

NEWS

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

19 July 2020

FR JAMES WRITES: Please keep in touch with the Homepage of the website for all up to date information about the availability of Reconciliation, Holy Mass and times for private prayer in church. These times will change from week to week at present depending on the availability of volunteer stewards and cleaners to keep the churches safe. Are you able to volunteer? If you haven't yet come forward, please follow the [link](#) and send in an [email](#) with your availability. Opening the churches depends on this. If you leave it to someone else, our churches remain closed.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS: Among all the many many intentions in your prayers please remember the needs of the church throughout the world, especially in parts of the world now more stricken with COVID 19 than we are here in Europe. Pray too especially for our parish and for our diocese. Fr James and Fr Tom are working now on ways to enable learning and faith development assuming that social distancing arrangements persist for many months.

VIRTUAL LOURDES PILGRIMAGE: As the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage cannot take place this year, a virtual pilgrimage will take place instead from 26th June to 1st August, with a full programme of Masses and devotions. Full details can be found on the events page of the diocesan website and on the attached poster. All are welcome to join in this virtual pilgrimage on the dedicated Westminster Diocese Lourdes Pilgrimage YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9AT-YIsH22Hbp2rnIG7jsA>

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM: We learn this week that the annual Walsingham pilgrimage in September has now been cancelled. Visit the National Shrine of Our Lady [online](#). Perhaps this summer if you are looking to take a modest "staycation" a few days at Walsingham would be a good choice.

A CATHOLIC RESPONSE TO GEORGE FLOYD AND "BLACK LIVES MATTER": Westminster Justice and Peace Commission are running an event exploring how we respond to racial injustice and discrimination as a diverse and multicultural Catholic community. This online event takes place on 24th July from 7.30pm to 8.30pm. Guest speakers include Baroness Scotland (London, UK) and Leslye Colvin (Alabama, USA) who will guide a reflection on responses and what action to take. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-catholic-response-to-george-floyd-and-black-lives-matter-tickets-112811815176>

AN UPDATE FROM MISSIO: Missio were to visit the parish in the Autumn to be the focus of our parish mission appeal for this year. If you have a "Red Box" at home, keep using it but don't bring it in for the time-being. Here's some information from Fr Anthony Chantry, the National Director of Missio:

'The last few months have been especially tough for missionaries overseas and the Catholic communities they serve. Churches in areas of poverty and oppression have been particularly hard hit by Covid and the lockdown. The Holy Father's Covid Emergency Appeal, coordinated by Missio, has raised over £250,000 in England & Wales and has provided immediate and effective relief to those in need in Kenya, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Malawi, Ethiopia, and through the Mill Hill Missionaries in Cameroon, India, Philippines, South Sudan and Pakistan.

'During this difficult time for us all, we have made every effort to keep in touch with our 2,500 parish volunteers. Many have been concerned about not being able to collect and empty the Red Boxes. To help them we have put in place some alternative ways to give including through a dedicated donation page at www.missio.org.uk/redbox

'To learn more about the difference Missio is making through prayer and charity please see our Impact Report, available on-line missio.org.uk/mission-today or ringing 020 7821 9755.'

IRISH CHAPLAINCY SUMMER RETREAT: 3 - 7 August. via Zoom! Daily zoom conference at 9.30am (lasting 30-45 mins), with a reflection each day from a different member of the Chaplaincy team. Themes will include: Come into the hills Take my hands Living Life to the Full Looking Ahead with Hope Contact: eddie.gilmore@irishchaplaincy.org.uk There is no charge but the max. no. of participants is 45, and it is first come first served!