

NEWS

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

19 September 2021

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE: For the next few weeks please keep an eye on the Mass schedule for weekdays from week to week as there may be small variations to the times of Mass. As soon as possible we will fix a schedule of Mass times and devotions through to next spring.

ANN MCNAMARA: Ann has decided that it is time for her to retire from doing the flowers at St Gabriel's.

Ann has faithfully given many, many hours to this work over decades. So this is first of all a big moment for the parish and we say a big thank you to her for her dedication and skills, for I know you will agree that the flowers in the Church have always been of the highest quality and a great enhancement of our worship. It is a big moment for Ann too.

Some years ago Ann was invested with the *Bene Merenti* Papal Award for all her devotion to the worship of this Parish, but we want to mark this moment also in a special way... More on that soon.

FLOWERS IN CHURCH: In the meantime, now it is time to make plans for how to do flowers in Church at St Gabriel's in the future. How about you? Do you have a gift for floristry? If you feel you could serve God and your Parish in this way- please speak with Fr James or register your interest at the Office.

CALLING ALL SINGERS! As we start parish life again we will be building up the music as an important part of our worship, starting with reviving the choirs at 10am and 11am Sunday Masses. Do you want to help sing in a choir? Would you like to learn a bit about choir singing? All ages and all standards are welcome! Please speak with Simon, the Director of Music, or with one of the clergy after Mass. *"Whoever sings prays twice!" said St Augustine. Singing in the choir is a great way to serve God and it is also good fun and fellowship. It takes a little commitment and application, but it is well worth it!*

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.**

"ISAIAH: AKA THE FIFTH GOSPEL" ONLINE TALK BY FR HEMER: The third in a series of talks by Fr John Hemer MHM, as part of the Agency for Evangelisation's events for 'The God Who Speaks', takes place online on Tuesday 21st September, 7.00pm – 8.00pm. Please register via Eventbrite to receive the Zoom code: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-god-who-speaks-isaiah-aka-the-fifth-gospel-tickets-164970859281>. For further information or queries, please contact annadupelycz@rcdow.org.uk Tel. 020 7798 9026.

24 SEPTEMBER, FEAST OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM: For news we are a bit behind for this, but visit the website of the National Catholic Shrine in Walsingham to join the Novena of prayer; there's a day of devotions at the Cathedral on Saturday 25th, and September is Our Lady of Walsingham's month in Westminster Cathedral - you will find her beautiful statue welcoming you at the entrance. Why not make a pilgrimage and light a candle, attend Holy Mass and also Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament? Our Lady of Walsingham, pray for us!

ACTION TO OPPOSE ASSISTED DYING LEGISLATION: Bishop Sherrington writes: In the next weeks, we face an unprecedented attack on the sanctity of life with Baroness Meacher's 'Assisted Dying Bill 2021' which received its 1st Reading in the House of Lords, and is due its 2nd Reading with full debate on Friday 15th October. The term 'Assisted Dying' is euphemistic; the truth is that this bill seeks to introduce Assisted Suicide. If legalised, this Bill would allow a terminally ill adult with less than six months to live to be assisted in committing suicide.

Those in favour of the bill are making good use of language to confuse the issue and call it a compassionate and caring approach in order to redefine the question and obscure the actual reality and consequences of such legislation. As Pope Francis has said, 'Physician-assisted suicide is part of a "throwaway culture" that offers a "false compassion" and treats a human person as a problem... True compassion does not marginalize anyone, nor does it humiliate and exclude – much less considers the disappearance of a person as a good thing.' He criticized 'those who hide behind an alleged compassion to justify and approve the death of a patient.'

Importantly, at this stage we need to argue the dangers of the introduction of Assisted Suicide, which include the safety of people who are vulnerable due to external pressures, and the later liberalization of the law which is evidenced by other countries which

have introduced Assisted Suicide. Many voices from the world of disability rights and other allies are also very fearful and fighting this bill.

Link to details from the British conference website: Click [here](#)

There are a number of important actions in the next weeks.

- First, to ask you to call people to pray that the Bill will be defeated.
- Second, to ask that people write to the Peers from their personal experience and share stories which will argue the reasons for opposing the Bill as well as narrate the importance of precious time during the final stages of life.
- Healthcare and legal professionals should write giving reasons why they oppose the Bill. This needs to be done before the Second Reading on 15th October.
- Third, to ask parishioners to engage and share stories and reasons against the Bill on social media.

To ensure that as many Peers as possible are contacted, they recommend that individuals select a Peer who has the same initials (first and/or last name) and write to that Peer. Personal stories can be uploaded at <https://righttolife.org.uk/mystory>; Right to Life UK will ensure these stories are distributed widely to Peers.

WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES: This year, the World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR), celebrated on Sunday 26th September, has as its theme 'Towards an ever wider "we"'. This day is an opportunity for the Church to express concern for different vulnerable people on the move; to pray for them as they face many challenges; and to increase awareness about the opportunities that migration offers. The Pope's message for WDMR and additional resources are available at <https://migrants-refugees.va/world-day-of-migrants-refugees/>.

Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate the annual WDMR Mass in Westminster Cathedral at 5.30pm on that Sunday. Our Ethnic Chaplaincies have been invited to participate. All are most welcome to the Mass, either in person or via the Cathedral livestream at <https://westminstercathedral.org.uk/>

HELP FOR HAITI: Our prayers are very much needed for the people of Haiti after another earthquake. Not reported in the UK was the loss of life among worshippers, religious sisters and others. Even a bishop was pulled from the rubble of his cathedral! Aid to the Church in need are sending relief to Haiti, so an efficient way to support the church there is via ACN. See the link from our website, or go to acnuk.org.

SHELTERED HOUSING OPEN DAY: St Scholastica's Retreat is an almshouse in Buckinghamshire offering sheltered housing to Catholics aged 60 or over in 36 self-contained flats at £562pcm. open day on 25th September to generate applications for their waiting list. To find out more email info@stscholasticas.co.uk or visit www.stscholasticas.co.uk. See poster in church.

SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF WILLESDEN OCTOBER PROCESSION: The October Candlelit Procession at the Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden will take place on Sunday 10th October at 7pm. The procession begins at the Shrine at 1 Nicoll Road NW10 9AX, making our way through local streets and praying the Rosary. Following the procession, we return to the Shrine for homily and Benediction. Bishop Michael Campbell OSA will preach. All are most welcome to attend and join in prayer to Our Mother, that she may wrap her protective mantle around us.

SCHOOL NEWS:

CARDINAL VAUGHAN MEMORIAL SCHOOL OPEN EVENINGS: Please note that there is no need to book for these events. Year 7 Open Evenings - Thursday 23rd September 2021. The Head will speak at 4.30pm and at 6.00pm. The last tour of the school will take place at 6.15pm.

Year 12 Open Evenings - Thursday 7th and Tuesday 12th October 2021 at 5.00pm. The Head will speak at 5.00pm. The last tour of the school will take place at 6.00pm.

contact information: www.cvms.co.uk | 020 7603 8478 | 89 Addison Road | London | W14 8BZ

SACRED HEART LANGUAGE COLLEGE WEALDSTONE OPEN EVENINGS:

Those wishing to apply for a place in Year 7 for September 2022 are invited to visit the school during one of our Open Evenings on the following dates:

Thursday 23rd September 2021 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Covid Safety: All visitors are reminded to wear a mask and maintain social distancing within the school.

Contact information: The Sacred Heart Language College, 186 High Street, Wealdstone, Harrow, Middlesex HA3 7AY, Tel: 020 8901 3623 Also see poster in church.

NEW COURSES AND RESOURCES FROM THE LONDON JESUIT CENTRE:

You will find a full list of LJC events, courses and retreats here: www.londonjesuitcentre.org

Here are some of what is on offer soon:

[Introduction to the Old Testament](#) (begins 23 September 2021)

The Old Testament is essential to understanding the history of salvation and the course will map out the main arc of the Old Testament narrative by exploring four central themes: creation, covenant, prophecy and kingship.

[Prayer from Scratch](#) (begins 29 September 2021)

Prayer is at the very heart of the Christian life and this course, over five Wednesdays, will help participants see prayer in a new way. There will be time for discussion and reflection, as well as periods of guided prayer.

[God and Suffering I - Philosophical Questions](#) (begins 23 September 2021)

It has been a centuries old cry of atheists – how can there be a perfect, loving God given that the world is so full of suffering? The course will explore some of the key philosophical arguments and help participants understand the issues more deeply.

RIGHT TO LIFE UK: NEWS AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES: We are expecting another attempt by the abortion lobby here in the UK to change abortion law this year. Unfortunately, the assisted suicide lobby are also attempting to introduce assisted suicide to the UK through a Bill that is currently progressing through the House of Lords. This means we will be facing battles on two major fronts, likely at the same time.

We are now working on ensuring that we have all the key infrastructure in place to be able to contribute heavily to the defeat of both of these upcoming attempts - along with continuing to increase the impact of our ongoing work.

As part of our preparations, we are hiring for a number of positions across media, public affairs, digital and operations. We are looking for highly-skilled, hard-working, professional individuals to join us to ensure we have the right team in place.

Apply to work for Right To Life UK

Are you looking to leave a corporate career and instead use your skills and energy to make a significant positive difference to this world?

Right To Life UK are currently hiring for a number of positions across media, public affairs, digital and operations.

In particular, they are looking to urgently fill positions in their Public Affairs team, to ensure that they have the right team in place ahead of their opposition making further attempts to introduce radical changes to abortion and assisted suicide legislation. They are looking for highly-skilled, hard-working, professional individuals to join them.

If this is of interest to you or if you know of anyone that would be suitable for one of the positions, please visit the link below to view the roles they are looking to hire for and learn how to apply.

www.righttolife.org.uk/jobs/

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY in the harvest season is on Friday 1 October. The habit of fasting is of course a most ancient practice to help us to grow in spirit. Please help mark the regular Family Fast Day, and symbolically the “proceeds” - that is the money we save that hasn’t been spent on our needs that day we contribute to the CAFOD collection. (CAFOD is the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development.)

CAFOD experts are helping around the world to adapt to climate change and protect our common home. You can make a direct contribution and this year we ask you to do this electronically as follows:

Go to the CAFOD website www.cafod.org.uk to donate online.

Text CAFOD10 to 70580 to donate £10. (They ask us to say that you should also text CAFODNOINFO to 70589 if you don’t want to receive other communications.)

For more information about the work of CAFOD visit cafod.org.uk/fastday.

Also, there’s a CAFOD petition you can support, in preparation for the November Climate talks in Glasgow in November. With the eyes of the world on the UK, we must urge the Prime Minister to make sure communities hardest hit by the climate emergency are listened to at the COP26 conference. If you wish to sign this petition, go to cafod.org.uk/reclaim

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>

JOB VACANCIES WITHIN THE DIOCESE: On the diocesan website you can see a number of job vacancies that are available. For more details go to <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/>

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.

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

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

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.