

OUR PARISH NEWS

DEVOTIONS

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: St Gabriel's: Monday 10.30am - 11.00am

St Bernard's: Thursday 10.30am - 11.00am

Saturday 10.30am - 11.00am

Devotion to Sacred Heart (Frist Friday only): St Gabriel's: **Friday** 10.30am -11.00am

Holy Rosary: Monday - Friday: after Mass

Morning Prayer of the Church: Monday - Friday at 9.40am before Mass

April is the month of devotion to the Blessed Sacrament

A HAPPY, BLESSED AND JOYFUL EASTER TO YOU ALL!

Thank you! On behalf of Fr Alexis and Fr Raja for all of your cards, greetings and your work of prayer during Holy Week and Easter Week.

THANK YOU also for all the offerings made at Easter. These go a long way to paying for the priestly ministry to the parish for the entire year and all you offer is very deeply appreciated. Thanks indeed for all this generosity. The total for Easter Offerings so far is £3191.59

HOLY WEEK COLLECTIONS: Thank you also for your contributions to these causes. So far the totals are: Lenten Alms: £1425.24 and Holy Places: £1226.99. Easter flower collections £708.70

SESSION FOR SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION PREPARATION: The next session for preparing children for the Sacrament of Confirmation will be **on Monday 15th April 2024**. The classes will start **7 pm to 8.30 pm at St Gabriel's Church Hall**.

CONFIRMATION CHILDREN'S PARENTS MEETING: There will be a parents' session on **MONDAY 15th April 2024 from 7pm to 8.30pm** at St Gabriel's Conference Room. We will check whether all information in the forms are correct and that day is the last day to submit the sponsorship form and chosen saints name for the confirmation candidates.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION REHEARSAL: Coming **Saturday 20th April 2024**, we will have first holy communion rehearsal **at St Bernard's Church at 3pm**. All the parents bring your children who have been preparing to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

PRIEST TRAINING FUND COLLECTION 20/21 APRIL: Next Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. The annual collection for the Priest Training Fund will take place next weekend. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. There are currently 49 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 13 of whom are from our own Diocese. We also have one seminarian in Valladolid and one at the Beda, presently on pastoral placement in Ruislip. There are also two on a propaedeutic year at Redemptoris Mater. Last year 3 deacons were ordained for Westminster Diocese. The Priest Training Fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of

our ordained priests. Your generous donation helps ensure we can support these men who are called to be like Christ the Good Shepherd. Donation envelopes are available in the back of the church. Please take one home, read the information, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. Please continue to pray for vocations and for our priests. You can use the QR code to make your donation online or visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations. Thank you for your generosity.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES(2024-2025): The new envelopes have started last weekend. If you have not yet been able to collect your box please do so as soon as possible. They can be collected from the Parish Office during office hours. Thank you.

MISSION RED BOXES THANK YOU!: In 2023 our parish raised £1,058.92 through our Red Boxes and including individuals giving directly. This is part of a worldwide network of people supporting missionaries through prayer and financial assistance. We have been supporting world mission, providing missionaries with the spiritual and material support they need to enable local people to build and sustain their own faith communities. 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.

JOSEPHINE PEREIRA (RIP): We will have the funeral mass for Josephine Pereira on Monday, 29th April at St Gabriel's Church at 12 noon. Please remember her in your prayers.

THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR APRIL

For the role of women: Let us pray that the dignity and worth of women be recognized in every culture, and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world.

VOLUNTEERING IN THE PARISH: Volunteering is one of the ways to serve God and minister people of God:

CLEANING & 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.

WELCOMERS (Stewards): You can offer yourselves serving the Lord and community by becoming welcomers for each Sunday masses. We want to welcome everyone coming to celebrate the Eucharist by providing book and newsletters to the celebration Those who are interested, please give your names calling the parish office.

READERS FOR OUR PARISH: The best way to serve the church community is to come forward to read at mass. We thank all our readers, altar servers, volunteers all those who are offering their service. We invited all those who are interested to become Readers for Mass. We are making Rota for each Sunday mass in both St Bernard's and St Gabriel's Church. Our little way to help our church is to offer ourselves to read, arrange, help and clean our church. Please call parish office to give your name as volunteers to read, serve the church.

CALLING ALL SINGERS/MUSICIANS! MUSIC FOR SUNDAY MASS: *“Be filled with the Spirit, 19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, 20 always and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.” (Ephesians 5:19-20).* The one who sings with love prays twice. 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. 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 if you can offer your talent in this way...and don't be shy!

SOME FINANCE MATTERS:

1) DONATE BY STANDING ORDER: Would you consider donating your offering by Standing Order instead of cash? If so, there's a form in the foyer or just ask for advice from the office or the clergy. Standing Orders make it easier to keep track of your outgoings, easier for the parish to plan what our income is, and easier and more secure as we handle less cash.

2) CONTACTLESS MACHINES: We would like to invite parishioners to use our contactless (DONA) machine for your contributions. The contactless machines at both churches are working with Wi-Fi changes. You can contribute your offertory now with Dona app. ***Thank you to everyone for your commitment and generosity.***

OTHER NEWS

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE: 19th - 26th July 2024 – Registration for the Westminster diocesan pilgrimage led by Cardinal Vincent Nicholas is now open via the application form on <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/> or by contacting the Pilgrimage Office on 020 7798 9173. Options to travel by plane, train or coach are available and there are many volunteering opportunities for those wishing to serve.

All applications to join this year's pilgrimage need to be submitted by Tuesday 30th April.

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA: A DAY WITH MARY organises pilgrimage to Fatima from **Friday 7th June to Friday 14th June 2024. COST £ 870 .00/ per person, twin room (T). £ 950 Single room (S).** All rooms are en suite. DEPOSIT £ 300 to be sent with the booking application. Confirmation will be sent by post (or e-mail if preferred and indicated). Bank transfer also acceptable. This pilgrimage cost includes British Airways Return flight: London Heathrow – Lisbon- London Heathrow and chartered coach travel with 6 Days full board accommodation, 1day Half board. Booking Form with full details available on request or at www.adaywithmary.org

JOB OPPORTUNITIES:

- 1. St. Dominic's Sixth Form College** (Harrow on the Hill) vacancies – Science Laboratory Technicians (Chemistry – Full Time and Physics – Part Time) For further information please download an application from the website www.stdoms.ac.uk or contact the college business manager - Jacqueline Brosnan on JAB@stdoms.ac.uk
- 2. St Richard Reynolds Catholic College:** vacancies - Subject Lead in Chemistry; Teacher of English;

Teacher of PE (girls). Contact us on 020 8325 4630 or to follow the link provided: <https://strichardreynolds.org.uk/whole-college/vacancies-2>

3. **Vacancies at our Diocese:** Parish cook at Hayes (closing date 17/04/2024); Parish Administrator at Highbury (closing date 18/04/2024); Apprentice HR Administrator at Human resources (Closing date 24/04/2024); Bass Lay Clerk for Cathedral Music (closing date 29/04/2024). For further details, please visit <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/>

THE CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD: The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) uses principles drawn from Montessori education to help children develop a deep and authentic relationship with God. Adult formation course: Level 1 Part A St Matthew's Parish, Northwood, HA6 1DW Six Saturdays in 2024, 9am - 5pm Dates: 11 May, 15 June, 13 July, 7 September
For information and booking process email Melinda at: cgsnorthwood@gmail.com

WESTMINSTER DIOCESE ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2022: A copy is available in the Parish Office, and a summary at the back of church. If you wish to read further the details financial report for the diocese, and an activity report, see the poster in church for a QR code link, or visit www.rcdow.org.uk/about-us.

GOOD COUNSEL NETWORK CAMPAIGN INFO: "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.

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 weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Retrouvaille – Do you need help in your marriage? Retrouvaille has helped many couples find new hope, nourishment and growth in their marriages. If you want to uncover or reawaken the love, trust and commitment that brought you together and work through difficult times in your marriage contact Retrouvaille confidential for more information about our 2024 programmes. There is no group therapy or group work. Our next programme commences with a weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024. Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443, email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Rediscover Your Marriage – Retrouvaille offers you the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. 10s of 1000s headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. There is no group therapy or group work. The next programme commences with a weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024. Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443, email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

CELEBRATE Trust is a Catholic ministry that inspires and equips people of all ages to live an authentic Christian life in the power of the Holy Spirit, in support of the family, to form the next generation and encourage local community. Just download the Advent Family & Matchbox Manger and share the joy.

HOME FOR UKRAINE MATCHING SERVICE: Caritas Social Action Network, in partnership with St John of God Hospitaller Services, an international Catholic charity with many services for the vulnerable in the UK and Ireland, are matching Ukrainian people displaced by the brutal war with people in the Catholic community willing to host them in their homes for six months. If you have room in your home and in your heart to consider welcoming a stranger displaced by war, then we'd love to hear from you. Please visit <https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk/> for more information.

SPREAD THE PRO-LIFE MESSAGE: SPUC: We need your help to broadcast the pro-life message loud and clear across all platforms and to everyone you meet. We want to build a culture of life. People need to know the facts about abortion and to hear the pro-life case.

- 1. Leafleting Teams:** Could you join one of our leafleting teams? To make sure everyone gets the pro-life facts, we have to go back to what every political organisation or campaigning charity does and deliver them to people's doorsteps.
- 2. Social Media:** Could you be one of our online advocates? Follow @SPUCProLife and @SPUCScotland on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube and don't be shy about standing up for what you believe in. Are you a content creator? If you are, why not create something that speaks for the pro-life cause and share it with us?
- 3. WHITE FLOWER APPEAL 2024:** The society for the Protection of Unborn children (SPUC) vision is for a world where abortion is unthinkable. This year appeal calls for the Government to end the pills-by-post DIY abortion policy. As well as ending the lives of precious babies, this policy lacks safeguards against illegal late-term abortions, and puts mothers at physical and psychological risk. 86% of GPs are concerned that this scheme leaves women vulnerable to coerced abortion. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC defend unborn babies and their mothers by highlighting this urgent crisis.

COULD YOU BE A FOUNDATION GOVERNOR AT A CATHOLIC SCHOOL? Foundation Governors are appointed in the name of the Archbishop and form the majority of the governing body of a Catholic school. They have a legal duty to preserve and develop the Catholic character of the school and to ensure that the school is conducted in accordance with its trust deed.

Governing boards have three core functions:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

The ministry of Foundation Governor is an important one, because the Catholic character of our schools depends on committed Catholics being willing to undertake this service. The Archbishop is therefore very appreciative of all those who offer to assist him in this vital task. Because of our baptism, all Christians are all called to serve the Church's mission.

General Criteria: To become or remain a foundation governor, a person must be and remain: a practising Catholic; providing education for his or her own children, if of school age, in a Catholic school or college (unless exceptional circumstances apply); able to give priority of attendance at meetings of the governing body to ensure representation of the Archbishop; in possession of a valid DBS disclosure certificate. To become or remain a foundation governor, a person must not be disqualified from becoming or remaining a governor in accordance with: the current School Government Regulations (or the college's Instrument of Government); the Charities Acts; and the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000.

Specific Criteria: In respect of the school or college for which a person is or is to be a foundation governor, he or she must not at any time be: related to any member of the school or college staff, teaching or non-teaching; related to any governor whether elected, appointed or ex-officio, of the school or college; employed (whether as a teacher or otherwise) at the school.

A person (other than the parish priest) will not normally be re-appointed as a foundation governor of a particular school or college if he or she has just completed three consecutive terms on that particular governing body.

WELCOME TO YOUCAN UK: We are a religious group for practicing young Catholic adults in the UK, and stay in touch through a network of WhatsApp Groups. Our simple mission is to connect all young Catholic adults with one another. No one can practice their Faith on their own! Within the YouCAN "family" are: **YouCAN** for young Catholic adults between ages 18 and 35; **YouCAN+** for Catholics between ages 30 and 45; **YouCAN Families** for Catholic families with children under 18 years. For more information you see <https://youngcatholicadultnetwork.uk/>

COST OF LIVING HUB: The rising costs of fuel, food and other essentials are combining with existing disadvantage and vulnerability within our communities to put many households at greater risk of both immediate hardship and reduced opportunity and wellbeing.

Councils and local partners have delivered remarkable services and support and will continue to do what they can to protect people against higher costs, targeting help at those facing the most complex challenges. This hub has been designed to share best practice and help councils to support their residents with the rise in the cost of living. Examples of the work of councils and resources can be found for each topic area in the pages below.

We will be updating the hub on a regular basis. If you would like your council's work featured please email welfare@local.gov.uk.

INTRODUCING CATHOLIC LISTENERS:

Catholic Listeners is a new confidential helpline service. A Diocese of Westminster initiative, it has been set up for those who want to return to the faith and are in need of a safe space to be heard.

The helpline is all about listening to others, listening to those who might have become isolated due to the pandemic. This service is based on the LANDINGS ethos of compassionate listening.

Although not a counselling service, the helpline is staffed by a team of volunteers who are trained to signpost

callers to other agencies and services.

Sometimes just communicating with someone who listens and understands can help clarify a way forward.

Simply talking about a problem can ease a burden. If you or someone you know needs to talk

Catholiclisteners are here to listen.

Operating three days a week from 4pm-7pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays calls are free to the helpline on: 0800 448 0704

For further information email Catholiclisteners@gmail.com.



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.