

FR TOM: As you already know, Fr Tom is leaving the parish to become Parish Priest of the parish of St Matthew Northwood. Congratulations to Fr Tom but above all is our assurance of prayers for this new responsibility in guiding souls and proclaiming the Gospel. Fr Tom's last Sunday with us will be 5 September. We will have an extra Mass on that Sunday at 2.00pm in St Gabriel's which will be followed by drinks and a presentation of a gift to Fr Tom. To add something to that collection please put your offering in an envelope marked "Fr Tom Collection" and add that to the Offertory bucket or put it through presbytery or St Gabriel's letter box. You can also make a donation by our contactless card machine in either of our churches or by clicking [here](#).

Our new assistant priest is Fr Chinedu Udo. Please pray for him too as he prepares to move in to the parish.

ST GABRIEL'S CHURCH & PARISH OFFICE ARE NOW OPEN: St Gabriel's is once more open for private prayer and the parish office is open for business at the regular weekday times Monday-Friday 09:30 am to 2:30 pm. For the time being St Gabriel's continues to be open on a Saturday for private prayer and for the Sacrament of Reconciliation between 10:00 am & 12 noon.

To remind you also that St Bernard's Church is open Monday-Friday 09:00am to 6:00pm for private prayer using the door code C8645.

THE RELAXING OF COVID PRECAUTIONS AND RESTRICTIONS: We have now entered the next stage of the relaxing of our Covid precautions and restrictions. Whilst things have changed, we do still need to keep some restrictions at this time, such as sanitizing our hands when we enter church and wearing face coverings as we care for each other and giving our contact information. For all the changes in detail **INCLUDING CHANGES TO SUNDAY MASS TIMES** please go to our special website page [here](#).

RESPECT FOR THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: If you are able to come to the grace of Holy Communion remember the guidelines: Holy Communion is received 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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH THE NEXT STAGE OF FIGHTING COVID: With the easing of Covid restrictions we will have all the more need of volunteers to keep the churches clean and safe. There will be less stewarding work to do, however. Please can you help by offering an hour or two every so often?? Everyone over the age of 18 can be a volunteer, including those over 65 who have received both vaccinations. Send you contact number and email to harrowsouth@rcdow.org.uk. **THANK YOU.**

NEWS FROM CARITAS WESTMINSTER: *"Introduction to Volunteering"*: 21st September, 10 – 11:30 am, Zoom.

Thinking about volunteering? Find out how to get started at a free interactive session run by Caritas Westminster. It is for people thinking about or just starting out in volunteering. Explore what your perfect role could be and how to find it, discover what your first days might be like, and how to deal with issues that may crop up along the way. This event covers all the basic need-to-knows about becoming a volunteer.

Book your place on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/introduction-to-volunteering-tickets-159672389415>

Volunteering Opportunity with the Caritas Volunteer Service:

The Caritas Volunteer Service is growing! We are looking for a couple of volunteers who share our passion for social action and volunteering. This is an opportunity to help transform lives throughout the Diocese by helping charities and outreach projects find volunteers. Deadline for applications: 31 July. For more information please contact: <https://www.caritasvs.org.uk/volunteer-with-us.php>

CATHOLIC HISTORY WALKS: See www.catholichistorywalks.com for information. There's a regular programme of events around London. Trouble is they usually tell us about them with too little notice! If you would like to join the group for these interesting excursions, check the website.

DIOCESAN WALSHINGHAM PILGRIMAGE MASS: will be celebrated by Bishop John Sherrington at the Cathedral on 11 September at 2.30pm.

EUCCHARISTIC OCTAVE: The International Eucharistic Congress is due to take place in September in Budapest. Travel restrictions are likely to make it difficult to be there, and as such, there will be a Eucharistic Octave in London organised by several of the London Parishes to celebrate our Eucharistic Lord.

- Saturday 11 September: a day of Adoration, with Mass celebrated at 12noon by Cardinal Vincent Nichols

- The week of 13 September: Mass at Corpus Christi, Maiden Lane every evening at 6:30pm. Will include Mass in the Ordinary and Extraordinary Forms of the Roman Rite, the Ordinariate Use and the Ukrainian Divine Liturgy. There will also be a Requiem Mass for all those who have died from Covid-19.

- Sunday 19 September: a grand Eucharistic Procession at 3:30pm, departing from Our Lady of the Assumption, Warwick Street, and heading towards St James, Spanish Place, via Farm Street and the Ukrainian Cathedral.

Full details of events during the octave can be found at www.catholiclondon.org

MARCH FOR LIFE UK: SATURDAY 4 SEPTEMBER: This year March for Life is back on the streets of London. Join the pro-life movement in this act of witness. It will take place on Saturday 4th September in Central London from approx. 10am – 4pm. – Meet at The Emmanuel Centre, 9-23 Marsham Street, SW1P 3DW.

We recently had the highest ever annual abortion figures in the UK (last year saw 210,860 abortions in England & Wales) as well as the introduction of home/DIY abortions. Let's do our part in turning the tide in our nation. More information is available at www.marchforlife.co.uk or from Isabel on 07773 501721 / email: izzyvs@gmail.com

A Mass is available beforehand at 09:30am, Sacred Heart Church, Horseferry Road.

ONLINE AND REMOTE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Marriage Care is a Catholic organisation specialising in relationship support - providing counselling and marriage preparation throughout England and Wales. They are looking for volunteers who can spare just a few hours a week working from the comfort of their own home to help them support marriage and relationships. They are asking for help in the two following roles.

Zoom Support: Are you an expert on Zoom and would you like to use your tech-skills to help us run marriage preparation courses, training or CPD events online?

Remote Secretary: Provide a vital service to counsellors and clients, taking last-minute cancellations calls and communicating changes as necessary.

For more information please visit: www.marriagecare.org.uk or email volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk

A MESSAGE FROM CAFOD ABOUT RESPONDING TO MULTIPLE EMERGENCIES ACROSS THE WORLD

CAFOD is responding to significant crises across the world this week. We are working with local Church organisations in Haiti to deliver emergency aid to people affected by the catastrophic earthquake and tropical storm. In the tragic situation in Afghanistan, we are working to ensure the safety of our local partners and their communities. We are supporting local aid workers to deliver urgent food and water supplies to hundreds of thousands of people facing extreme hunger in Tigray in Ethiopia, South Sudan and north-east Nigeria. You can read more about how we can all express solidarity with our sisters and brothers affected by these emergencies on the CAFOD website: <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news>. Your compassion, generosity and prayers have helped us to stand together and enable us to continue to support communities in these difficult times. Thank you

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.