

MONDAY 31ST: MASS OF REQUIEM FOR PATRICK CONWAY: 12 Noon. Precedes repatriation before his Funeral Mass in Ireland. Of your charity come to pray for his soul.

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS: TUESDAY 1 NOVEMBER: is All Saints Day and, of course for us a *Holy Day of Obligation*. The times of Mass that day in the parish will be the usual for Holy Days: 10.00am at St Gabriel's and 7.30pm at St Bernard's.

CELEBRATE THE SAINTS, NOT "HALLOWEEN": "The Eve of All Hallows Day" on 31 October should be for us a time of preparation for the great Feast Day. It is increasingly important that Catholics DO NOT get involved in "Halloween" activities, which celebrate the opposite. It might seem like harmless fun, but anything that normalises evil suits the purposes of the devil very well. Put a candle and a holy picture in your window. Have a kids party and dress up as your patron saints. Celebrate our faith. Don't aimlessly follow the herd, but "Be in the world, not of the world" to paraphrase the Gospels and St Paul, for "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14).

COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED: WEDNESDAY 2 NOVEMBER: Mass for All Souls' Day will be offered at 10.00am at St Gabriel's and 7.30pm at St Bernard's.

NOVEMBER: MONTH OF HOLY SOULS: The Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day) on Wednesday 2 November will commence the month of prayer for the Holy Souls. You are invited to take an envelope from the back of church in which you can put a list of your deceased family and friends and enclose any offering you can make for the offering of Mass. You can return this envelope to either the parish office, the Presbytery, or to one of the boxes kept by the altar during November. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered throughout November for the repose of the souls of those so remembered.

GOOD SHEPHERD, NOTTINGHAM BETHLEHEM OLIVE WOOD CARVERS: Once again the Good Shepherd Community, made up of Christians from Bethlehem, will be visiting the parish over **NEXT WEEKEND, 5-6 Nov**, with their huge range of olive wood products from the Holy Land. Book this in your diary, great ideas for Christmas and to support our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land.

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND ANNUAL COLLECTION 5-6 NOV: Next weekend is the annual collection for this fund. More than 60 elderly & ill priests who receive support after a life of service. This number is set to double by 2025. All dependent for housing, essentials and health needs.

By giving to this collection you help to ensure care for those who have cared for you. Envelopes for Gift-Aid donations are in the foyer. Envelopes and posters carry a QR code you can use for online donations.

SUNDAY 20 NOVEMBER PARISH LUNCH: There's a new date for your diaries. On the last Sunday of the Church's year let's celebrate together our post-Covid new beginnings and the joy of the Gospel. Our recent Parish Lunch was such a joyful event it will be good to be together again in this way.

REPOSITORY SHOPS: We need to get our shops going again properly, selling cards, candles, rosaries, books and all devotional needs. *BUT* this depends on volunteers prepared to make a commitment of time regularly to staff the shops on Sundays. Is this you?? Please talk to Fr James or drop in at the office to let us know. *ALSO* it would be good to find someone prepared to be in overall responsibility for ordering stock and doing rotas etc. This is a very valuable contribution to parish life, although it takes a bit of time.

DIVINE MERCY DAY RETREAT AT SUDBURY SAT 29 OCT: The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding Day Retreat at St Georges, 970 Harrow Road, Sudbury on Saturday 29 Oct, 2 pm to 4:30 pm. The Retreat will include teachings on the Message of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. Call Millie on 07957594646 for more information.

LATERAL FLOW COVID TEST KITS: Thanks to the generosity of a parishioner we have more test kits available for anyone who can make good use of them. Please ask at the office.

CONTACTLESS MACHINES: We, like other parishes have been experiencing problems with the contactless payment consoles. We have made a little progress with determining the problems, but not yet as far as getting a solution. *Thank you for your patience. Thank you to everyone for your commitment and generosity in hard and uncertain times.*

St GREGORY'S SCIENCE COLLEGE 6TH FORM INFORMATION EVENT: Thursday 17 November 6.30pm. Info from

APPLICATIONS TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS: Families seeking the endorsement of applications to Primary Schools for 2023 should contact the Parish Office to arrange for an appointment to discuss these endorsements. Appointments will be on 10 December at St Gabriel's Church.

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!

CARITAS HOMES FOR UKRAINE MATCHING SERVICE: See the poster in church. Caritas, in partnership with St John of God Hospitaller Services have launched a service to bring together displaced Ukrainians with those in the Catholic community willing to host them for 6 months. If you have room in your home in these difficult times to consider welcoming a stranger displaced by the evil war, visit <https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk/> for information.

"MOSAIC" DIOCESAN NEWS BULLETIN: There are a few copies of "Mosaic" in the foyer of church, giving some stories and information about various initiatives, activities and voluntary work going on all around Westminster Diocese, and thus some information about how what we contribute to the central services of the diocese is used and deployed. Please take one.

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 IRISH RAMBLING HOUSE SHOW: "Entertaining the exiles since 2000" at Salvatorian College, High Road HA3 5DY. Saturday 5 Nov and Sunday 6 Nov at 7.30pm. See poster. Info at www.irishramblinghouse.com

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: 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

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. *Families whose young people are going off to college elsewhere, encourage them to find the Catholic Chaplaincy. We can help with contact details. University and college chaplaincies are important parts of the mission of the Church.*

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.

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. (Notice issued 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.