

# NEWS

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

26 September 2021

**LATEST ON PRACTICAL “POST”-COVID THINGS:** We continue to try to make our buildings as open and safe as possible and provide all the space for prayer and worship that is prudent. Covid, of course, has not gone away, but we also need to move forward:

- Seating capacity at St Gabriel’s has now been increased. There is more space between benches than before social distancing time, but the main social distancing rules are relaxed. The same will follow at St Bernard’s after maintenance work in October.
- PLEASE be aware of the need to use **all** space in church - make room for each other and ARRIVE IN GOOD TIME to ensure that the greatest number can comfortably be seated.
- TIMES OF WEEKDAY MASS AND DEVOTIONS: Following maintenance work at Northolt a new timetable will be in place from 17 October. More details then. The hope is this will not need to be changed in the coming year.
- The buildings still need to be managed during times of worship to ensure maximum safety. Can you help? PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING THE VOLUNTEER WELCOME AND STEWARDING TEAM. This is a great way to help your fellow parishioners. Speak with the clergy or contact 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!*

**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.

**AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED UPDATE:** Keep in touch with the ACN website (link from our webpage). They write to tell us that although they cannot practically support projects in Afghanistan, they are in contact with Afghan Christians where and how this is possible to support them. Their site gives disturbing evidence for what the Church can expect under Taliban control.

**DAY OF PRAYER FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES:** In June 2020, Pope Francis added three titles to the Litany of Loreto, which now includes the titles of Mary: “Mater misericordiae”, (Mother of mercy), "Mater spei" (Mother of hope), and “Solacium migrantium” (Solace of migrants).

This Sunday, as the Universal Church observes the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Pope Francis encourages us, saying, “In encountering the diversity of foreigners, migrants and refugees, and in the intercultural dialogue that can emerge from this encounter, we have an opportunity to grow as Church and to enrich one another.” Wherever the baptized find themselves, the Pope says, they enhance the local Church by their presence and contributions.

The Church has been observing this day since 1914. This Sunday, Pope Francis “makes this appeal to journey towards an even wider “we” to all men and women, for the sake of renewing the human family, building together a future of justice and peace, and ensuring that no one is left behind.”

With confidence in the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we entrust our brothers and sisters to her protection and care, she who is *Solcium migrantium*.

**PRISONERS’ SUNDAY: 10 OCTOBER:** This is a national day of prayer for all affected by prisons and imprisonment - prisoners, their families, prison workers, and for the attitude of our society to imprisonment. *PACT* is the national Catholic charity supporting all these needs. This year, it is good that *PACT* have recommended everyone interested in this social issue, and the influence of the Church on it, to look at the recent BBC drama *Time*, to which I (Fr James) can add my recommendation, as a realistic depiction of what life is like in our prisons, and the potential for the Gospel there. More information on *PACT* can be found at [www.prisonadvice.org.uk](http://www.prisonadvice.org.uk). *PACT* will be our Lenten charity for 2022.

**WORLD MISSION SUNDAY: 24 OCTOBER:** takes place on the same day everywhere in the world. All the faithful are called to take part in whatever way they can. Their prayers and donations enable the Church to reach out and spread the

Gospel in remote and impoverished areas. Please see the posters in church to give online. If you are using a “Red Box” to collect for Missio, thank you! If you would like a box, please ask at the office at after Mass on a Sunday. The theme chosen by the Holy Father is ‘We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard’ (Acts 4:20). Details available at [www.missio.org.uk/wms](http://www.missio.org.uk/wms).

**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.

**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/>

**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](mailto:info@stscholasticas.co.uk) or visit [www.stscholasticas.co.uk](http://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.

**PILGRIMAGE OF REPARATION & PRAYER:** for the Sanctity of Life On Saturday 23rd October, there will be a pilgrimage for the sanctity of life to Walsingham with the theme, ‘the courage to proclaim the Gospel of Life on post-pandemic Britain’. The main programme commences with midday Mass in the Chapel of Reconciliation, celebrated by

Bishop Mark Davies. Details of the remainder of the programme can be found at <http://www.prolifepilgrimage.org>. For those who are unable to attend, the Shrine livestream will carry the main events of the day.

**LITTLE AMAL TO VISIT WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL:** Monday 25th October at 2pm the cathedral welcomes a visitor who has walked from the Turkey/Syria border. Little Amal is a 3.5m high puppet of a young refugee girl, who will have celebrated her 10th birthday the day before. She is walking 5,000 miles through several European countries, reaching Manchester on 3rd November. The purpose for her journey is to draw attention to the plight of refugees, including unaccompanied minors. All places through which she passes are asked to engage and interact with her. Amal, on her way, will also visit venues associated with drama and the arts which celebrate achievements and talent, as a reminder that refugees also have potential. More information about Amal is available at <https://www.walkwithamal.org/>

### **SCHOOL NEWS:**

**CARDINAL VAUGHAN MEMORIAL SCHOOL OPEN EVENINGS:** Please note that there is no need to book for these events.

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](http://www.cvms.co.uk) | 020 7603 8478 | 89 Addison Road | London | W14 8BZ

### **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](http://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/](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://cafod.org.uk/reclaim)

**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](http://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.

**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](http://www.marriagecare.org.uk) or email [volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk](mailto: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.