

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED NEXT WEEK: Because of necessary isolation after Covid infections, the parish office will be closed in the coming week, 22-26 November. The clergy will do any office business that can be conveniently done as and when they are available. Both have completed PCR tests this week with negative results. Messages can be left at the parish office extension, but it is best to telephone the clergy.

KEEPING SUNDAY SACRED: MORE FROM THE BISHOPS: Writing earlier in the year, the expectation from our bishops was that all the faithful would be able to take back on to themselves the obligation of Sunday and Holy Day Mass as from the First Sunday of Advent 2021. The expectation then was that the Covid threat would be much reduced. As the situation is more complicated, the bishops have written to us again on this, in effect to say that the current understanding remains in place: once a Catholic feels comfortable from a health position to come into church to worship, then he or she should take back on the obligations of the faith. However, at present nobody should feel under compulsion. The full text of this letter we hope to make available for the First Sunday of Advent.

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.

ADVENT CALENDARS; CHRISTMAS CARDS; 2022 CALENDARS; CHRISTMAS CRIBS: The Repository shops are now open after Mass every weekend from now until Christmas. Stock is limited so we advise early purchase.

ADVENT "WALK WITH ME" BOOKLETS: Prayers and meditations for each day of Advent. Available now priced at £1 available at the Repository shop.

ADVENT TEACHING FOR OUR YOUNGEST FOLK: "My Day by Day Infant" and "My Day by Day Junior" are small booklets available today (£1 each) to help families to teach very young children to follow and keep the season of Advent and prepare fruitfully to celebrate Christmas. Available from the repository shops, or ask at the office or from the clergy.

ADVENT GIVING CALENDAR: Westminster Caritas suggest that an Advent action can be to collect one product each day of Advent to make up a box to donate to the local foodbank. They have prepared a down-loadable calendar to help with this that can be accessed [here](#).

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.

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!*

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.

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!

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.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION FUNDRAISER: A wonderful evening of music and readings for all the family in the magnificent Mother Church of the Diocese, is taking place this year on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th December at 7:30pm. Doors will open at 6:30pm, with organ music being played from 7pm. The programme includes some of the finest Advent and Christmas choral music from across the centuries, sung by the world-famous Cathedral Choir, as well as favourite congregational carols. Westminster Cathedral Choir and Orchestra will be conducted by Simon Johnson, the Cathedral’s new Master of Music. This year’s selection of readings ranges from the Scriptures to writers such as GK Chesterton, all read by an array of celebrity readers. Tickets are now available at Ticketmaster: <https://www.ticketmaster.co.uk/westminster-cathedral-tickets-london/venue/254582>

ST GEORGE’S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, Sudbury Hill, Harrow, HA1 3SB is holding an open morning on Tuesday 30th November at 9:30am for parents of children born between 1 September 2017 and 31st August 2018 looking for a place in September 2022. Further details regarding the admissions process and Admission Policy can be found on the school website www.stgeorgesprimary.org

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 2021 ONLINE EVENT WITH CAFOD: 10th December, 6.30pm: Learn more about human rights defenders in Latin America, hear inspiring stories first hand and how we in the UK can stand in solidarity with them. <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Events/CAFOD-2021-Human-Rights-Day>. 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/>

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."

WRITE TO YOUR MP ABOUT THE NATIONALITY AND BORDERS BILL: Caritas Westminster and the Jesuit Refugee Service are urging Catholics to write to their MPs about the Nationality and Borders Bill. The proposals in this Bill are unfair, unjust and will not work. They also do nothing to address the root causes of forced migration and trafficking. Find out more and how to respond here: <https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/nationality-and-borders-bill-caritas-westminster-response-1232.php>

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

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. For more information, visit <https://courses.rcdow.org.uk/event/calling-all-catholic-teachers-event-23rd-november-2021/>

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.

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.