

**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.

**CHRISTMAS:** Items are still available from the Parish Office – Cards, Advent Calendars, Children’s books, Gift Wraps and Cribs.

**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 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.

**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!

**SYNODAL PATHWAY LISTENING EVENT:** As part of the Westminster Synodal Pathway we are invited to join Bishop Nicholas Hudson at a Listening Event on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December, 7.00pm – 9.00pm, at Westminster Cathedral Hall, Ambrosden Avenue, London SW1P 1QJ. Pope Francis has invited the worldwide Church to a time of listening – of listening deeply to each other as we walk side by side, sharing our stories of faith. Here in our local Church, our Diocese, this is just what we are doing. This 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).

**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>

**RIGHT TO LIFE UK:** The abortion lobby are now running a large campaign in the media to put pressure on the Government to make temporary ‘DIY’ abortion schemes permanent before the end of the year. It is therefore vital that as many MPs as possible write to the Health Secretary, Sajid Javid, asking the Government to end these dangerous ‘DIY’ abortion schemes. Right To Life UK has launched an easy-to-use tool on its website today which makes it easy for you to send an email to your MP asking them to write to Sajid Javid. Please visit [www.righttolife.org.uk/endDIY](http://www.righttolife.org.uk/endDIY) to contact your MP now. It only takes 30 seconds.

**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."

**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](#).

**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.

**HARROW FOODBANK DECEMBER WISH LIST:** Tinned hot dogs, tinned fish (not tuna), tinned meatballs, stock cubes/stock pots, packet meat soup (cup-a-soup), long-life full-fat milk, adult toothpaste and adult toothbrushes.

They have plenty of: Baked beans, tinned soup, cereal, dry pasta/dry spaghetti, oats/porridge, biscuits, tuna and rice.



---

**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.