

NEWS

Fifth Sunday of Lent

21 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. PLEASE CONTACT FR TOM TODAY IF YOU WISH TO HELP.**

YEAR OF ST JOSEPH: Now that the Solemnity of St Joseph has been celebrated we will be offering more suggestions about how to enter into this year. Look at our Year Of Saint Joseph page [here](#) for more information.

HOLY WEEK 2021: The schedule for worship in Holy Week this year is given [here](#). Reservations for these liturgies are open. Some of the liturgies are fully reserved. If you have reserved a place and are unable to attend, please let the office know so that place can be offered to someone else. Do keep an eye on the website to see if any places become available. (Remember, we can't put on extra time for the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Easter, so use the weeks of Easter too to come to the grace of new life in Reconciliation in order to come worthily to Holy Communion.)

MAUNDY THURSDAY: It is good that we can celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, but it is only possible in a reduced and limited way, and with comparatively few of the faithful in church. Especially, we can have no Altar of Repose and watch. Therefore, every parish is invited by Cardinal Vincent to join an online watch that evening, streamed from the diocesan shrine of the Blessed Sacrament at Corpus Christi, Covent Garden. The link is [here](#).

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.

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)

DIOCESAN COVID-19 VACCINATION CONFIDENCE EVENT: With the support of Local Authorities Westminster Diocese is hosting a webinar on Saturday 27th March 2021 10am-11.30am to encourage confidence in COVID-19 vaccination among all our communities. There is concern that BAME communities are less likely than White-British ethnic groups to accept vaccination. A group of Catholic clergy from BAME communities and medical professionals will share information on health and wellbeing in the context of COVID-19 and vaccines. All are welcome. You do not have to register to attend.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/92895192155>

Meeting ID: 928 9519 2155

Password: 844612

Or join by phone

Tel: 0208 080 6591 (and use the meeting ID and passcode above)

NATIONAL DAY OF REFLECTION 23 MARCH: You will have seen that Tuesday is a National Day of Reflection on the anniversary of lockdown. Our role here, as the church, is not simply to reflect, but actively to pray on this day: for the souls of the departed; for comfort for those grieving and affected in so many ways; for all the causes surrounding our current circumstances. Make a particular time on Tuesday to bring all these things to God in prayer, that they may be transformed by the grace of Christ's resurrection.

THE BIBLE TIMELINE COURSE FREE ONLINE: The Bible Timeline Course - Jeff Cavins' course is presented live-streamed by Mauro Iannicelli from Wed 7th April @7pm (8 weekly sessions). The course is FREE. Further information: www.comeandsee.org

LIFE-CHANGING OPPORTUNITIES FOR BOYS NOW IN YEAR 3 AT WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL CHOIR SCHOOL: The Head Master writes: "Becoming a chorister at Westminster Cathedral is a wonderful opportunity... There are no financial barriers: all boys receive scholarships up to 100% of fees. The universal element is a love of singing!" See poster in church and ask Fr James or Fr Tom if any family is interested.

INFO ON THE EU CITIZENS SETTLEMENT SCHEME: Settlement Scheme for European citizens EU, EEA and Swiss citizens who were living in the UK by 31st December 2020 have until 30th June 2021 to apply for the Settlement Scheme. Those who do not apply are at risk of losing their rights to live and work here or access important services such as healthcare. There is a need to continue drawing this to people's attention as we approach the deadline. Older and vulnerable people may require assistance with the online application or not even know that their status is at risk. In many cases their main point of contact with society will be through the Church. Relevant information can be found on the official government website (www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families), from the European Commission (www.eurights.uk/what-you-need-to-know) or from the charity Settled (www.settled.org.uk). *Please note, Irish citizens do not need to apply.*

GOOD COUNSEL NETWORK ASK YOUR PRAYERS: Weds 24 March, the Vigil of The Annunciation, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this Country. On this month's Day of Prayer and Fasting for Life, we are especially asking you to fast and pray for the end of DIY abortions at home. Please join in and invite others to join as well. <https://www.facebook.com/events/725021905067267>

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>

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 commencing with a Virtual weekend on 1st - 4th July 2021, call or text 0788 7296983 or 0797 3380443 - or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com or visit 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.

