

NEWS

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

17 July 2022

WELCOME TO DEACON FRANCIS THOMAS: At Masses at St Gabriel's this Sunday we welcome Rev. Francis Thomas, recently ordained as Deacon for our diocese who will exercise the deacon's ministry of proclaiming the Gospel and preaching. Deacon Francis will be completing his studies at Allen Hall Seminary in the coming year and ministering at Edgware parish, and God willing will be ordained as priest for Westminster next year.

SEA SUNDAY: Thank you for your contributions to the work of Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) at last Sunday. If you would still like to contribute to this collection which is very important to the future of Stella Maris and its important ministry to seafarers and fishers, please put anything in an envelope marked "Sea Sunday" and add it to the Offertory buckets. More info. available at www.stellamaris.org.uk/seasunday

PARISH LUNCH: Here's the new plan to find a way to do a Parish bring-and-share lunch: Mark the date **Sunday September 25th**. The closest Sunday both to the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham and St Gabriel and the archangels, seems like a good date to have a gathering. BUT - this depends on all of us. Can you help organize and make it happen? Please contact the Parish Office now to register your interest in helping. *THANK YOU.*

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND 16-17 JULY: Marriage Encounter are hosting a non-residential marriage enrichment weekend. This is a wonderful opportunity for couples to spend time reflecting on, refreshing and rejoicing in their wonderful vocation. For details go to: <https://wwme.org.uk/weekend/me-weekendhendon-16th-to-17th-july-2022/>

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE OF REPARATION: Pilgrimage of Reparation and Prayer for the Sanctity of Life On Saturday 6th August from 12pm, Bishop Philip Egan will be leading a pilgrimage to Walsingham praying for the cause of life. For more details contact 01858 571 242 or visit www.prolifepilgrimage.org

OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN THE CHOIR OF WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: Every September up to six boys join Westminster Cathedral Choir School in Year 4 as choristers. Becoming a chorister offers a boy the opportunity to sing in a world famous choir, and to join a thriving, inclusive, independent school for boys, age 4 to 13. All choristers receive generous scholarships supplemented by means-tested bursaries worth up to 100% of fees. Contact Lucy Auger to find out more. Telephone 020 7798 9081 or email lauger@choirschool.com

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. 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/>

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023 – LOOKING TO LISBON: World Youth Day 2023 will take place in Lisbon in the beginning of August 2023. Diocese of Westminster Youth Ministry with support from Cardinal's Appeal is offering a limited number of places on this pilgrimage with a 50% discount to young people between the ages of 16-25. Any 16 year olds who apply will need to be finishing year 12 by the start of World Youth Day pilgrimage. These young people will commit to a series of preparatory sessions from September 2022, to prepare them to assist in support roles during the pilgrimage, such as by acting as small group leaders, and also offer formation to them which will be helpful in living their faith post-World Youth Day. More details can be found at <https://dowym.com/programmes/world-youth-day-leadership-training/> or by contacting Westminster Youth Ministry at youth@rcdow.org.uk. Please apply by 31 July 2022.

FOR THE ATTENTION OF NEW STUDENTS IN LONDON THIS YEAR: Based at Newman House, Gower Street, the Catholic chaplaincy also has campus-based chaplains at many of the universities and colleges. For any students other than freshers there is also an opportunity to live in at Newman House, a catered lodging with attractive rates and its own chapel. The application form is available on the Chaplaincy website www.universitycatholic.net

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.

LOCAL VOLUNTEERING WITH "FIRMFOUNDATION" HOMELESS SUPPORT: *FirmFoundation* write: As summer approaches our drop-in center is getting busier and we need volunteers to help at the drop in. At our drop-in a hot meal is offered and a shower among other offered services. Your duties will include helping to prep for the meal, serving the meal and befriending our guest. So, if you have some spare time, we would love to hear from you.

For the more agile and challenge driven, we have just the thing for you. We have acquired 4 spaces in the London half marathon this October and would like to hear from you if you are up to the challenge of filling one of those spaces and running to raise some money for firmfoundation. Info from: 020 8426 5515 or email: office@firmfoundation.org.uk. www.firmfoundation.org.uk

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://fuelpovertysource.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.

CAFOD GAP YEAR OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG ADULTS: Will you take the first step? CAFOD's Gap year programme, *Step into the Gap* is a great opportunity for Young Adults aged between 18-30 to immerse themselves in interactive experiences, develop leadership skills while exploring their faith, and meeting new people. This is a chance to reflect on your role in global society while spending a year inspiring others to act for the poor and most marginalised. Based in the UK in a retreat centre or Catholic Secondary school with accommodation, travel and stipend included. More info for Sept 2022 at cafod.org.uk/gapyear

VISIT OF THE RELICS OF ST BERNADETTE TO THE UK: In September and October this year, the relics of St Bernadette will journey on pilgrimage across England, Scotland, and Wales for the very first time. This very special event will provide an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience the special gifts and charisms of Lourdes in a church or cathedral near them. The relics will be in the Diocese of Westminster from Saturday 3rd to Wednesday 7th September, Monday 17th to Tuesday 18th October and Friday 28th to Sunday 30th October. For full details of the tour, visit www.stbernadette.org.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

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."*

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.