

WELCOME TO FR CARLOS QUITO: This week we welcome Fr Carlos to be our new Assistant Priest. He will be at St Gabriel's this weekend. I know that everyone will make him very welcome as he settles into the parish!

PARISH OFFICE: Cynthia Rodrigues, our Parish Administrator, will sadly be leaving this post at the end of February to take up a new role at Diocesan Central Offices. Cynthia has overseen the Parish Office in an exemplary way over the last three years and we will miss that very much!

The position of Parish Secretary/Administrator is a very important one and a job that requires a range of skills. It is also very much part of the pastoral ministry of the parish. Below is the diocesan advertisement for the post. If you know a person of faith who might be interested in this opportunity, please point them in the right direction. There's a link to the advert and Job Description [here](#).

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR JOB ADVERTISEMENT:

Do you have experience working as an Administrator Secretary or Executive Assistant? Would you like to make a real difference, using your skills to support a parish community?

About the Diocese of Westminster:

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster is a faith-based charity. We are home to the Archbishop of Westminster (Cardinal Vincent Nichols) & the beautiful Westminster Cathedral. We are also one of the leading Catholic dioceses in the country, delivering our charitable mission through our network of 208 schools, 212 parishes and several hundred social justice initiatives. We seek to positively impact the lives of all members of our community.

We believe that to succeed we must be person-centred and place human dignity at our centre. We strive to take a holistic approach to the development of our people so that we may better serve the functions of our Church and the mission of our charity.

*Our core values are **Competence, Reliability, Honesty, Perseverance and Love***

About the role:

Based at Harrow South Parish, this Parish Administrator post is a pivotal one within the parish. In this role, you will work closely alongside other staff members, providing administrative office and accounts management support to the Parish Priest and his team.

In addition to undertaking typical secretarial duties such as handling general correspondence, diary management and general administration tasks, you also be responsible for interacting with parishioners visiting the office and volunteers involved in parish activities

About you:

With substantial experience in office organisation and strong MS Office skills, you will be a great communicator who will thrive on juggling the various competing demands of this varied and interesting role. It is therefore important that you are self-motivated and that you can multitask effectively to meet deadlines.

Benefits:

In return for your hard work and commitment to us, you will receive a competitive reward package which will include, but is not limited to:

- 5% pension contribution – Standard Life
- £8K Death in Service benefit (all staff)
- Cycle to Work scheme
- Access to low cost loans with Churches Mutual
- Employee Assistance Program

Location: Harrow South & Northolt Parish

Hours of work: 22.5 hours per week (Monday to Friday 9.30-2.30 with half an hour unpaid lunch break) plus 10-15 overtime hours (neg)

Salary: £13 per hour

Closing date: 25 February 2022 at noon

MASS FOR WORLD DAY OF THE SICK: The annual Mass in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes on the World Day of the Sick will take place at 2pm on Saturday 12th February in Westminster Cathedral. The decision has been taken that this year the Sacrament of the Sick will not be administered. The Cathedral tells us that the Mass will be livestreamed on the Cathedral's livestream, which can be accessed at <https://www.westminstercathedral.org.uk/> or

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXx0dFI8GV5D9DSZo46ox6Q> All are most welcome to attend.

POPE'S MESSAGE FOR WORLD DAY OF THE SICK, ESPECIALLY FOR HEALTH WORKERS: On Friday 11th February 2022 we will celebrate the World Day of the Sick. The Holy Father's message for the day is available [here](#), and is directed especially to parishioners who work in healthcare. Choosing as a theme, *'Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful'* Pope Francis writes, *'Mercy is God's name par excellence; mercy, understood not as an occasional sentimental feeling but as an ever-present and active force'*. Pope Francis's message contains rich and profound thoughts which will benefit everyone. It is Cardinal Vincent's hope that we will all read it in preparation for the World Day of the Sick and share it as widely as possible. In paragraph 2 of the letter we are reminded how bodily affliction also effects our spirit, *'hearts become heavy, fear spreads, uncertainties multiply*' and then In paragraph 3 Pope Francis addresses healthcare workers directly, ***'your service alongside the sick, carried out with love and competence, transcends the bounds of your profession and becomes a mission'***.

CRIB APPEAL AND OTHER FINANCIAL NEWS: Thank you for all your contributions to the Crib Appeal for the Catholic Children's Society. We will have a final total for this next week. Also, next week we will publish a summary of the financial position of the parish reflecting all that happened in 2021.

COVID PRECAUTIONS: From Thursday 27th it will no longer be mandatory to wear face coverings inside public places and public transport. **HOWEVER**, it remains the recommendation of the bishops that we should continue to wear face coverings in church for the well-being of the greatest number of the faithful. Please do respect this. The high level of Covid infections still taking its toll around us makes parish life still very awkward - but we carry on with basic good sense precautions to make our buildings accessible to as many as possible. Please do take on board the regular appeals for more volunteer welcomers and cleaners - this is a simple way to help make things work well, and will help build up the parish for the future.

NEW GUIDELINES ON COVID PRECAUTIONS: The bishops have sent new guidelines, and as a result you will see a few "returns to normal" in church. Holy Water is once more available at the door of church. Books and papers can now be used again. All steps in the right direction...

"THE GOD WHO SPEAKS" SCRIPTURE FESTIVAL: 3-5 February at St Albans Cathedral. All are invited to join pilgrims for a one time only Scripture Festival at the beautiful St Albans Cathedral. There will be a wide variety of activities and ways to explore and experience The God who Speaks. Open 10am-4pm Thursday and Friday and 10am-3.30pm on Saturday. For info visit <https://rcdow.org.uk/scripturefestival/>.

Also Saturday 5 Feb at 11am **BEHOLD THE WORD** performance. Come and watch Steve Murray-Hanson from Behold Ministry bring familiar parables and scripture narratives to life through mime. Free but booking recommended.

<https://rcdow.org.uk/scripturefestival/whats-on/>

RIGHT TO LIFE UK WRITE TO ASK FOR YOUR HELP: Right To Life UK has had a challenging and busy month, with the assisted suicide lobby attempting to hijack the Government's Health and Care Bill and force them to lay an assisted suicide bill before Parliament within a year of the Bill passing into law.

The Health and Care Bill will shortly move onto Report Stage where there is a high risk that Lord Forsyth will retable his amendment. As such, Right To Life UK is asking parishioners to sign up to their Action Alerts, so they can effectively participate in their efforts to stop this amendment passing, and others like it. You can do so by visiting the following link:

<https://righttolife.org.uk/#action-alerts>

SYNODAL PATHWAY: We still hope to provide a practical opportunity for us all to participate in the listening stage of the Synod process that Pope Francis has begun. Perhaps when the covid infection rate starts to recede and our new assistant priest arrives this will be more easy to enable. Keep it in your prayers.

THANKS FROM "AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED": Thanks to your wonderful and generous compassion, more than 330 projects across 76 countries were paid out in 2021 by the UK office of Aid to the Church in Need – one of the best years on record and achieved in spite of the COVID pandemic. Projects supported by Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) included urgent medical support for Syrian Christian refugee families in Lebanon, subsistence aid for priests, Sisters and catechists ministering in Sudan's Nuba Mountains, and a Church-backed campaign providing emergency COVID-19 help for the poor in Delhi's slums.

Neville Kyrke-Smith, national director ACN (UK), said: “Given the immense challenges our brothers and sisters faced in so many countries last year, I am once again humbled by our benefactors’ love in response to their suffering.

Mr Kyrke-Smith stressed that ACN (UK) had not forgotten long-term priorities, and was still helping Christians in the Middle East suffering from regional conflicts and targeted attacks from extremist groups. Syrian refugees who fled to Zahlé, east Lebanon, received ongoing support including food packages, hygiene kits, rent assistance, fuel, and medical needs.

The UN does not provide these Christian families with any assistance – all international aid is channelled via the Muslim-majority unofficial camps where Christians are afraid to live.

Other support provided by the UK office during 2021 included support for seminarians – particularly in Africa, Eastern Europe and the subcontinent, reconstruction of churches across the globe, such as St Joseph’s, Kragujevac, Serbia, and rent support for struggling families including in the Syrian capital Damascus, as well as Mass stipends to support poor priests.

Learn more about Aid to the Church in Need at acnuk.org.

GOOD COUNSEL NETWORK SEND NEW YEAR GREETINGS: With thanks for your support by prayer and financial donation, GCN write as follows: “I write at the end of another difficult year. A second year dominated by Covid 19 and the restrictions imposed on life to reduce its spread. And also a year which – for pro-lifers – was dominated both by more and more attempts in Parliament to loosen abortion laws and expand euthanasia and the “pills by post” method of abortion. These home abortions mean that abortion vulnerable women have suddenly become far more difficult to reach, to offer help to and that abortion has become even quicker, allowing less time for counselling or even for calm thought and decision making. This is something the abortion industry have claimed as a great victory – more women having more abortions, quicker and more cheaply (cheaper for the abortion provider, not for the “purchaser” which is usually the NHS) in their own home. Statistics tell a different story, showing women receiving the pills with no checks on who will actually take the pill, or on any of the medical facts (is she right about how far along in the pregnancy she is? Has she got health issues or mental health issues she isn’t telling about?) and whether the woman is being abused or pressured. They also show that thousands of women have needed hospital treatment following their Pills by Post abortion.

Furthermore, the Pills by Post scheme, coupled with buffer zones at the busiest abortion centres here in London, have vastly reduced the number of women we can reach. The number of babies whose Mothers we have been able to support were down last year, and in response to these challenges we are developing new outreaches to reach and support Mothers at risk of abortion. We will monitor which approaches are most successful over the next few months and develop new services to meet the current challenges we face.”

WESTMINSTER DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 22-29 JULY: The Diocesan Pilgrimage Office writes to us as follows:

Plans for **Westminster Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes** from **22nd to 29th July 2022** are well under way! The Grotto has in fact been open since spring 2020 and awaits the return of international groups of faithful pilgrims and rest assured, Our Lady is abundant in patience.

In ongoing planning for this, the first Westminster Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes since the Coronavirus pandemic began, it is important to know *who* intends to travel with Westminster Diocese and in *what capacity*. For this reason, an **Expression of Interest** Form is available in paper copy (attached) or online for completion. Please remember to tick 'Yes' or 'No', and to read and sign the Privacy Statement before returning the form, and note, the completion of the **Expression of Interest** Form does *not* constitute a commitment to make a booking.

An online link can be found via: <https://forms.rcdow.org.uk/lourdes-pilgrimage-2022-expression-of-interest/> on the Westminster Diocese Pilgrimages webpage.

It goes without saying that, given the fraught difficulties that independent travel might unexpectedly incur, it is suggested, and by some, even recommended under the current climate, that all Westminster participants opt to *travel together as one body of pilgrims* to Lourdes, possibly with the same travel operator and, moreover, that every traveller possess the appropriate *travel insurance* product e.g. with Tangney Tours (01732 88 6666). This type of policy offers cover for the potential eventualities which may occur with travelling abroad, and more especially if a Covid-19 related medical incident or other were to occur.

[NB: If you are a registered practising Doctor or Nurse please make this known on your form and also on your booking form should you choose to travel with the Diocese of Westminster on Pilgrimage.]

The organisers of the Westminster Pilgrimage to Lourdes would very much appreciate it if you could kindly complete the **Expression of Interest** Form – either online or by paper copy – and return it as soon as you can.

JESUIT RETREAT IN DAILY LIFE: The Jesuit Institute is offering an online retreat in daily life from 27th March to 1st April, involving individual spiritual direction and some optional group meetings using Zoom. For this retreat, an experienced team of Ignatian Spiritual Directors have offered their time. Donations are invited, with a suggested donation of £150-£200. For more information, please contact Sarah Young at syoung@jesuit.org.uk or call 07548 224362

CHARITY GALA IRISH CONCERT: In Aid of the British Heart Foundation and the Michael Sobell Hospice. Salvatorian College 26th February. Featuring John McNicholl; Terrance O'Flaherty and the London Irish Youth Orchestra. Poster in St Gabriel's.

CHORISTER OPPORTUNITIES AT WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL CHOIR SCHOOL: Open to boys with musical potential in years 2 & 3. Becoming a chorister offers boys the chance to sing at the Cathedral and on tour internationally. Boys also receive an outstanding education. Interested parents should contact Director of Admissions, Ms Lucy Auger West minster Cathedral Choir school, Ambrosden Avenue SW1P 1QH. Tel: 020 7798 9081. Email office@choirschool.com web: www.choirschool.com

ROOMS TO LET - OLDFIELD CIRCUS: Double bedroom available at £525 pcm. Single bedroom available at £350 pcm. Rent includes bills and WIFI. Females only – Suitable for single professionals, non-smoker. Beautifully presented furnished rooms in a newly refurbished 3-bedroom house in Oldfield Circus – Northolt. House includes a large modern kitchen, two bathrooms, driveway, patio/garden and use of dining room. Close to shops. 10-minute walk or short bus ride to both Greenford and Northolt stations. Contact Veronica: 075 073 12015.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT SACRED HEART HIGH SCHOOL, HAMMERSMITH: Sacred Heart are looking to appoint an experienced Administrative Assistant for our busy Student Services Centre. The closing date is noon 7th February. Please see TES for further information. [Administrative Assistant, London - Tes Jobs](#)

ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC GRAMMAR SCHOOL - Applications for Sixth Form Entry in September 2022 open until 28 February. If you are interested in applying for a Sixth Form place at St Michael's please take a look at the virtual open evening on our <https://www.st-michaels.barnet.sch.uk/new-sixth-form-page/virtual-sixth-form-open-evening/> Applications can be made online through the Apply NOW button.



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.