

MISSION APPEAL BY THE HOLY GHOST FATHERS (SPIRITANS) 10/11 SEPT: Cardinal Vincent has invited the Spiritans to make the Mission Appeal in our diocese this year, and they will come to preach and make an appeal at all Masses *at St Gabriel's* NEXT weekend of 10/11 September. The Spiritans work in some 60 countries today in education, health and development. At home their work is with many on the margins: refugees; those suffering from addictions and prisoners. Please pray for their work in preparation for this visit. The Mission Appeal will be made at St Bernard's at a later date. See posters in the foyer at St Gabriel's.

DIOCESAN DAY PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM: 24 SEPTEMBER: The first Diocesan Pilgrimage since 2019 takes place on the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham. Led by Cardinal Vincent the theme is "Mary Mother of Sorrows, Mother of Joy". For our troubled world in a year of turmoil, confusion and the continued war in Ukraine we bring our prayers and intentions to Our Lady of Walsingham.

The Day Pilgrimage includes Holy Mass, Praying the Rosary over the Holy Mile procession, and Benediction in the priory grounds. As in previous years we plan to take a coach. The cost is £25 a seat (plus a £5 levy to cover Shrine costs). To reserve a place please contact the Parish Office as soon as possible, so that we can know that there is enough interest to go ahead.

Whether you know Walsingham well or have never been, this is a great opportunity to join a great act of prayer and intercession with all of our diocese.

PARISH 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. We need volunteers for differing roles, in addition to bringing food for the day!! Here are the specific tasks needed. Please let the office know what you would like to do. *Thank you!*

Saturday Afternoon/Evening

Setting up the hall

Receive any non-perishable food/drink

Sunday Morning

Receiving food/drink

During the parish lunch

Serving the food & drink

Stewarding of space

After the parish lunch

Cleaning the hall

Putting chairs and tables away.

SVP (SOCIETY OF St VINCENT DE PAUL) MEETING: Tuesday 6 September at 7.30pm at St Gabriel's. Not just for those signed up to establish the SVP again in our parish, but for anyone interested. The meeting is to review where we have go to and plan ahead. All welcome.

CALLING ALL SINGERS/MUSICIANS! MUSIC FOR SUNDAY MASS: During August there's less music at Sunday Mass. That reminds us how important music is to our worship and how, like anything valuable, it needs to be constantly renewed and developed. For the foreseeable future our Sunday Mass schedule is remaining as it is now, and we want to build up the music especially at 9am, 10am and 11am Mass. A GREAT WAY TO OFFER A MINISTRY TO YOUR PARISH IS TO COME AND JOIN THE SINGERS TO LEAD MUSIC AT THESE MASSES. Speak with the clergy or with Simon (Director of Music) if you can offer your talent in this way...and don't be shy!

YOUNG CATHOLICS (AGE 18-35 YEARS): Keep in touch with the Youth Ministry website at www.dowym.com for many resources. Particularly now "Words of advice for Catholic Young Professionals".

"THE BIG SUMMIT" YOUTH MINISTRY EVENT: For those aged 18-15; 21 October 6-8.30pm at Westminster Cathedral: Come and join us for an evening of prayer, Adoration and some guest speakers as we explore the theme, *'Mary arose and went with haste'*. As with all Summit events there is a time of input, by the Maximillian Ford and music by One Hope Project; Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and guided meditation. We are really blessed to be able to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation throughout the evening. *Summit* evenings are always full of real joy and fun. All are welcome.

7-9TH OCT 2022 YOUNG CATHOLIC ADULTS (YCA) WEEKEND: Theme: "The Communion of Saints' prayer and the veneration of Holy Relics." During the weekend of the, YCA will be running a retreat at Douai Abbey with the Schola Gregoriana of Cambridge who will be holding Gregorian Chant workshops. There will also be a Marian Procession, Rosaries, Sung Masses, Confession,

talks (and socials).

Prices start from £12 (come for the day) and £55 per person per night (residential). Book soon as places are limited! Please note to guarantee your place Douai Abbey has requested that everyone books in 3 weeks before the start of the weekend (16th September 2022). More info: <http://youngcatholicadults-latestnews.blogspot.co.uk/> or <http://www.youngcatholicadults.co.uk>.

NEWS FROM “RETRouvaille”; **A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages:** Help Your Marriage – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about ‘Retrouvaille’ or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 13 - 16 October 2022 or a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 24 - 26 February 2023, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

ANNUAL REPORT FROM “AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED”: Visit www.acnuk.org. **Thank you** for your on-going support for ACN. In 2021 ACN funded 5,298 projects around the world, including 949 construction projects; 2,095,677 Mass offerings; 13,381 seminarians supported and 1,338 vehicles for pastoral work. Absolutely vital work for the Gospel.

ST JOAN OF ARC SCHOOL OPEN MEETINGS: Open Evening and Open Morning events for prospective students and parents who are looking for Year 7 places in September 2023 as follows:

Open Evening to take place on Thursday 6th October 2022 from 6.00pm until 9.00pm

Open Morning to take place on the following morning, Friday 7th October 2022 from 9.00am until 11.30am

See posters in church for details.

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

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.

THANK YOU FROM CAFOD: Did you know that CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, helps some of the poorest and most marginalised people across the world? We can reach so many people because we are a member of *Caritas Internationalis*, the Catholic Church network with a presence in 165 countries. Our local experts work with people over the long-term, helping them to have the right skills, tools and opportunities to live with dignity and support their families. For example, in South Sudan we are helping families learn how to farm better as the climate gets hotter, so that they can cope better in the future when things get even more difficult. Find out more www.cafod.org.uk Thank you for your support.

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.

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

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.