

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!

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

ALSGIVING IN HOLY WEEK: 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.

HOLY THURSDAY COLLECTION: A collection is taken at the Mass of the Lord's Supper towards the Lenten Alms Appeal of Cardinal Vincent, supporting charities across the diocese. Envelopes for making a Gift Aided contribution to this collection are in the foyers of our churches. We will also be supporting the Ukrainian Churches Appeal for Humanitarian Aid - support for the suffering people of Ukraine.

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION: A reminder that the collection taken at the Good Friday Liturgy is for the upkeep of the Holy Places in the Holy Land. This is a valuable way to support our brother and sister Christians in Israel and the Palestinian Territories and to preserve and support the Christian presence there, as well as care for and maintain these holy places of pilgrimage.

EASTER OFFERINGS: Also to remind you that the Easter Sunday collection and Easter Offerings go a long way to providing the stipend for the parish clergy for the whole year. Thank you for your constant generosity. Envelopes are available in church.

For the great liturgies of Holy Week we of course want to use the full capacity of our churches. However, there may come a point where access may need to be restricted when a safe capacity is reached. Please arrive in very good time.

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: Thank you for the welcome given to Brendan and Martina from the Westminster SVP.

They will be holding an initial Information Evening for anybody who wants to take this idea further. Tuesday 19th April at St Gabriel's. All interested will be very welcome.

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.

THANK YOU FROM BISHOP SHERINGTON: After the Commons vote last week to make the “temporary” legislation for “DIY abortions” permanent, Bishop John writes on behalf of all the bishops to those who lobbied their MP:

“On Weds 30 March, an amendment to the Health and Care Bill overturned the Government’s decision to end ‘DIY’ abortion and fundamentally changes access to abortion in England and Wales.

Such a move diminishes the seriousness with which these decisions should be taken. Not only will this endanger the lives of the unborn, but also the lives of women. It is clear from the evidence over the last two years on the self-administration of these drugs at home that they pose grave physical and psychological dangers to women.

I would like to thank all those who wrote to their MP asking them to oppose this amendment.

In the face of this disappointing outcome, we must now strengthen our resolve to foster a culture of welcome and acceptance of new life, and to continue to pray and work for better legal protections for pregnant women and the child in the womb.”

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 £10.89per 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

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.