

FR JAMES WRITES ABOUT THE FUTURE OF PRIESTLY MINISTRY TO OUR PARISH: *An update...*

Two weeks ago Fr Carlos and I passed on to you an outline of the plan for providing priestly ministry to our parish in a stable and sustainable way for the next chapter of her life. Our particular circumstances of having two sites and the ever-changing pastoral challenges of the locality make this complex and urgent. Over the 12 years I have been here we have seen great upheavals. During that time we were blessed for some years to have stable regular help for the Sunday Mass schedule. Subsequently our arrangements have changed every year or two, which is not ideal.

In order now to try to provide for the spiritual needs of the parish, and *so that we can keep* the same pattern of Sunday Masses as we have now, the Archbishop has decided with his advisers to give care of the parish to priests of a Religious Congregation who will live as a stable community of priests, based at the Presbytery, and take charge of the parish from September this year. *To date I am told that these arrangements are being put in place, and we will let you know the details as soon as they come.*

From September Fr Carlos is to be the Parish Priest of Our Lady, Queen of Heaven, Queensway as well as taking on a chaplaincy role at St Charles Sixth Form College. Before moving to a new diocesan appointment Fr James has been given a period of sabbatical leave, and he will be doing a course of further studies at the Institute for Continuing Theological Education in Rome.

THURSDAY 29 JUNE: SOLEMNITY OF Ss PETER & PAUL, HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION: Another Holy Day is approaching, celebrating the preaching of the Gospel to all nations and the unity of the Church based on the Apostles of Rome. Holy Day Masses at the usual times of 10.00am at St Gabriel's and 7.30pm at St Bernard's

“PETER'S PENCE” COLLECTION: On the Sunday after Ss Peter and Paul is the annual collection for Peter's Pence. This collection supports charitable initiatives of the Holy Father directly.

SATURDAY 1 JULY “GABRIEL DAY”: Come and help to tidy up St Gabriel's site, do the weeding and look after the planting. Joan Gabriel (RIP) made this her special work, and the site is looking a bit neglected since her death. So in a change in the normal schedule, the 10.00am Mass on 1 July will be at St Gabriel's, and is offered for the souls of Joan and Freddie Gabriel. After Mass we will set to on all the work that needs doing. Bring a fork, or trowel, or hoe, or broom, gloves, knee pads etc. Many hands make light work. Refreshments will be available!

MONDAY 3 JULY: SYCAMORE: A COURSE IN EXPLORING CHRISTIAN FAITH: Our Next meeting will be at St. Gabriel's Church Hall on Monday 3 July at 7.00pm. Please bring something to share to eat. This will be our last scheduled meeting for now. All are welcome!

TUESDAY 4 JULY: SVP CONFERENCE MEETING: Good news! We now have solid progress in forming the SVP Conference and starting to do some pastoral work among the parish. Anyone interested in joining this way of offering voluntary time to help others please come along: 4 July, 7.30pm at St Gabriel's hall.

NATIONAL GALLERY EXHIBITION ON ST FRANCIS: The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, is holding an exhibition from 6 May to 30 July exploring the life and legacy of St Francis of Assisi. The exhibition includes paintings by Botticelli, Sassetta, Caravaggio, Murillo, El Greco, and Antony Gormley as well as a new commission from Richard Long. Admission is **free** and likely to be very popular. More info at the exhibition's website at <https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/exhibitions/saint-francis-of-assisi>.

Fr James writes: This small exhibition contains some real gems and is well worth a visit. It includes more than the usual works of art, including two astounding artefacts, one being a reliquary of a habit of St Francis. Offered free of charge, it is highly recommended.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT ST ANSELM'S SCHOOL: St Anselm's Catholic Primary School in Harrow are currently recruiting support staff to join the staff team in September. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact the school to arrange a visit and for details of how to apply. Contact: office@st-anselms.org

NEWS FROM CAFOD: Saturday 10th June. You are invited to CAFOD's International Office on for a short time exploring our faith, why we campaign & how you can help. The morning will include guest speakers & a chance for discussion in workshops to explore activities such as Live Simply, Our unfair Food System and Liturgy resources. From 10.30-1pm at CAFOD's Office in Lambeth North SE1. For further information contact Tonytsheen@cafod.org.uk or booking please see <https://cafod.org.uk/news/events>

ST MICHAEL'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL OPEN EVENING FOR SECONDARY TRANSFER 26 JUNE: Parents and girls who are interested in taking the entrance tests for St Michael's Catholic Grammar School are invited to visit the school for a guided tour on Monday 26 June between 5pm and 7pm. Headteacher talks will be held at 5pm, 6pm and 7pm in The Chapel.

We have 128 places in each year and are historically heavily oversubscribed with girls who meet the criteria of Catholic girls from a Practising Catholic family who have made their First Holy Communion in the Catholic Church. Priority for up to 32 places is given to girls who are registered as Pupil Premium with their primary school. Full details of the Admissions Policy can be found on the School's website <https://www.st-michaels.barnet.sch.uk/home/admissions/>.

The online application to apply to sit the entrance tests for entry in September 2024 is now available <https://www.st-michaels.barnet.sch.uk/home/admissions/admissions-2024-25/>. The deadline for applications to be completed and Certificate of Catholic Practice provided to the School is 4pm on Tuesday 4th July 2023.

MARCH FOR LIFE, SATURDAY 2 SEPTEMBER: Put the date in your diary to join this important act of witness by Catholics and others of good will. This year's theme is 'Freedom to Live'. "Many are concerned about restrictions on freedoms but it's not until these restrictions affect us personally that we speak up. Sadly, those who have their most fundamental freedom taken from them, by abortion, cannot speak for themselves – this is why we march. For our nation to be truly free, no one can be denied the number one freedom, the freedom to live!" 10:30am: Mass at Westminster Cathedral; 10:30am-1pm: Events/Stalls/Talks/Testimonies at The Emmanuel Centre 1:30pm: March for Life (Emmanuel Centre to Parliament Square). Web: www.marchforlife.co.uk.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 21-28 JULY: Cardinal Nichols will lead the annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes from 21 - 28 July. People are encouraged to book now via the Tangney Tours portal at: <https://www.tangney-tours.com/pilgrimages/lourdes/westminster-lourdes> to avoid disappointment as places are limited.

If people have previously indicated 'St Frai Pilgrim' on an Expression of Interest Form, or you know of someone with significant medical and mobility needs who intends to come to Lourdes, then contact the Pilgrimage Office on 0207 798 9173 immediately, so the Medical Team can look into assisting with requirements and care.

Similarly, any individuals or groups wishing to travel independently to join Westminster in Lourdes, by making their own travel and accommodation arrangement, must confirm this in writing to the Pilgrimage Office by 30th April 2023 as well as submitting payment towards the Pilgrims' Levy at £35 per pilgrim. More info at webpage www.rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/ or Elizabeth Uwalaka on 0207 798 9173.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM: Saturday 23 September. We have booked a coach! Prices inevitably rise, and seats on the coach are priced at £28, for a break-even total. Seats can be purchased from the Parish Office.

PILGRIMAGE TO ROME AND ASSISI 6-13 NOVEMBER: Fr Tom has sent details of a pilgrimage he will be leading from Northwood parish between 6-13 November. 4 nights in Rome and 2 in Assisi. Full details on the poster in church.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND 19-27 NOVEMBER: The annual Pilgrimage to the Holy Land will take place from Sunday 19th Nov to Monday 27th Nov, led by Bishop John Sherrington and Fr John Farrell OP. You can book online at <http://www.tangney-tours.com/WHL> or call Gill at Tangney Tours 01732 886666 or Elizabeth at the Pilgrimage office 0207 798 9173. It will include visits to Galilee, Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Flights will be from Heathrow. Costs are £2265 per person sharing, £682 single room supplement; travel insurance essential.

VOCATION TO RELIGIOUS LIFE? COME AND SEE WEEKENDS: The Cistercian Nuns of Holy Cross Abbey, Whitland, Pembrokeshire, are inviting single Catholic Women between the ages of 25 and 45 who are discerning a vocation to experience their monastic life during one of these weekends: Friday 11th August – Monday 14th August; • Friday 20th October – Monday 23rd October. Info at www.hcawhitland.co.uk.

MISSIO RED BOXES THANK YOU! In 2022 our parish raised £1,625.45 through our Red Boxes and donations to MISSIO and the Mill Hill Missionaries. This is part of a worldwide network of people supporting missionaries through prayer and financial assistance. Your support of projects such as the Fundong Mission Station in Cameroon has enabled Fr Leon, a Mill Hill Missionary, to help children learn in a safe environment and instil values that empower them to turn away from conflict and towards faith in God. Visit missio.org.uk to find more about how your support changes lives for the better. Red Boxes are available from the Parish Office or from the Sacristy at St Bernard's.

JOB OPPORTUNITY, St MARY'S CEMETERY: Manager required at St Mary's Cemetery, Harrow Road, NW10. Full time, salary £45-50k. For info contact Angela Rowe at secretary@secularclergy.org.uk or call 07968310643.

JOB OPPORTUNITY AT SACRED HEART LANGUAGE COLLEGE: for a Technician to work in the Design Technology Department. See poster in church for details.

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.

GOOD COUNSEL NETWORK CAMPAIGN INFO: GCN have sent their 2022 Review (copy on the noticeboard at St Bernard, which amongst other things lists the names of lives saved with your support during the last year. GCN writes: *“Please also pray that the plans to introduce national buffer zones around abortion centres in the UK will not come to pass. In GK Chesterton’s epic poem, The Ballad of the White Horse, Our Lady tells King Alfred, “I tell you naught for your comfort, Yea, naught for your desire, Save that the sky grows darker yet And the sea rises higher.” Things may seem very dark indeed and the tide seems to rise higher but it is Christmas, and this is a season of hope. We do have a reason to hope. And the children that will celebrate their first Christmas this year because of your support, are a witness to this hope and this Christian joy!* To be a regular supporter or get involved in peaceful prayer vigils, write to info@goodcounselnetwork.com.

“There have now been over ten **million abortions** in Great Britain since the Abortion Act was passed 55 years ago, in October 1967. With this terrible number of lives lost, please pray and fast for the end of abortion in this country. GCN have sent a link to an article about the 10 million abortions that have taken place in Britain since the Abortion Act was passed on 27th October 1967. Also see what you can do to help end abortion. Please also share the article, <https://mariastopsabortion.blogspot.com/>. There are cards in the foyer to help you get involved.

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.*

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 WESTMINSTER: The umbrella department for all social outreach have written to share a film that was produced to show the impact of our social justice work across the Diocese. It is a celebration of what we have achieved together across the Diocese. Here is a link to the film: <https://youtu.be/Vgxvkd-8Ug>

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”.

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.

INTRODUCING CATHOLIC LISTENERS: Catholic Listeners; Diocese of Westminster, a new confidential listening helpline 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

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.