

NEWS

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

1 November 2020

The latest COVID stuff: “Tier 2” doesn’t change any of our daily routines for coming into church and attending worship. It does mean that the clergy cannot enter private homes for the time being, except in extreme circumstances.

Keep in touch with the website and PLEASE consider volunteering to be a steward to keep the churches open.

- The Parish Office is open to visitors on Thursdays between 10-11am
- Fr James and Fr Tom can meet with you for any purpose on Saturday mornings regularly and other times as needed. Appointments have to be arranged.
- From Monday 2 November the Office Telephone will be “manned” at the regular hours of Monday - Friday 09.30am - 02.30pm.

NOVEMBER: MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS: As usual, throughout the month of November Masses will be offered in the parish for the work of God’s grace in the souls in purgatory. These will be both public and privately said Masses. We will leave envelopes at the exit of church for you to take home, in which to include details of the names of those for whom we will be offering Mass, together with whatever stipend you offer for these Masses. You can return the envelopes to the basket at the exit, or through the letterbox of the Presbytery. The collected names will symbolically rest close to the altar as usual, but for covid security that box must not be touched.

SECOND COLLECTION: We will be having our last second collection of the year next weekend. It will be for our sick and retired priests. Please be as generous as you can in these difficult times. Envelopes are available this weekend for those who would like to Gift Aid their donation.

HEATING IN CHURCH: This will soon be an issue. At St Gabriel’s we can use the heating as normal - but the church must remain ventilated when in use, so the windows will be open. At St Bernard’s the heating is in the form of air circulated in the building, and this we cannot use when church is open for reasons of covid security. All we can do is heat the church before Mass. Again, the church must continue to be ventilated when in use. Please come dressed in extra layers as the weather changes!

SCHOOL TRANSFER AND ADMISSION APPLICATIONS: Any family needing to discuss the endorsement of “school forms” will need to arrange to meet with one of the clergy at a covid-secure setting and at an appropriate time. Please send in an email to the parish address with details of your name, address and the child’s name also. Primary school applications are now being processed. See information below from particular schools.

ST RAPHAEL’S PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS INFORMATION:

Nursery Applications at St. Raphael’s Catholic Primary School: If you would like to apply for a place for your child at St. Raphael’s School for a Nursery place in September 2021 (date of birth 1.9.17 - 31.8.18) application packs will be placed on School’s website (www.straphaels.org) from Monday 26th October 2020. Pack will also be ready for collection at the school office from Monday 2nd November 2020.

Reception Applications at St. Raphael’s Catholic Primary School: If you would like to apply for a place for your child at St. Raphael’s School for a Reception place in September 2021 (date of birth 1.9.16 - 31.8.17) application packs will be placed on School’s website (www.straphaels.org) from Monday 26th October 2020. Pack will also be ready for collection at the school office from Monday 2nd November 2020.

“BIBLE TIMELINE” ONLINE COURSE: A chance to take part in this well reputed course. Mauro Iannicelli will deliver via live-streaming *The Bible Timeline Course*, starting on Wednesday 4th November 2020 at 7.00pm, over 7 weekly sessions. See details below.

We would like to encourage as many people as possible to experience this inspirational course, so please use the publicity below to advertise the Course in your parish. To Register for the Course: <https://comeandsee.org/registration.html>

“**JOURNEYING WITH THE BIBLE**” - now **online**, the continuing series of talks presented by Fr Javier Ruiz-Ortiz and Sr Monica Cardona . See website: <https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/evangelisation/the-god-who-speaks/journeying-with-the-bible/> To register for the talks please contact Catadmin@rcdow.org.uk

RETRouvaille: A PROGRAMME FOR COUPLES STRUGGLING IN THEIR MARRIAGES:

This is for couples with marriages that are struggling, maybe not communicating well, and for those who are considering marriage separation or divorce. Also for those who have already separated or divorced who want marriage help. Some couples come to Retrouvaille during the initial signs of a marriage problem. Other couples are in a state of despair and hopelessness when they attend. Some have been married for many years, others only a short time. For confidential information or to register for the next programme, a Virtual weekend commencing on 12th -15th Nov call or text 0788 7296983 or 0797 3380443 or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

PRO-LIFE NOTICES FROM SPUC: During the pandemic unborn babies and their mothers have been at even greater risk of abortion. The Government’s “pills through the post”, brought in as Covid measure, means that over 23,000 women in England and Wales aborted their baby at home during lockdown. Please help us to spread the truth about DIY abortion and save women and babies from the tragedy of abortion. Will you deliver pro-life information leaflets about DIY abortions door-to-door in your area? Every leaflet could make the difference to a vulnerable woman and save a baby’s life. Please go to our [website](#) to learn more and order some leaflets. Or you can order leaflets by calling SPUC on 020 7091 7091.

PETITION PARLIAMENT: Pro-abortion MPs want to stop pregnant women getting help outside abortion clinics by calling for buffer zones. SPUC is campaigning to save the right for peaceful pro-life vigils to take place. Hundreds of children are alive today in this country because their mother met a loving pro-life person just before they walked into the abortion clinic. We must protect this vital work. Please sign our petition to save the right to save lives. It only takes a minute of your time, but it could mean a lifetime for an unborn baby. You can sign the petition here: <https://spuc.org.uk/SaveTheRightToSaveLives>