

PARISH OFFICE ARRANGEMENTS: Welcome to Janeider Madders who has now started work as our new Parish Administrator. The office is open again at the regular advertised hours Monday - Friday 09.30am- 2.30pm, and St Gabriel's is open at the same times. Of course it will take Janeider a while to become familiar with everything - please give her every assistance!

PLANNED GIVING, BOXES OF ENVELOPES 2022-23: are available to collect after Mass **TODAY**. PLEASE do this today to help ensure that the boxes and your data are kept secure. With grateful thanks for your commitment to planned giving, which enables the life and witness of our parish.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WEEK SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP: is available today. Please take ONE, and keep it safe, to save paper and costs. Full details of worship and the availability of the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Easter.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION BEFORE EASTER: Please check the schedule on the Holy Week sheet. Fr Stuart will be with us to hear confessions on Sat. 9 April in the morning, Good Friday morning and Holy Saturday morning at St Gabriel's

KEEPING LENT

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Our corporate Stations of the Cross will be at:

St BERNARD'S: Thursdays at 7.30pm, following Mass at 7.00pm.

St GABRIEL'S: Fridays at 10.30am, following Mass at 10.00am.

Of course you can come to church anytime to make private Stations of the Cross in Lent. Remember, the door code to St Bernard's is C8645. St Gabriel's is open as advertised whilst we have no Administrator in place.

LENTEN ALMS: This year we will be collecting Lenten Alms for the Cardinal's Lent Appeal, and for the Ukrainian churches humanitarian appeal. Cardinal Vincent writes: "This year celebrates 10 years of Caritas Westminster, supporting both local and diocese-wide charitable concerns working with the most deprived, restoring hope and enabling people to lead a life of dignity and worth." See the posters in church with QR code for donations; envelopes for gift-aided offerings; a dedicated wall box in each church. Collections on Ash Wednesday and Holy Thursday will be for Lenten Alms.

LENT RESOUCES FROM THE CHESTERTON SOCIETY: This Lent, receive a Chesterton quote, a brief but powerful reflection and a prayer to start your day. Free in your inbox, these Chestertonian reflections will help build your spiritual life. Sign up today at <https://www.chesterton.org/store/2022-lenten-reflections/>

"BEST LENT EVER": Visit dynamiccatholic.com to sign up for daily inspirational and thought provoking messages and videos for the keeping of Lent.

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.

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.

FORMATION OF AN SVP CONFERENCE IN OUR PARISH: 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. The SVP are to have an appeal for members to join and form an SVP Conference in this parish **TODAY** at St Gabriel's. (Last weekend at St Bernard's) Any parishioner, *of whatever age*, who would like to give even a little time to help others will be invited to listen and express an interest in knowing more about how it works.

WINTERSHALL PASSION PLAY IN TRAFALGAR SQUARE: On Good Friday The famous representation of the Passion in Trafalgar square on Good Friday at 12pm and 3.15pm. It will also be livestreamed. See www.wintershall.org.uk for details. (N.B. Graphic content not suitable for all, they emphasise.)

MAGNIFICAT MASS GUIDE FREE OVER EASTER: Catholic Herald inform us that the digital Holy Week and April issues of *Magnificat* are available, free, at the following link: www.magnificat.com/april.

TRAIN TO TEACH AT SALVATORIAN COLLEGE: Are you a graduate with a good degree and strong communication skills? Funded secondary teacher training opportunities are available at Salvatorian College from September 2022. Enjoy exceptional new facilities, a calm and orderly atmosphere, and polite, responsive students. Starting salaries of £30k+ available on qualification. Please send an email to recruitment@salvatorian.harrow.sch.uk for more information.

WORK OPPORTUNITY AT SACRED HEART LANGUAGE COLLEGE: The Sacred Heart Language College, Wealdstone is recruiting invigilators (salary £10.89 per hour) to work on a flexible basis to invigilate external and internal examinations. Further details and application forms available from the school or from: www.tshlc.harrow.sch.uk or www.blessed-holyfamily.co.uk

CAN YOU HELP FIND AN OLD PHOTOGRAPH? If you have a group photograph of the celebration of First Holy Communion from 14 June 1997 at St Bernard's, please let the office know as a family is seeking a copy.

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.