

# NEWS

Third Sunday of Lent

07 March 2021

**LOCKDOWN LOGISTICS:** Our schedule of public worship remains unchanged. Coming to church for worship and for confessions is a legitimate journey to make. Keep in touch with the website in case of any short notice changes.

**VOLUNTEERS!!** Returning to public Mass means that we depend again on our wonderful volunteer stewards. Can you help? Please consider volunteering as the more volunteers we have the easier the job is for everybody and the more our churches can be open. See the homepage for details of how to volunteer. **HOLY WEEK IS COMING AND WE CAN USE MANY EXTRA VOLUNTEERS TO MAKE IT HAPPEN AS WE ALL WANT.**

**PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES:** Do you use the boxes of envelopes for planned giving to the parish? If so the boxes for the year 2021 -22, which start on 11 April, are now being prepared. Please let us know if you have changed your address since 6 April 2020. You may find it easier to donate your offerings by a standing order. If so, then please contact Fr James, Fr Tom or the parish office for the relevant form.

**NOVENA TO SAINT JOSEPH:** The feast of St Joseph is on 19 March, so between 10-18 March many will ask his prayers especially in a Novena. There are many versions available, and Westminster Diocese is using a special version the prayers for which can be found on our webpage [here](#). Find a space in your day to pray the novena and start to grow closer to the Guardian of the Church as we begin to unpack all the aspects of Joseph's care for his family.

**PRAY FOR THE CHURCH IN IRAQ THIS WEEK AS POPE FRANCIS VISITS:** Support for the Iraqi church is one of our Lenten charities. Please consider making a particular contribution to Lenten Alms before Easter. "I think constantly of Iraq," the Pope has said. "We must ensure that the Christian presence in these lands continues to be... a sign of peace, progress, development and reconciliation between individuals and peoples."

**LENT 2021:**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Parish Stations will follow the Friday Mass - so for practical reasons if you want to attend Stations of the Cross you must first also attend Mass. Stations of the Cross will be livestreamed on the YouTube channel.

**FULL DETAILS OF LENT RESOURCES:** check the dedicated page via the Lent tab on the homepage. Also, if you are coming to church, pick up a leaflet on the way out. Details of worship, prayer resources, Lenten Alms plans and everything else.

**"BEST LENT EVER" FROM DYNAMIC CATHOLIC:** Go to [www.dynamiccatholic.com](http://www.dynamiccatholic.com) to register for daily emails in Lent. "It's not what you give up, it's what you become" is the slogan for this year's "Best Lent Ever" resource.

**CAFOD ASK FOR YOUR HELP IN LENT:** Lockdown daily exercise?? Could you walk 10000 Steps either on one day or everyday this Lent? The walk could be a sign of your solidarity with all those who do not have access to a safe water source and who have to walk for water each day. More info at [cafod.org.uk/walk](http://cafod.org.uk/walk) and go the distance this Lent to help to end water poverty.

**YEAR OF ST JOSEPH:** As St Joseph's feast falls during Lent, we will also use the season to start to make available some resources to help us to grow in our knowledge of and friendship with the Guardian of the Church. Watch for the tab on the homepage. We will start with a Diocesan Novena to St Joseph starting on 10 March. See also below the information about Pope Francis' letter.

**ONLINE LENT RETREAT WITH ART:** Fr Denis McBride of the Redemptorist Order will be leading a FREE online retreat this Lent, based on his two books *Reflecting with Paintings* Vol 1 and Vol 2. providing a series of online reflections with art. Follow the link [here](#) for his online presentations.

**'LET US DREAM' LENT RETREAT FOR YOUNG ADULTS:** Young Caritas Westminster have organised a retreat for young people aged 18-35 to break open the themes discussed in Pope Francis' 'Let Us Dream' this Lent. Retreatants will attend three online sessions and receive a pack including a copy of the book and a notebook for their reflections.. There is also an opportunity for 1:1 accompaniment. Sessions take place between 18.30 and 19.45 on 23rd February, 9th and

23rd March. Please book at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/young-caritas-let-us-dream-lenten-retreat-tickets-138923194013>

**KNOWING JESUS:** Lent Online Retreat. The Jesuits in Britain are running a Lent online retreat from Ash Wednesday to the 2nd Sunday of Easter, looking at getting to know the person of Jesus better. Follow the retreat online, and sign up to an online group (places limited) at <https://www.onlineprayer.net/>. Sign up to receive daily emails during Lent and additional resources at <http://eepurl.com/hnIXAn>.

**LENT RETREAT:** St Augustine's House of Prayer Contemplative Retreat For those searching for a more contemplative way of praying and living, St Augustine's House of Prayer, is hosting an online contemplative retreat, from the 16th to 23rd March, in the Way of Franz Jalics SJ. To request an application form email [enquiries@houseofprayer.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@houseofprayer.org.uk).

**HARROW FOODBANK:** We continue to support Harrow Foodbank. Their needs for March are – Small Washing Powder (1kg approx.), Sponge Puddings, Washing-up Liquid, Cooking oil, Cereal variety packs, Tinned chicken pies, Hand Sanitiser Gel (100ml, They have asked us *not to donate* baked beans, tinned soups, dried pasta or cereal (as they have a large stock of these items)

**NEWS FROM RIGHT TO LIFE:** Ask your MP to sign a parliamentary motion calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on fetal pain: A new parliamentary motion (EDM 1340) is calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on fetal pain. The evidence that babies can feel pain in the womb, and during many abortions, highlights the humanity of the unborn child and provides another important reason to introduce legislation to protect the unborn child from abortion.

Right To Life UK have set up an easy-to-use tool which makes it simple to contact your MP, and ask them to sign this motion calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on fetal pain. It only takes 30 seconds using this easy-to-use tool. This tool can be accessed by visiting the link: [www.righttolife.org.uk/FetalPainMotion](http://www.righttolife.org.uk/FetalPainMotion)

**RIGHT TO LIFE UK ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT:** Act now and ask your MP to oppose introducing assisted suicide. The assisted suicide lobby have launched a large campaign to put pressure on the Government to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide.

It is vital that it is clear to the Government that the public want them to continue to hold strong against this pressure from assisted suicide campaigners. Right To Life UK have set up an easy to use tool which will enable you to email your MP asking them to make it clear to the Government that it should not give into demands from the assisted suicide lobby to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide. It only takes 30 seconds to email your MP by visiting the link: <https://righttolife.org.uk/StopAssistedSuicide>

**POPE DECLARES "YEAR OF ST JOSEPH":** In a new Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris corde* ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.

The Letter marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX's declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To celebrate the anniversary, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special "Year of St Joseph," beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020 and extending to the same feast in 2021.

The Holy Father wrote *Patris corde* against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of "ordinary" people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence," who nonetheless played "an incomparable role in the history of salvation."

This has come without any advance notice...so we will be looking at ways to use this coming year in the months ahead. For now the Holy Father's prayer to St Joseph is published on the homepage.

**CATHOLIC UNIVERSE NEWSPAPER:** We are stopping our subscription to the Catholic Universe Newspaper at least for the time being, as an expense that cannot be subsidized in present conditions. Anyone who would like to receive the Universe please contact the Parish Office and we will put you in touch directly with them to arrange a subscription.

**MESSAGE FROM RETROUVAILLE MARRIAGE SUPPORT: Stress in Your Marriage? – This has been a very difficult year for many couples.** Retrouvaille is a programme for married couples that feel bored, disillusioned, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness. Others experience conflict. Most don't know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it.

This programme has helped 6,000 couples who were experiencing difficulties in their marriage in the past year alone. There is no group therapy or group work

For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme, call or text 0788 7296983 or 0797 3380443 - or email [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

**"JESUS, I ADORE YOU"**: is a new book of prayers before the Blessed Sacrament for younger children. Available from St Gabriel's office or stewards priced £5.95. A really good teaching resource for parents, especially in this time without public celebration of Mass.



**HAND MADE ICON FOR SALE:** Cristinel Paslaru, who made the icons of the Baptism of Christ in St Gabriel's and of the Holy Trinity in St Bernard's is a professional Icon Writer from Iasi in Romania.

He has made a new icon of St Christopher (25cms x 12cms) which is looking for a home. His price is £150. Cristi's work is beautiful and of the highest quality. All questions or enquiries to Fr James.