

NEWS

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

05 September 2021

FR TOM: Today, Sunday 5th is Fr Tom's last day with us in the parish. He will preside at Mass on Saturday evening and then at Northolt on Sunday morning. We will have an extra Mass at 2.00pm in St Gabriel's which will be followed by drinks and a presentation of a gift to Fr Tom. *Do please come along either to that Mass or afterwards to share a drink and some conversation with Fr Tom!* To add something to the collection for Fr Tom 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 harrowssouth@rcdow.org.uk. **THANK YOU.**

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

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.

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>

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.

DIOCESAN WALSINGHAM 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

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.