

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: We are looking for budding florists to help at St Gabriel’s. 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.

PRIMARY SCHOOL TRANSFER REQUESTS FOR ENDORSEMENT: 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 full 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.

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS: *This year is moved to Sunday 31 October.* November begins, of course, with the celebration of *All Saints*. Because the calendar this year moves the celebration to Sunday, we keep it the same day that less happy people celebrate “Halloween”. For families: prepare for how you might celebrate the day, and the vigil of the day, which is, of course, the *Eve of All Hallows (Saints)*, now ever increasingly celebrated by the secular/pagan “Halloween”.

CATHOLICS DON’T CELEBRATE “HALLOWEEN”, THEY CELEBRATE THE SAINTS ON THE “EVE OF ALL HALLOWS”: “The Eve of All Hallows Day” on 31 October should be for us a time of preparation for the great Feast Day. Remember, the Halloween nonsense only exists BECAUSE the following day is a great Christian festival. It is increasingly important that Catholics DO NOT get involved in “Halloween” activities, which celebrate the opposite. It might seem like harmless fun, but anything that normalises evil suits the purposes of the devil very well. Put a candle and a holy picture in your window. Have a kids’ party and dress up as your patron saints. Celebrate our faith. Don’t aimlessly follow the herd, but *“Be in the world, not of the world”* to paraphrase the Gospels and St Paul, for “You are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14).

TUESDAY 2 NOVEMBER: THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL SOULS: After *All Saints*, we pray together and offer Mass especially for the Faithful Departed, the Holy Souls on their way to the glory of God. Whilst a solemn day, it is also filled with hope and even joy in celebrating the promises of God. Let us remember how Our Lady at Fatima urges us to pray for the Holy Souls that they might be aided to come to God. These two days are well summed up in the phrase “We pray for them, until they pray for us!” Mass will be offered twice that day: at 10.00am at St Gabriel’s and at 7.30pm at St Bernard’s.

NOVEMBER: MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

The Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed (All Souls’ Day) on Thursday 2nd November will commence the month of prayer for the Holy Souls. You are invited to take an envelope from the back of church in which you can list your deceased family and friends and enclose the offering you wish to make for the offering of Mass. You can return this envelope to either the Parish Office, the Presbytery, or to one of the boxes kept by the altar during November. Lists of the deceased will be kept near the altar and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for the repose of the souls of those contained within these lists throughout November.

SICK AND RETIRED PRIESTS’ FUND COLLECTION: NEXT WEEKEND: 6th and 7th November. See the poster in church for a QR code to give contactless to this collection. Also envelopes in the foyer for Gift Aided donations.

By 2025 the number of priests in retirement in our diocese is set to double to about 150, including those who are sick. Most priests continue to work after the retirement age of 75, but are in need of support. Please help with this if you can. There will be other opportunities next weekend.

DIOCESAN PATHWAY TO THE SYNOD: The text of:

- [Cardinal Vincent's Pastoral Letter](#), and
- [The Handbook for the "Synodal Pathway"](#)

Are available here on our website. Pope Francis has requested 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. We are told by diocesan authorities to expect guidance and resources soon about how to practically organize the Synod process at parish level. In the meantime, this matter will be in the Prayer of the Faithful this Sunday and please commit it to your personal prayers.

A CALL TO LISTEN AND WALK TOGETHER: SYNOD 2022-23: Pope Francis has announced a Synod for the whole people of God. As part of the preparation for the Synod, the Pope has called every diocese to enter into a time of preparation, listening and discernment. Our diocese has produced a simple document for you to read which will be available at Mass this Sunday. PLEASE DO READ IT and think about the questions. We will designate some time in November/December to listen to each other and grapple with these questions...More soon!

BLESSING OF GRAVES, NORTHWOOD CEMETERY: will take place on Saturday 13th November. It will start with a short act of worship at the war memorial at 2.00pm followed by the blessing of individual graves.

SVP HELP FOR THE HOMELESS: The SVP are distributing 11,500 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £3.70 per pack? Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237. Thank you so much for your support."

RED WEDNESDAY IS ON 24 NOVEMBER: A day to raise awareness of the persecution of Christians around the world. Events are centred on Parliament Square. Details of how you can help, either in person or by petition are available from www.acnuk.org.

UPDATE ON THE ASSISTED SUICIDE LEGISLATION: On Friday, peers got the opportunity to debate Baroness Meacher's Assisted Dying Bill. There were some fantastic speeches, including from Baroness Hollins and Baroness Hooper. There was no division on the Bill – as is custom for Private Members' Bills – so it will now progress to Committee Stage, although the Government has given a clear steer that it will not be supporting the legislation. Thank you to all who helped oppose the Bill.

CARDINAL HUME CENTRE ADVENT CONCERT: at Sacred Heart Church, 112 Horseferry Road SW1, will be at 6.30pm on Wednesday 1 December. Numbers are limited so apply for complimentary tickets on 020 7227 1650 or email events@cardinalhumecentre.org.uk

DIOCESAN MASS FOLLOWING THE PANDEMIC: On 7th November at 5.30 pm Bishop John Sherrington will celebrate Mass at Westminster Cathedral, for all those who have died during the pandemic, all who mourn them, all who have been bereaved or traumatised, those who were ill and those who cared for them, including all in the medical profession and care workers. All are welcome to this Mass, especially doctors, nurses, care workers and all health care professionals.

LONDON JESUIT CENTRE: Registration is now open for courses in the second half of the term at the London Jesuit Centre. For more information on the courses please visit: <https://londonjesuitcentre.org/programme>

CATHOLIC TEACHERS ONLINE EVENT: The Diocese of Westminster Education Service is hosting an evening to engage with Catholic teachers and leaders currently working outside Catholic education on 23rd November from 6pm to 7.30pm. It will provide information about how best to prepare for a role in a Catholic school and an opportunity to meet with current Catholic school leaders.

There will also be an opportunity to register for a mentoring programme which will support those on their journey into Catholic education. To book, scan the QR code on the attached poster or visit <https://courses.rcdow.org.uk/event/calling-all-catholic-teachers-event-23rd-november-2021/>

SACRED HEART HIGH SCHOOL HAMMERSMITH Open Evening: Sixth Form Open evening will take place on Thursday, the 11th November from 4-6pm. The closing date for receipt of online applications and the relevant documentation is Friday 26th November 2021. For more information please visit www.sacredhearhigh.org.uk

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/>

JOB OPPORTUNITY AT SPUC: The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children has an opportunity for a highly motivated candidate to join the team as full-time fundraiser and Major Gift Administrator. For information and details email matthewmccusker@spuc.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.

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.