local, loose and in season food. Together, let's make 2025 the year we take a stand against food waste and work towards a more sustainable future.

Greenpeace - Plant Based Food

Eating more plant-based meals is **one of the most effective ways** to have a positive impact on the climate, help stop deforestation, Greenpeace have tried to answer some of the most popular questions they receive:

Isn't soya bad for the planet? Actually 90% of all the soya beans grown are fed to animals for meat and dairy. Humans only eat about 6%, and the soya that makes soya milk and tofu often isn't linked to Brazilian deforestation in the same way. For example, as it's directly consumed by humans it isn't grown with the same harmful pesticides, and for a number of soya milk brands consumed in the UK the soya beans are grown in France. Watch our video about it [here](#)

I thought palm oil was the biggest destroyer of forests? Palm oil companies destroy forests and climate critical peatlands. Greenpeace campaigns to stop deforestation for palm oil as well as for *meat and dairy - now the leading cause of deforestation* and set to increase in the coming years.

What about farmers? Farmers have a vital job to do in growing good-quality food and looking after the countryside, *but that job is getting harder*. Extreme weather, competition from industrial farms and supermarkets denying them a fair price for their food – all this is putting farmers' livelihoods under huge strain. They have reasons to be angry and it's unsurprising we saw protests at Westminster this year. Money for investment in public services, nature protection and action on climate change is urgently needed. Supermarkets and industrial farming corporations have been making huge profits, while driving down standards, damaging the environment and impacting our health. The government could usefully look at the profits from these sectors as it seeks further ways of raising much-needed revenue. Ultimately, the government must increase the annual farm budget to support nature-friendly farming, safeguard livelihoods and meet critical climate, nature and water targets.

What about "regenerative agriculture"? This is a fairly broad term with the 4 most consistent principles being 1) enhancing and improving soil health 2) optimising resource management 3) alleviating of climate change 4) improving water quality and availability.

However, business-as-usual big agriculture firms are co-opting the term, and what we should be working towards is [ecological farming](#) - also known as [agroecology](#).

No matter how you look at it, science tells us that to maintain a liveable planet and keep 1.5°C of global warming within reach, we need to halve meat and dairy consumption [in the UK by 70% by 2030](#). In the UK we eat twice as much meat and almost three times as much dairy as the global average. That's why **Greenpeace advocates for a 70% reduction in meat and dairy production in the UK** and a ban on new and expanding factory farms to promote a future food system that is secure, resilient, greener and fairer.

Repair Cafes

[Lindfield](#) repair cafe is open on Saturday 1 February, from 10am - 1pm at the United Reformed Church, 52 High Street, Lindfield, West Sussex RH16 2HL, visit their website for more details [Lindfield Repair Cafe](#)

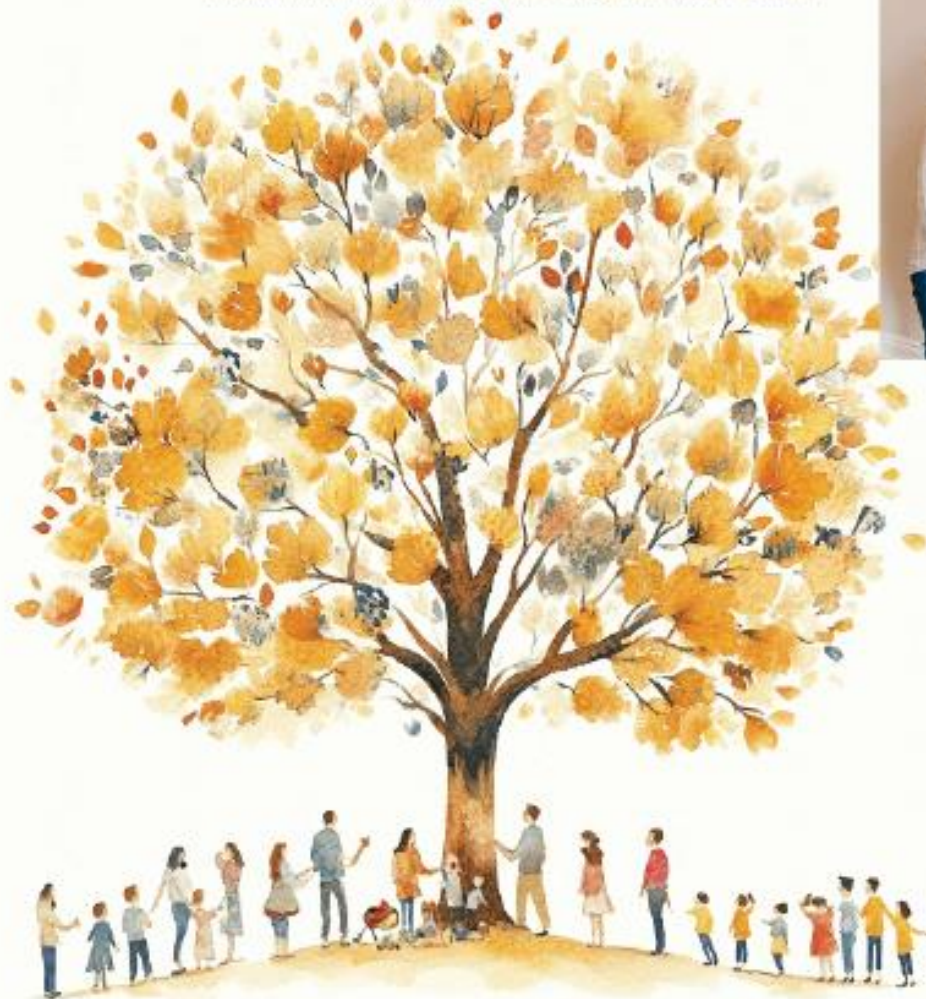
WPE welcome new members. We meet once a month on a Wednesday at 2pm in St Benedict's. Our next meeting is on **Wednesday, 26th February at 2pm**. Please get in touch if you would like to attend.

Grow Your Family In Faith And Joy

Two  the messy family project

events at Worth School

<https://messyfamilyproject.org/uk-tour-2025/>



Arrange childcare, and join Mike and Alicia for an opportunity to reconnect, refocus and pray in the peaceful setting of Worth Abbey.

Event 1: Teens, Tweens and Screens

Sunday 9th March, 2-5.30pm

£25 donation per couple

Event 2: Leaving a Spiritual Legacy

Monday 10th March, 7.30-9pm

£10 donation per attendee



Check out our webpage here for more details!

Greetings
ISLAND


Non-Parish Events

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/>

You Can Help Your Marriage

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse?

Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long 'i') helps couples through difficult times in their marriages.

There is no group therapy or group work.

This programme has helped 10s of 1000s of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about Retrouvaille', or to register for the next programme commencing via Zoom on **27th February to 2nd March.**

Call or text 0788 7296983 Email info@retrouvaille.org.uk www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Permanent Diaconate

The Diocese writes advertising an open evening to give information about this:

We are looking to hold an open evening at St John the Evangelist, Horsham, RH12 2PJ on **Friday 14th March**, beginning at 7.00pm. This will provide an opportunity for men who are keen to understand more about the Permanent Diaconate, the discernment process and an exploration of a possible vocation to the Ministry. If you are interested, please get in touch with the parish office at Worth.

Theology & Integral Ecology

New Approaches to our Planetary Crisis, **24th – 25th April**, Oxford (Cost: £35-£75).

A conference seeking to deepen and extend theological approaches to the contemporary planetary crisis through examination of the integral ecology paradigm. It will feature a prestigious line-up of speakers.

[Click Here](#) to find out more.

Applications for Lourdes 2025 now open

Applications for this summer's Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (25th -31st July by air or own transport, 24th July-1st August by coach/jumbulance) are now open on the diocesan website: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/lourdes/home>

Our pilgrimage to Lourdes is one of the most significant pastoral events in our annual Diocesan calendar. Pope Francis has declared 2025 is a Jubilee year, the Lourdes theme is 'With Mary, Pilgrims of Hope'. We are invited to set out on our pilgrimage journey with our Lady and St Bernadette, in the 'hope born of grace, which enables us to live in Christ.' (Pope Francis, Spes non Confundit 2025)

Lourdes is a place of renewal, unlike tourists, visiting a popular attraction, we are pilgrims, making the journey together, we laugh together, break bread together, and we enter a space in which we can be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in ways that, perhaps, we would never have thought possible before.

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] 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: [Families and young children](#)

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

Payments can be made via online banking - Account – 61076892 Sort Code – 40-05-20

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 (Please check Website)

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
Next Dates – 26th February, 26th March and 23rd April.

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