

NEWS

Third Sunday of Easter

01 May 2022

Fr ANTHONY BRUNNING RIP: The Vicar General has passed on the sad news of the death on 25th April of Fr Tony Brunning, who was our Parish Priest here in Harrow South and Northolt in the 1980s and 90s. Fr Tony died peacefully at Nazareth House, Hammersmith. When we receive information about his Funeral Mass we will make that known also. May he rest in peace.

THANK YOU: To all for your generosity in supporting the financial appeals during Lent and Easter. The current totals stand at: Holy Places Good Friday collection: £1388; Lenten Alms: £864.05; CAFOD Family Fast Day: £383.18; Ukrainian Churches collection: £1495; Easter Offerings: £3593.01.

Fr James writes: Thank you especially on behalf of Fr Carlos and Fr Stuart for all of your cards, gifts and offerings at Easter - all these are deeply appreciated by us personally. Also for all your contributions to the Easter Offerings, which go a long way to financing the priestly ministry to the parish for the entire year. Anyone who still wishes to add to this collection can find envelopes in the foyer.

! THIS WEEK THERE IS NO MASS ON THURSDAY EVENING (5 MAY)!

PARISH ROSARY AND MAY DEVOTION: Sunday 15 May at 3pm at St Gabriel's (for about an hour). Close to the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima and midway through Mary's month of May let us meet together in prayer for each other, the parish and the needs of the world and bring them to the feet of our Blessed Mother.

PENTECOST SUNDAY PARISH LUNCH: To celebrate the conclusion of the Easter season, a step forward from the Covid situation and to mark Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee we are hoping to have a Parish Lunch on Sunday 5 June at 1.30pm after the end of Sunday Masses at St Gabriel's Hall. Can you help? If you can sign up to help with logistics, food serving drink, music etc please let the office know.

PLANNED GIVING, BOXES OF ENVELOPES 2022-23: If for any reason you did not collect your box of weekly envelopes for Planned Giving to the parish, please ask for them at the office at St Gabriel's, or ask the priest after Mass at St Bernard's. Thank you for your continued commitment to the parish.

PRIEST TRAINING FUND ANNUAL COLLECTION: Next Sunday (8 May) is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray for vocations to the priesthood. The annual collection for the Priest Training Fund will take place next weekend. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. There are currently 58 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 17 of whom are from our own Diocese, and two in Rome. Last year four men who studied at Allen Hall were ordained to the priesthood to serve as our future priests. This fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your generous donation helps ensure we can support these men who are called to be like Christ the Good Shepherd. Donation envelopes are available in the back of the church. Please take one home, read the information, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. Please continue to pray for vocations and for our priests. You can use the QR code to make your donation online or visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations. Thank you for your generosity.

FORMATION OF AN SVP CONFERENCE IN OUR PARISH: There will be another meeting for information and to mark a formal start to our plans on **Tuesday 10 May at 7pm** at St Gabriel's hall for anyone interested in knowing more about being part of the SVP.

The aim of the St Vincent De Paul (SVP) charity is to tackle poverty both material and emotional through the provision of practical assistance to those in need. We bring this relief thanks to the involvement of our voluntary members. We address specific needs in the local community by engaging in befriending and special projects that serve the most disadvantaged regardless of their background. The essence of our work is person-to-person contact and spending time with people is our greatest gift.

Any parishioner, of whatever age, who would like to give even a little time to help others are warmly invited to come along.

MISSIO RED BOX, MANY THANKS! MISSIO wishes to thank us for our donations in 2021. We managed to donate £1,659.93 through the Red Box and other individual donations. In this, our prayers and financial support form part of a worldwide effort of supporting the Catholic Church in her evangelisation and charitable work to distant nations – whether it be with Sr. Mary, a Kenyan missionary helping in a hospital with simple medicines (see poster in foyer), the training of over 2,000 priests, or even helping refugees in Ukraine. Your support echoes that of Pauline Jaricot, who founded MISSIO 200 years ago, and now is to be declared Blessed. If you are interested to know more or to see how you can help, please speak with Fr. James or Fr. Carlos, who happens to be the Director for MISSIO in Westminster Diocese.

MAY PROCESSION AT THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF WILLESDEN:

Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden, Nicoll Road, NW109AX. **Sunday 8th May at 3pm.** Preacher, Most Rev Kenneth Nowakowski; Eparch

of the Holy Family of London (Ukrainian Catholic Church), who will be accompanied by the Icon of the Mother of Protection- Pokrova. Come and join the praying of the Rosary for asking the prayers of the Black Madonna of Willesden for the protection of London, and for Peace and Restoration in Ukraine. Bakerloo Line & Tube, Willesden Junction Station (Old Oak Lane exit), Buses 18, 187, 206, 226, 228, 260, 487.

THE SYNODAL PROCESS: We have now held our two meetings for the listening process. A digest of reflections from these meetings will be put together to add to the diocesan experience and for our own use. Thanks to Fr Carlos for enabling these meetings. This week we have received details of our **Westminster Diocese Bishops' Synodal Pathway Report**, sent to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales on 8th April. You can read the document on the Diocesan website - <https://rcdow.org.uk/synod/westminster-diocese-bishops-synod-report/>. It is a big document, so it is not practical to print off copies for church. There will be more news about the Synodal Process as the year goes on.

HELP EMERGENCY APPEAL FOR UKRAINE: The Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in London and community organisations have united to work with accredited and registered Ukrainian charities to provide medicines, food and critical services to support the most vulnerable to overcome the consequences and trauma of war. Donations can be made by cheque (payable to AUGB LTD - Central Appeal Fund and sent to Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of the Holy Family of London, Chancery Office, 21-22 Binney Street, London W1K 5BQ), directly to the central appeal fund (AUGB Ltd, Account Number: 80038237, Sortcode: 20-65-89, with reference HelpUkraine) or online: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/helpukraine> Alternately, donations can also be made to Cafod, who are a member of the Disasters Emergency Committee at <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news/Ukraine-crisis> There's a poster in the foyer with a QR code and the above details, or just put cash in an envelope marked "Ukraine" and it will be forwarded.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES JULY2022: See the posters in church for details of the pilgrimage. We have booking forms available. Please ask at the Parish Office.

NEWS FROM THE GOOD COUNSEL NETWORK: Holy Mass in Thanksgiving for 25 Years of the Pro-Life Work of the Good Counsel Network on Saturday 30th April at 12.00 at St James' Church (Spanish Place), 22 George St, London W1U 3QY. Followed by Refreshments in the Hall. www.GoodCounselNetwork.com.

NEWS FROM CARITAS WESTMINSTER: POVERTY CHALLENGE - SEE, JUDGE, ACT: Following the Pandemic many households face new hardships as prices rise. Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) the Catholic agency addressing poverty and injustice in England and Wales has released a new booklet to increase awareness of Catholic Social Teaching on poverty. This can be downloaded at www.csan.org.uk

DAY OF PRAYER FOR EASTERN CHRISTIANS: This year's International Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians is on 22nd May 2022, the 6th Sunday of Easter. Organised each year by the charity FACE, who write:
*"This Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians, which brings Eastern and Western Christians together, offers an opportunity to give thanks to God for all that we owe the Oriental Churches: the first preaching of the Gospel, the origins of the monastic tradition, many of the early Church Fathers, and, above all, the witness of the Eastern Christians down the centuries which has been, and still is, an inspiration to our faith.
Today, Eastern Christians are a diminishing presence in the Middle East. Maintaining their presence in those lands is essential for stability in the wider region, as well as for guaranteeing Western Christians an unbroken heritage and tradition from the source of our faith. Our Catholic charity, Fellowship and Aid to the Christians of the East (FACE), devotes itself exclusively to supporting the Eastern Catholic Churches in the Middle East, the Horn of Africa and India, through long-term projects in education, healthcare, pastoral support and interreligious dialogue, so that Eastern Christians may remain in their homelands."*

THE CATHOLIC NETWORK: See the poster in church advertising this free digital on-line service, a point of contact and interaction for catholics seeking to interpret the world we live in. Each week the network welcomes guests, commentaries, reflections and instruction, as well as news items about work being done by catholic organisations. More information at www.thecatholicnetwork.co.uk.

OPPORTUNITY FOR LOWER SIXTH STUDENTS: The Christian Heritage Centre sends info on the Christian Leadership Formation programme, running for a second consecutive year and is currently open to applications from students in Lower Sixth. The application deadline is Friday 3rd June 2022, although references will still be accepted after that date for applications that have already been submitted. The programme is for students who are actively committed to their faith, who are intellectually gifted and who are committed to shaping a Christian society through their careers. It provided a spiritual and philosophical/theological formation in the Catholic tradition around themes relating to the common good, as well as workshops in skills pertaining to public life. Part- to full sponsorships are available to students who are unable to meet the costs, though we students are asked to attempt to fundraise £140 (10% of the course's costs) as a minimum contribution. Information and application forms are available here: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/clf/> See poster in church.

MARCH FOR LIFE 3 SEPTEMBER 2022 - SAVE THE DATE!: See more details at marchforlife.co.uk and plan to join catholics and other people of good will at this increasingly important annual act of pro-life witness in central London. More information to follow, but **SAVE THE DATE!**

INTRODUCING CATHOLIC LISTENERS: Catholic Listeners; Diocese of Westminster, a new confidential listening helpline launching this month, has been set up for those who are returning to the faith. The number is 0800 448 0704. This service is based on the Landings ethos of compassionate listening. Although not a counselling service, they have a professional team trained on signposting to other services and agencies. They aim to help those in need of a safe space to talk. For further information please contact Ade at Catholiclisteners@gmail.com

JOB OPPORTUNITY - WARDEN AND 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. Closing date: Monday 9th May. For details of the role and how to apply, see: www.stscholasticas.co.uk/warden-clerk-vacancy

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION IN OUR PARISH: As we emerge from the Covid period to a new reality, so too our approach to preparation for the sacraments needs to change. We don't have an official line on this in our diocese as yet, but Cardinal Grech, Chair of the European Conference of Bishops, memorably said in 2020 that if after Covid the Church went back to doing what we did before it would be suicide!

There are some radical new ways of thinking on this unfolding in some parishes around the UK as we wait for the bishops to take a lead. We will be a little less radical.

As Parish Priest I ask families and candidates not to come with particular expectations or sense of entitlement to what should happen when: candidates should come to the sacraments when they are ready, and the first step to being ready is that habitual Sunday worship in line with the "Obligation" should be the *established* norm for the families of small children - and the children be part of this - or chosen personally by those of teenage years and above. After that, we can start to look at the base on which to build. If you have any questions or observations, contact Fr James. (March 2022)

(Soon we will make available a "digest" of the bishops' letters on the subject of the Sunday Obligation and the keeping of Sunday that were issued during 2021. This will help to give context to the above.)



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.