

### **THANK YOU from Fr James:**

“Dear brothers and sisters, I want to write just a few words to say a profound thank you for last weekend. Thank you for all your greetings, cards and messages and for the immense generosity of your gift and all those personal gifts around last Sunday. Both myself and Fr Carlos were so touched and moved by all this. A lot of people worked very hard to make the afternoon such a splendid do! And above all I thank you for your prayers for us at this time.

Leaving a parish, whether it is after a long time or a short time is always an emotional and stressful time for a priest, mixed up with all sorts of emotions – and losing a home and family! But only in one way. As I said on Sunday we continue to be one family of the Church. Please remember me in your prayers as I will do you, especially in the coming year as I am on a slightly different journey, God willing. I have reasons to be thankful for each and every soul in Harrow South and Northolt who has helped me to serve the Lord as a priest. The current changes in ministry are to try to provide stability for the parish. Holiness comes not from any special gift but from our perseverance in worship and in conversion. Thank you for all we have shared as we say goodbye for now.”

Fr James can be contacted via his diocesan email: jamesneal@rcdow.org.uk.

**THANK YOU: Father Carlos writes,** ‘I want to thank all of you for your presence at the part last Sunday: your cards, gifts, and the fun we spent together. I was moved to hear the many things you were grateful concerning me. In turn, as I drove back to my new parish, I was contemplating how grateful I am for how each of you helped in my ministry. I will always keep you in my prayers. The doors at Queensway will always welcome you.’

### **EVANGELII GAUDIUM – Preparing for the Jubilee Year in Faith and Prayer**

Evangelii Gaudium Sunday calls us to be joyous in proclaiming our faith. A key focus of work for the next few years is responding to Pope Francis’ calling of a Jubilee Year in 2025 with the theme Pilgrims of Hope. The Holy Father has invited the whole Church to prepare for the Jubilee in the two years prior through:

- Reflecting on the four Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council in 2023.
- Deepening our prayer life, with a special focus on the Lord’s Prayer, in 2024.

See website: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/evangelii-gaudium-sunday>

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM: Saturday 23 September.** The coach is now full. However, in case there are cancellations do leave your name with the parish office on a waiting list.

**FREE AUTUMN CONCERT OF CLASSICAL MUSIC:** Come to an informal concert at St Bernard’s at 2pm on **SATURDAY 30 SEPTEMBER** featuring Simon Reynolds (our Director of Music), piano and Helen Schilsky, viola. Concert will last 2 hours approx. Tea and biscuits available after!

**WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL SEPTEMBER ORGAN RECITALS:** September 2023, is the month, when four of Europe's most distinguished and talented organists will give recitals at Westminster Cathedral as part of our Grand Organ Festival: <https://westminstercathedral.org.uk/music/grand-organ-festival/>

**VOLUNTEERING IN THE PARISH:** As things move on from the Covid period, and with all the upheaval of a change in clergy, it is important to keep an eye on all the nuts-and-bolts things that keep our churches running:

Cleaning and grounds care: Church cleaning is a really useful gift to offer your parish, and is also a great aid to spiritual life as we care for the place of worship. Cleaning teams currently meet for an hour on occasional Saturday mornings at 8.30am. There will also be occasional cleaning sessions on Fridays at St Gabriel’s after 10am Mass.

Can you join? Many hands make swift and light work. Please contact the Parish Office to be added to the contact email list.

Similarly, there is now an enthusiastic team to give occasional care to the grounds of our sites. This provides a time of fellowship and a real sense of achievement! Could you join the team? Contact Parish Office as above.

**CARDINAL VAUGHAN SCHOOL OPEN EVENINGS:** for Year 7 (First Form pupils). These events are designed for parents and prospective pupils to attend. They will include an address from Mr Stubbings, Headmaster, and a tour of the school.

Thurs 14 Sept & Tues 19 Sept 2023.

The Headmaster will speak at 4.30pm and 6.00pm.

Full details are available on our website <https://www.cvms.co.uk/Admissions/>

**SACRED HEART LANGUAGE COLLEGE OPEN EVENINGS:** (Wealdstone) Those wishing to apply for a place in Year 7 for

September 2024 are invited to visit the school during one of our Open Evenings on the following dates:

Wednesday 13th September 2023, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Thursday 21st September 2023 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. See poster in church.

### **ST JOAN OF ARC SCHOOL RICKMANSWORTH OPEN DAYS:**

Open Evening and Open Morning for prospective students and parents for Year 7 places in Sept 2024. Dates are:

Open Evening Thurs 5 Oct from 5.00pm until 8.00pm

Open Morning Fri 6 Oct 9.00am until 11.30am

Details of our Open Events, together with our Admission Policy and Supplementary Form (SIF) can also be found on our school website. See poster in church.

**SACRED HEART HAMMERSMITH OPEN DAYS:** For perspective parents and their daughters to visit our high achieving school on one of our Secondary Transfer Open Days.

Thursday 14th September Morning 9:30am – 11am; Evening 4pm – 6pm;

Wednesday 20th September Morning 9:30am– 11am Evening 4pm – 6pm.

See school website.

**HISTORY WEEKEND IN YORK:** During the weekend of the 21st-22nd October 2023, Young Catholic Adults and the Traditional English Association of Catholic History will be organising a pilgrimage to York and will visit the shrine of St. Margaret Clitherow, York Oratory, the Bar Convent and St. Mary's Abbey.

This event is aimed at Young Catholic Adults and Catholics interested in history. For details of how to book on this free weekend see: <https://bookwhen.com/youngcatholicadults-yorkpilgrimage2023>

**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.

**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. 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.

Families and candidates should not 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 Raja Sebastian.



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### **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.