

LEILA BYRNE RIP: Very sadly to announce the death of Leila Byrne last week. Please pray for her soul. Many will have known her over the decades that she worshipped in this parish. Information about funeral arrangements will be published when they are known.

PASTORAL LETTER FROM CARDINAL VINCENT: This Sunday Cardinal Vincent has sent a Pastoral Letter in the light of Pope Francis' request for a "Church-wide listening process" to hear where we are at and to hear people's experiences of faith with all its joys and disappointments, and to look for ways of strengthening each other.

You may have heard me (Fr James) talk recently about the challenge of rebuilding and restarting every aspect of parish life as we emerge from the pandemic; this request from the Holy Father is very much part of this.

As I write, the process for this "time of listening and reflecting" is rather vague - indeed, parishes only received first information about it this last week. First, let us listen to Cardinal Vincent's words, and then there will be more information next week.

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 NEXT WEEK. 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.

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER REQUESTS FOR CERTIFICATES: Those who need to ask for a "Certificate of Catholic Practice" are asked to send an email to the Parish Address with the following information:

- Name of parents and name of child.
- Date of birth of child.
- Residential Address
- Name of EACH school to which an application is being made.

As you will understand, following the normal criteria for issuing certificates, almost nobody would qualify. A modified process is being followed. After receipt of your email you will be contacted from the office.

SCHOOL NEWS:

SALVATORIAN COLLEGE OPEN EVENING AND GUIDED TOURS:

For admission to Year 7: Monday, 4th October 2021 – 5.30 to 7.30pm

Please register at: <https://bit.ly/salvoregistration> The Headteacher will speak at regular intervals throughout the evening.

Guided Tours are conducted every week - please email admissions@salvatorian.harrow.sch.uk for more information. www.salvatoriancollege.com/admissions

The brand new school buildings at Salvatorian College were blessed and opened last week, and the event was mentioned in Parliament in praise of Catholic education. Interest in Salvatorian College is recommended!

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED UPDATE: Keep in touch with the ACN website <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/harrowsouth/aid-to-the-church-in-need/>. 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.

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. *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.

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.

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/>

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/

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.

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.

