

**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 next week.

**NOVEMBER: MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS:** There is still time to add names to those for whom Mass is offered in the last few days of November, if for any reason you had forgotten.

**ADVENT CALENDARS; CHRISTMAS CARDS; 2022 CALENDARS; CHRISTMAS CRIBS:** We are hoping to be able to have the Repository shops open again this Sunday. There's only a small number of Christmas cards left, so shop early. Items are also available from the Parish Office during the week.

**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.

**"WALK WITH ME"** Daily prayers and reflections for Advent is still available at £1. Not only a useful aid to prayer and using the season of Advent well, but also a handy gift perhaps to help someone come to know the faith. Available from the Repository shops.

**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.

As part of the **WESTMINSTER SYNODAL PATHWAY** we are invited to join Bishop John Sherrington at an **Area Listening Event** on Wednesday 1 December, 7-9pm at Golders Green Parish 700 Finchley Road NW11 7NE. Pope Francis has invited the worldwide Church to a time of listening – of listening deeply to each other as we walk side by side, telling our stories of faith. Here in our local Church, our Diocese, this is just what we are doing. This Area Listening Event is an opportunity to listen, to share, and to dream about the Church we are called to be. All are welcome, and places can be booked by emailing [catadmin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:catadmin@rcdow.org.uk).

**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 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> November at 9:30am for parents of children born between 1 September 2017 and 31<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.stgeorgesprimary.org)

**HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 2021 ONLINE EVENT WITH CAFOD:** 10<sup>th</sup> 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."

**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](mailto:events@cardinalhumecentre.org.uk)

**A MESSAGE FROM THE PASSAGE:** The Passage, a Catholic charity working with homeless people is raising funds through the Big Give a matched giving scheme from 12.00 noon. Every £1 donated online between 12.00 noon on Tuesday 30 November and 12.00 noon on Tuesday 7 December makes £2 and £2.25 if you are a taxpayer through Gift Aid. At a time when The Passage's finances are stretched and they are helping more homeless people please consider supporting this charity through the link <https://bit.ly/PassageBG2021>

**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](#).

**ADVENT RETIRE AT FOR YOUNG ADULTS:** (18-30s) with the Assumption Sisters on Saturday 4th December 2021 in Kensington. Young people are invited for a day retreat (10am-5pm) to prepare for Christmas, with teaching, workshops, prayer, confessions and mass. Venue: Milleret House, 23 Kensington Square W8 5HN. Donations only. **Register:** [tramy@assumptionreligious.org](mailto:tramy@assumptionreligious.org)

**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>

**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.

**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.



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### 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.