

SPUC (Society for the Protection of Unborn Children) WHITE FLOWER APPEAL 26/27 February: SPUC is currently campaigning to protect Pro-Life speech. Pro-life witness is being restricted now more than ever; we must be able to speak freely to protect the unborn and all affected by these issues, especially the mothers of the unborn. Please be as generous as you can to support SPUC.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES: Do you use the weekly envelopes for planned giving to the parish? If so the office is now preparing the set of envelopes for the next year and it may be time to revise your needs: If you would prefer to make your offerings by Standing Order instead of by cash; or if for another reason you no longer require a box of envelopes; or if you have changed your address please contact the Parish Office to let us know. Also, for those who have made a Gift Aid declaration it is important for us to know if you no longer pay tax.

SUMMARY PARISH ACCOUNTS FOR 2021: Displayed in the foyer of each church and attached to this bulletin [here](#) is a summary of the parish accounts. First, thanks are due to the office team for the detailed work that goes into producing this data. Secondly, inevitably this summary might raise questions, especially as areas of income and expenditure get lumped together. If you have any questions at this stage, please contact Fr James. A full set of accounts will be available when they are finalized by diocesan H.Q.

The figures show a modest recovery of income during 2021, and unremarkable expenditure, reflecting no unusual circumstances. Two big questions remain: 1) every parish is required to build up a reserve against unforeseen circumstances. We can only modestly do this at present. 2) More and more we need resources to put towards mission and sharing and teaching the faith.

Thank you to everyone for their commitment to material and financial support of the parish and please put all these matters into your prayers.

PLANNED MAINTENANCE AND EXPENDITURE: A prudent part of caring for our assets and resources is to plan for regular maintenance and improvement to the fabric and facilities. *Oddly, (this is Fr James writing personally), occasionally I am criticized for doing such work, or someone uses the fact that they see maintenance work going on as evidence that the parish is well off and doesn't need any material contribution from themselves. This has been said to me in so many words!!*

In the coming year we plan to continue the programme of replacing the 1960s windows at St Bernard's, which are insecure and uninsulated. Also, there is a need to repair the drainage on the Northolt site, and to attend to a chronic damp problem on the rear wall of St Gabriel's. Additionally, if unforeseen expenditure doesn't get in the way, it would be useful for the future to continue with the installation of Audio-visual resources at Northolt, as we have at South Harrow during 2020, to aid teaching and social events.

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...

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

NEWS FROM STEPHEN ANDERSON: Many of you have been asking where Stephen has been. Stephen used to play the organ at St. Gabriel's from time to time at the 10am Sunday Mass. I am very pleased to tell you that he has been appointed as Director of Music at a church in Central London. He goes with our very good wishes and we thank him for his years of loyal service.

Stephen still lives in the parish and we look forward to hearing his news when he comes to visit us.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY FRIDAY 11 MARCH 2022: Lent Appeal from CAFOD, the Catholic agency for overseas development. Have a simple meal on this day and donate the proceeds to support CAFOD project to provide training to families in growing and making healthy food. Your small act of charity will help change the lives of many affected by extreme hunger. See more at cafod.org.uk/lent

CAFOD's WALK AGAINST HUNGER LENT CHALLENGE: There are 200 million children in the world whose lives are at risk from malnutrition. This Lent, challenge yourself to walk 200km, and help give hunger its marching orders. Do 5k a day, your way, for 40 days, get sponsored and you'll conquer your 200km target in time for Easter – and help people around the world to live free from hunger. To find out more or take part, go to cafod.org.uk/walk.

LENT RESOURCES FOR ALL AGES: ALL AT £1 ONLY

“Walk With Me”: Daily reflections and prayers for Lent

“My Day by Day Lent 2022 Junior”

“My Day by Day Lent 2022 Infant”

Help your young, and very young, children grow in their understanding of the meaning and participation in the seasons of Lent and Easter with these helpful little booklets.

“The Way of the Cross” Stations of the Cross by St Josemaria Escriva. To introduce a new edition we have some copies at the discounted price of £1 only!

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY: Westminster Cathedral, Sat. 14th May 2022 at 3pm. The Cardinal invites to this Mass all couples in the diocese who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2022. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give the Parish Office the following details: husband and wife’s names, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email), date and place of Catholic marriage. Information deadline is Sunday 27 March.

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.

DIOCESAN HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE 21-29 NOV 2022: After an absence of a year, the Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land will take place once more this year. Led by Cardinal Nichols and Fr John Farrell OP. Walking in the footsteps of Christ and offering hope to Christian communities in the Holy Land, pilgrims will return ready for mission. Price £1,825 per person, based on two people sharing a room (single room supplement £529 per person). Travelling BA from Heathrow, the pilgrimage includes full board, scheduled expenses, tips and gratuities. Travel insurance is essential and not included. For booking forms and further info. contact Gill Didino at Tangney Tours on 01732 886666.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL CHOIR SCHOOL OPEN MORNING 27 FEB: Every September up to six choristers join WCCS in Year 4. Becoming a chorister offers boys the opportunity to sing in a world-class choir, and to join a thriving, inclusive independent school for boys, age 4 – 13. All choristers receive generous scholarships, supplemented by means-tested bursaries worth up to 100% of fees, where needed. The school is holding an open morning for prospective chorister families on Sunday 27 Feb 10am to 1pm. They invite applications from boys currently in Year 2 or Year 3. Interested parents should contact Lucy Auger to register by calling 020 77998 9081 or emailing lauger@choirschool.com.

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.

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

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER CARITAS:

1) VOLUNTEERING FAIR 5 MARCH: 12-2pm Westminster Cathedral Hall. Whether you want to try volunteering for the first time or are looking for a new role, come and find out what volunteering opportunities are out there at the moment. Find out more here www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/caritas-volunteering-fair-tickets-250053004267

2) NATIONAL ENERGY ACTION: For anyone struggling with fuel bills: Caritas has been talking to National Energy Action, who can provide support to households facing energy stress. Their Warm and Safe Homes helpline, 0800 304 7159 is open daily, 10am-12pm, to support clients with energy advice around topics such as reducing energy consumption, Warm Home Discount and Priority Services Register, fuel debt, water rates and benefits advice.

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 Westminster Cathedral Choir school, Ambrosden Avenue SW1P 1QH. Tel: 020 7798 9081. Email office@choirschool.com web: www.choirschool.com

ST BENEDICT’S (EALING ABBEY) SCHOOL ASSISTED PLACES: St Benedict’s is a leading fee paying school in our area. The school has written to make you aware of scholarships and generous bursaries available to broaden access, offering financial support with fees to eligible parents of gifted young people. Full details from <https://www.stbenedicts.org.uk/> Means-tested St Anselm awards are worth up to 100% of school fees. We have some leaflets available from the parish office.

“LOOKING FOR HOME HELP: a few hours a day, 3-4 days a week. Preferably someone that can cook Filipino food. Accommodation is available if required. Tel: 07973490265 for more details.”
N.B. Harrow South and Northolt Parish can take no responsibility for the accuracy of the information in the above.

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.

JOB OPPORTUNITY – WARDEN & CLERK – ST SCHOLASTICA’S RETREAT: Competitive Salary, pension, and accommodation onsite in Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire. The Trustees are seeking to appoint a Warden & Clerk to the Trustees for this almshouse charity that provides sheltered housing for Catholics in financial need aged 60 or over. For details of the role and how to apply, see: www.stscholasticas.co.uk/warden-clerk-vacancy. The closing date is Monday, 28th February.

MARY’S MEALS has a new job opportunity in the London/South England team. The role of ‘Supporter Engagement Officer’ is an exciting and varied one which will suit someone with good organisational and people skills. The closing date is 24th February. Job details are [here](#)



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.