

NEWS

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY)

11 April 2021

CARDINAL VINCENT'S MESSAGE FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF HRH PRINCE PHILIP: On Friday 9th April, the death of Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh was announced. Following the sad news, Cardinal Vincent offered prayers for the repose of his soul:

'At this moment of sadness and loss I pray for the repose of the soul of Prince Philip, Her Majesty the Queen's faithful and loyal husband. I pray for the Queen and all of the Royal Family.

'How much we will miss Prince Philip's presence and character, so full of life and vigour. He has been an example of steadfast loyalty and duty cheerfully given. May he rest in peace.'

THANK YOU FOR YOUR EASTER OFFERINGS: Fr James and Fr Tom thank you profoundly for all your contributions to the Easter Offerings this year. As you know, these go a long way to paying for the priestly ministry to the parish for the whole year. Along with Fr Stuart we thank you for your personal gifts and greetings at Easter, which are particularly appreciated.

Anyone still wishing to add to the Easter Offerings by Gift Aid can pick up an envelope in church for this purpose.

THANK YOU too for your support of other collections recently, for **LENTEN ALMS** and for the **HOLY PLACES**. We will let you know how much has been raised at a later date.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY: The Second Sunday of Easter (11th April) is of course also Divine Mercy Sunday. We will pray a modified version of the devotions for the day following the 2.00pm Mass in St Gabriel's. If you wish to participate you **MUST** attend the 2.00pm Mass. It is not possible to enter church after this (in order to comply with COVID safety measures). You may reserve a place [here](#).

THANKS FROM MISSIO FOR "RED BOX" OFFERINGS: Mission write to us with thanks for contributions from the Red Boxes in 2020 which came to £1,149.56. As they say, the Red Box is a sign of our solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world and these contributions go to the work of evangelization in many places. If you would like a **RED BOX**, or need to return one, please contact the Parish Office by telephone or wait to speak with the clergy outside church after Mass.

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. **A BIG THANK YOU** to all who have acted as stewards and helped prepare our churches for Easter.

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.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION We were unable to 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.

ALMSGIVING AND COLLECTIONS DURING HOLY WEEK:

- 1) On **Holy Thursday** at the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the collection was for our parish Almsgiving, for the work of Prospect Row and for the Iraqi Diocese of Hadiab. See the [Lent page](#) on the website for details.
- 2) On **Good Friday** we had the annual collection for the upkeep of the Holy Places in the Holy Land. This is always a vital need, and in present conditions all the more important. Cardinal Vincent has shared with us a letter from the Vatican urging our support for this annual collection. You can read the letter [here](#)

3) On **Easter Sunday** as always the offerings made go to providing for the priestly ministry to the parish for the whole year. Thank you for all you can offer. If you are now using a Standing Order and would like to make a particular Easter Offering by Gift Aid, envelopes are available in church.

You can add to any of these collections in the coming days by putting your offering in any envelope and marking it with the relevant cause and adding it to the buckets in church.

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.*

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. Cristinel's work is beautiful and of the highest quality. All questions or enquiries to Fr James.

