

EASING OF LOCKDOWN: As the rules slowly change it brings us new freedoms and new challenges. The most important thing is to keep our churches open and safe spaces for the faithful to gather to worship, and this means constant vigilance. In using our churches please keep in mind:

1) RESPECT FOR ONE ANOTHER: We need to preserve **PHYSICAL DISTANCING**. Please follow the directions of the stewards, and give each other space coming into and leaving church.

2) RESPECT FOR THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: If you are able to come to the grace of Holy Communion remember the guidelines: Holy Communion is received silently in the hands, which should be extended as far as possible in front of you, and you should be holding nothing else in your hands, including for example face coverings or a rosary. You are respectfully asked **not** to wear your face covering when coming to Holy Communion, so that you may worthily consume the Blessed Sacrament. This is why the priest wears his face covering at this point, to maximise mutual safety.

These guidelines are not invented by your parish clergy - they come to us from the bishops and we are all asked to respect them, clergy and faithful alike.

STAFFING CHANGES IN THE PARISH: As it was recently later in the year Fr Tom will be moving to a new parish. He is still awaiting to be told where the Cardinal wishes him to serve. We do know that he will be replaced by Fr Chinedu Udo who is currently the Assistant Priest in Enfield. Please keep Fr Tom, Fr Chinedu and Fr James in your prayers during this time.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS: As things "open up" there is all the more need to manage the buildings - so we need all the volunteers possible to help with this. It is a bit of an awkward task, but a vital one. If you are between ages 18-70 and can help your parish in this way, please email your name etc to the parish email address.

PARISH OFFICE: The office remains closed to visitors, because the building is not open to unscheduled visits. You can contact the office by the parish telephone number and Cynthia can make arrangements to collect or drop off documents etc on an individual basis. Please respect this and please don't ring the door bell on the way in to or out of Mass.

CATHOLIC MARRIAGE OF THE PRIME MINISTER: Cardinal Vincent has written to us, in his words, about "... the marriage that took place in the Cathedral on Saturday. While it came as a total surprise to almost everyone, it had been carefully and fully prepared over a significant period. There has been a wide range of responses to it. I am most aware, and painfully so, of those for whom it has reawakened hurt and resentment about the impact on their own situations of the Church's teaching concerning the validity of marriages.

In replying to the many communications that have been received, an outline of this teaching has been included. A synthesis of the reply is now on the Diocesan website at this link: <https://rcdow.org.uk/news/wedding-in-westminster-cathedral/>

Fr James writes: Anyone who has any questions or feelings about this are also invited to talk with myself or Fr Tom, who will help as best we can. There are some important issues here for all the church, as well as a need to respect the pastoral care of two souls, which is a private matter. Of course we should pray too that the Johnsons will grow, by the grace of Holy Matrimony, to be able to give bold witness in all their life choices to the faith of their Baptism.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FROM RIGHT TO LIFE UK (righttolife.org.uk) have written to suggest the following intentions that you may wish to add to your prayers during the month of June:

6th - *"This week we marked the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression. Let us remember especially the most vulnerable of all children, the unborn. We pray that as a society we would take on the duty to protect all children from harm, and ensure that they arrive into a world where they are loved and supported by all. Lord hear us"*

13th - *"We pray for all unborn children diagnosed with disabilities; we pray for protection for them and their mothers from the pressures of society to have an abortion, and that they would instead experience overwhelming support from all who surround them. Lord hear us"*

20th - *"As we celebrate Father's Day, we pray for all fathers who are expecting a child. That they would find peace in their changing circumstances, and be a source of love and support for the child's mother as they prepare for their child to enter the world. Lord hear us"*

27th - *"We pray for our Government, that their willingness and ability to support pregnant women would increase and that they would anchor themselves in the desire to protect all human life. Lord hear us"*

HOW TO HAVE A HAPPY DEATH How do hospices care for people living with a life-limiting condition? What can we learn from this care for a loved one at home? What about hospitals? What about good end of life care for people with a learning disability? *Come & join the discussion:* <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/how-to-have-a-happy-death-tickets-151066374593>

ANNUAL DAY FOR LIFE 19/20 JUNE: *Bishop John writes:* This day, inaugurated by St. John Paul II, presents an opportunity to pray for the gift of life from conception to natural death, to raise awareness of the precious gift of life, and to support the work of protecting life in its most vulnerable stages through the annual collection. This assists prolife organisations who raise awareness, engage in parliamentary work and pastoral outreach. These finds are distributed by the Department of Social Justice of the Bishops' Conference.

The fragility of life and the reality of death has been brought into sharp focus during the Covid-19 pandemic. In the UK alone, more than 126,000 people have died from Covid-19. Yet in the face of such suffering and death, we have also witnessed the extraordinary dedication of healthcare professionals and their loving care for the sick and dying. We too have each made sacrifices for the greater good during this pandemic. These acts of heroic love are a powerful testimony to the fundamental dignity of the human person and to the respect owed to each life, particularly through proper care and love in the last moments of life.

Against this backdrop of loving care, we are now faced with the very real threat of the legalisation of 'assisted suicide' in our country. It is not a question of 'if' this challenge will come, it is now a question of 'when?' There is now a Private Members Bill in the House of Lords on so-called 'Assisted Dying' and it is only a matter of time before the issue is back in the House of Commons.

This year's theme for 'Day for Life' focuses on assisted suicide and the respect owed to life. The online resources are produced to inform Catholics about this threat to life and to share with people our response to such a threat: a true compassion as the just response to the immense value of the human person.

'Day for Life' adds an authenticity to our witness to the dignity of life and this is enabled by the generosity of people in supporting our work. In 2020, we were unable to hold our annual 'Day for Life' collection due to the pandemic, our funds are very much depleted and the threats to life have never been greater. 'Day for Life' is a simple practical response which pushes back against 'the use and throwaway logic' often at the heart of a culture which seeks to abandon its elderly, sick and dying when 'they no longer serve our interests.'

I know that it is difficult to take another second collection at this time, but the funds are important to support charities and projects which protect the good of life. The Day for Life website is <https://www.dayforlife.org/>.

LOBBY YOUR MP AGAINST "DIY" ABORTION: Ask your MP to sign a Parliamentary motion to stop 'DIY' abortion. Carla Lockhart MP has launched a parliamentary motion calling on the Government to end 'DIY' home abortion. It is therefore vital that as many MPs as possible sign Carla Lockhart's motion to send a clear message to the Government that they must end dangerous 'DIY' home abortion services as soon as possible.

Right To Life UK has launched an easy-to-use tool which makes it simple for you to send an email to your MP asking them to sign the motion. Please click the link below to contact your MP now. It only takes 30 seconds! www.righttolife.org.uk/DIYmotion

PRAYER REQUEST FROM THE GOOD COUNSEL NETWORK: On Wednesday 23rd June, the Vigil of St John the Baptist, 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/121521016724148>

COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP OF REFUGEES: The government has recently announced the long-term future for Community Sponsorship of refugees – a national scheme co-designed and piloted by Catholic parishes. All are invited to join a national Catholic celebration of the scheme via Zoom co-hosted by Caritas Social Action (CSAN) and Reset. Caritas Westminster is lead sponsor for two groups in the diocese. Find out how you can get involved and hear from refugees and parishes about its transformative impact. To register visit: www.communitysponsorship.org.uk/events For further information on the event please do contact CSAN via: sean.ryan@csan.org.uk

JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE BRIEFING: Tues 22nd June 2:00pm-3:30pm An opportunity for people from parishes and schools who seek to welcome and empower migrants and refugees, to meet together, share best practice and ideas, receive training and agree main advocacy issues. The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) will present their new Report: [Being Human in the Asylum System](#). This has been written, using the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, in response to the government's recent (very short) consultation on their New Plan for Immigration, and in anticipation of new legislation being put through parliament. Register on Eventbrite here [Diocese of Westminster Quarterly Meeting of Refugee and Migrant projects Tickets, Tue 22 Jun 2021 at 14:00 | Eventbrite](#)

SAFEGUARDING WITHIN THE CHURCH In October 2019 the Bishops commissioned an independent Review of Safeguarding Structures and Arrangements in England and Wales. Ian Elliot was the Chair of the Review. The final report and recommendations were published in November 2020 and are sometimes referred to as the 'Elliot Report'. The 'Catholic Safeguarding Project' has been established to deliver the recommendations of the Review. The Project Implementation Team has pledged to disseminate a newsletter every few weeks giving an overview of the work undertaken since the Implementation Plan was adopted. Newsletters can be found on the Bishops' Conference website: [here](#) and you can visit the Catholic Safeguarding project website [here](#).

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.

SCHOOL PLACES AVAILABLE AT SUDBURY!!! St George's Catholic Primary School, Sudbury Hill, have spaces currently available in Year 2 and Year 4 in this popular successful school. Please contact the school office for further information office@stgeorges.harrow.sch.uk or telephone the school 020 8422 1272. For families with children not in Catholic Schools, this is highly recommended.

NURSERY PLACES AVAILABLE AT ST SWITHIN WELLS SCHOOL: The school have some spaces in Nursery for children born between 1st September 2017- 31st August 2018

IN YEAR PLACES AT ST SWITHIN WELLS SCHOOL: There are spaces due to families moving out of the area. Please contact Mrs Sharp, Admissions Officer admissions@ssw.school Tel:01895 808194 if you would like to find out more. Applications & relevant paperwork can be downloaded [here](#)

OPPORTUNITIES AT THE LONDON JESUIT CENTRE: The London Jesuit Centre offers: an opportunity for prayer, Saturday Retreats on 2.00-4.30pm. The next one is 19 June.

[Retreats in Daily Life](#) in June and in July.

Brian Purfield's [Introduction to the Bible](#) begins on 21 June. He is offering morning or evening classes. Booking opened.

We are also delighted to announce that, following the easing of lockdown restrictions, the [Heythrop Library](#), one of the largest specialist theology and philosophy libraries in Europe, is now open Mondays to Thursdays.

You can book online for each event via our website: www.londonjesuitcentre.org

REDUNDANCY COACHING: <https://www.vitaeopus.co.uk> provides free online information and advice about Job Hunting, Self Employment and Active Retirement for Parishioners adversely affected workwise by the pandemic. This has been passed on to us by the Diocese of Northampton.

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](#), from the [European Commission](#) or from the charity [Settled](#). *Please note, Irish citizens do not need to apply.*

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.



Support our parish.

You can make a donation to the parish by scanning the QR code or making a card payment on the card machine at the entrance of both of our churches.