

NEWS

Seventh Sunday of Easter

29 May 2022

PENTECOST SUNDAY: We were hoping to organize a Parish Lunch for next Sunday, but with regret this time it is ***NOT*** possible to go ahead. Not many people have come forward to help; some have said that they are uneasy about such a gathering at this time; others have indicated spending the holiday weekend elsewhere, and the logistics for the hall are also problematic. So, I hope we can have such an event for the parish before too long, a part of a return to “normal”, but not this time, I regret.

TUESDAY 31 MAY: POPE FRANCIS INVITES US TO PRAY WITH HIM: To end the Marian month of May, Pope Francis will recite the Rosary before the statue of Our Lady Queen of Peace in the Basilica of St Mary Major in Rome, to offer a sign of hope to the world, suffering through the conflict in Ukraine, and wounded through the violence of many other theatres of war. He invites all the faithful to join him. The Holy Father offers this Rosary at 5pm UK time, so we will do the same:

5pm at St Bernard’s, Tuesday 31 May, a Rosary for peace in the world.

PRIEST TRAINING FUND COLLECTION: Thank you for your contributions. The total so far is £1158.03, not including those donations made directly to the PTF account.

BISHOPS’ STATEMENT ON SUNDAY & HOLY DAY OBLIGATION: The bishops of England and Wales have issued a new statement about the obligation of Sunday Mass for those who wish to be practising Catholics. The text is available in the foyer and on the parish and diocesan websites. In essence they say: “*We therefore believe that the reasons which have prevented Catholics from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation no longer apply*”. The statement is called an “Invitation” for all to be putting Sunday and Holy Day worship in first place as of Pentecost Sunday. If you have any questions or queries about this please ask one of the clergy. Also available in the foyer is Fr James’ digest of the previous statements by the bishops, called “*Sunday - It is our day.*”

FREE COVID LATERAL FLOW TEST KITS: We have a quantity of test kits available thanks to the generosity of a parishioner. If you can use a pack of these, please ask at the Parish Office. While stocks last!

EUCHARISTIC OCTAVE AT COVENT GARDEN: The Diocesan Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament, Corpus Christi, Maiden Lane in Covent Garden will be hosting a Eucharistic Octave from **11th to 19th June**. This has been organised by several London parishes to celebrate our Eucharistic Lord in the lead up to the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. Full details can be found at www.catholiclondon.org.

MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR HOLY MATRIMONY: Was celebrated last week at the Cathedral. One couple from our parish joined 430 other couples celebrating significant anniversaries this year, to fill the Cathedral. The Cardinal sends thanks to all and to those who did not feel comfortable to attend.

FORMATION OF AN SVP CONFERENCE IN OUR PARISH: There will be more news now once the group who have expressed interest in this have formalised that commitment. Any parishioner, of whatever age, who would like to give even a little time to help others are warmly invited to consider the SVP as a way to do this. Our new Conference will come into shape later in the summer.

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 JULY 2022: See the posters in church for details of the pilgrimage. We have booking forms available. Please ask at the Parish Office.

YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT: ‘See All Things New’ The Jesuits in Britain invite young adults in their 20s and 30s to join them to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the conversion of St Ignatius of Loyola. Two times are offered for a retreat: online, from **27th July to 1st August 2022**, residential retreat at St Beuno’s, from 28th July to 1st August 2022. Information is available at <https://www.jesuit.org.uk/events/see-all-things-new-a-retreat-for-young-adults-in-their-20s-and-30s>.

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

COST OF LIVING HUB: The Mayor of London has launched a new Cost of Living Hub to help people access information, support and advice about claiming benefits, dealing with debts, financial management and mental health support. Visit <https://www.london.gov.uk/cost-living-hub>

GRANTS TO HELP WITH ENERGY DEBTS: Possible help from a charitable trust plus links to other advice providers at <https://fuelpoverty.org.uk/focus-on/fuel-debt-and-trust-funds/>

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.

NEW CAMPAIGN AND RESOURCE FROM CAFOD: CAFOD write as follows with information you may wish to follow up: "The paradox of abundance": Over 800 million people go hungry each day. Yet the world produces over 4 billion tonnes of food and we only need 3.7 billion tonnes to feed everyone. From all this food produced, a third is wasted. St John Paul II called this 'the paradox of abundance.' Clearly the currently global food system is not working. But as Pope Francis said, "Each of us has a role to play in transforming food systems for the benefit of people and the planet." Let's respond to his call! CAFOD's new campaign is called *Fix the Food System*. See www.cafod.org.uk/food for more info.

APPLICATIONS FOR YEAR 7 ENTRY SEPT 2023 ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC GRAMMAR SCHOOL, BARNET: Applications are now being accepted for girls currently in year 5 to sit the entrance tests for year 7 entry to St Michael's in September 2023. Applications can be made through the online system available on our website <https://www.st-michaels.barnet.sch.uk/admissions/admissions-2023-24/>. Parents should ensure that they read the Admissions Policy prior to making an application and provide the original Certificate of Catholic Practice signed by their Parish Priest by the closing date of 4pm on Tuesday 5 July 2022.

MARCH FOR LIFE 3 SEPT 2022 - SAVE THE DATE!: March for Life This year marks the sad milestone of 10 million abortions in the UK since the 1967 Abortion Act. The annual March for Life will be held on Saturday 3rd September. Bishop John Sherrington will celebrate Mass at 11am at St George's Cathedral, Southwark. Priests are welcome to concelebrate. LifeFest22 is a festival held from 10.30 to 1.30 at the Emmanuel Centre, Marsham Street SW1P 3DW. The March starts at the Emmanuel Centre at 2pm, proceeding to Parliament Square, where there will be testimony and speeches, with the day concluding at 4.30pm. More information is available at <https://www.marchforlife.co.uk/>

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

FOUNDATION DIRECTORS SOUGHT BY BLESSED HOLY FAMILY ACADEMY TRUST: BHFCAT is currently seeking to appoint up to 5 additional Foundation Directors to the Trust board as part of the ongoing expansion of the Trust in line with Westminster Diocese Academic Strategy. Foundation Directors are key strategic decision makers in a Catholic Academy Trust (CAT). The legal responsibility for the performance of each academy rests with them. Their role is strategic rather than operational much in the same way that the role of a Foundation Governor is within a single non-academy Catholic school. The Trust Board is keen to ensure that there is a wide range of complementary skills reflected on the Trust Board. An annual skills audit is conducted to help plan for training and recruitment. At present BHFCAT are looking to recruit Directors with expertise in: Financial Management; Law; Procurement; Facilities Management; Marketing; Local Authority governance. Please contact Catherine Hogan for information at hoganc@hotmail.co.uk

JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT ST RICHARD REYNOLDS SCHOOL: The school is currently advertising some teacher vacancies for Primary teachers and Design & Technology on their web-site: <https://www.strichardreynolds.org.uk/our-college/vacancies>.

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)

(Copies of the bishops statement on Sunday and Holy Day worship of May 2022, and Fr James' digest of the previous statements by the bishops are available in the foyers of our churches and on the website. 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.