NEWS

# Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

5 July 2026

## 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 of Jesus (First Friday only):** St Gabriel's: 10.30am - 11.00am

**Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary (First Saturday only**)
St Bernard's 10.30am - 11.30am

**Holy Rosary:** Monday - Friday: after Mass

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

**Our Lady Queen of Peace Prayer Group**: St Bernard's: Monday 6.30pm.

**July is the month of prayer to the Precious Blood of our Lord**

**LAST WEEK OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS: £1113.63**
**PETER'S PENCE COLLECTIONS: £643.67**
*Thank you for your generosity and commitment.*

**CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION**: We are going to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Confirmation on this Sunday at St Bernard's Church at 2pm. Let us continue to pray for our confirmation children to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit.



**ST GABRIEL'S MONDAY CLUB**: we are having our St Gabriel's Monday club on coming Monday 6th July 2026 at St Gabriel's Church hall from 1pm to 3pm for the elderly (65+) of the parish. They gather together every Monday afternoon to play bingo, share some time together with some tea and coffee. Come and join us.

**CONFIRMATION SESSION FOR CHILDREN:** Our confirmation children will have a session on coming Monday 6th July 2026 at St Gabriel's Church Hall from 7pm to 8pm. The session will be conducted by Rebecca our youth leader.

**OUR LADY, QUEEN OF PEACE:** On Thursday, 9th July 2026 we celebrate the feast of Our Lady, Queen of Peace. Let us pray for the peace in the world. We bring all those countries affected by wars, conflict and violence to our Lady Queen of Peace.

**STELLA MARRIS - SECOND COLLECTION-NEXT WEEKEND:** Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all of our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. Sea Sunday is on 12th July. It is when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Your support will make a big difference to seafarers and fishers in need. You can donate in church, by visiting www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate, or by texting 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris to continue its important work, so please give generously. Thank you.

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM:** The annual diocesan pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham will take place this year on **Saturday, 19 September 2026.** There will be a bus going from our Church. We have booked a coach! Those who are interested to go for pilgrimage, please call parish office for booking and further information.

**QUEEN OF PEACE PRAYER GROUP**: The Queen of Peace prayer group has started their prayers on Mondays at St Bernard's Church at 5.30pm every week. Those who are interested to join them and pray for world's peace, you are most welcome.

**CATECHESIS: INFORMATION AND NEWS**

**BAPTISM of INFANTS:** Expectant parents or parents of new-born children are asked to register your name by calling parish office for baptism class.
After attending the baptism class, you can contact Fr Raja, the parish priest after the Sunday Mass or send an email to know next steps to arrange Baptism.

*Our next baptism class will be coming Sunday 12th July at St Bernard's Church Hall at 3pm.*

Please call the parish office to register your name.

**THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JULY**:

***For Respect For Human Life -*** Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

**Of your charity, pray for the souls of those whose anniversaries occur at this time, among them:**

*Cyril Fernandez; Dean Murchan; John Foley; Peter Williamson; Sheila McNamara; Peter Woods; Agnes Keane; David Cahill; Gregory Furtado; Elizabeth Supple; Richard Rossington; Cornelius Murray; Beryl Walsh; Nellie Leitan; Alison Smith; Philomena Stewart; Sid Rose; Camilo Fernandes.*

## THIS SUNDAY Reflection: THE YOKE OF GENTLE LOVE

*Said a traveller to one of the disciples, "I have travelled a great distance to listen to the Master but I find his words quite ordinary."*
*"Don't listen to his words. Listen to his message." 'How does one do that?"*
*"Take hold of a sentence that he says. Shake it well till all the words drop off. What is left will set your heart on fire." One minute wisdom—Tony de Mello*

**First reading (Zechariah 9:9-10):** In the first reading, the prophet paints a striking image. We expect a victorious king to arrive on a prancing, fearsome warhorse, draped in military might. Instead, God's anointed arrives as a humble, peaceful leader riding a simple donkey. This isn't a sign of weakness; it is a profound declaration that God's kingdom is established not through coercion or violence, but through a radical, disarming peace. Jesus embodies this very meekness as he rides into Jerusalem—a quiet revolution of the heart.

**Second reading (Romans 5:12-15):** St Paul gives us the reality check of the Christian life. We are not defined by our earthly, fleshly desires, but by the Spirit of God that dwells in us. Paul contrasts living according to the "flesh" (which leads to spiritual death) with living according to the "Spirit" (which leads to eternal life). This doesn't mean we are stripped of our humanity; rather, it means allowing God's Spirit to animate our choices, heal our divisions, and give our lives divine purpose. .

**Gospel (Matthew 10:26-33):** Jesus utters some of the most comforting words in all of scripture: "*Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest.*". In the ancient world, a "yoke" was a wooden beam placed over the necks of oxen to help them pull heavy loads together. When Jesus invites us to take up his yoke, he isn't handing us a harsh rulebook. Instead, he is inviting us to walk beside him. He shoulders the heaviest part of our burdens, walking step-by-step with us. By learning from his "gentle and humble heart," we exchange the exhausting, anxious race of worldly achievement for a quiet, soul-deep peace.
Today's readings offer a masterclass in divine gentleness: a meek King who brings peace, a Spirit that breathes new life into us, and a Saviour who invites the weary to trade their heavy burdens for his light yoke.

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS & CHURCH OPENING TIMES:**
Parish office hours: only on **Mon, Wed, Fri from 9am to 2pm**.
Church opening hours: *The church will be opened for prayers, during the Parish office hours and on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10am to 3pm*.

**SVP SUMMER RAFFLE** – SVP summer raffle tickets are available for sale (£1 per ticket). This contribution goes towards SVP help and daily support to people in need in our community.

**SVP CONTACT NUMBER**: The Parish SVP (St Vincent de Paul) Group, in communion with the Parish Team, continues to coordinate the response to the vulnerable in the Parish. Those needing help with practical assistance or just feeling isolated can contact our SVP members on **+447596462206**.

**GABRIEL'S TABLE TENNIS CLUB**: The sessions are normally on **Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7 to 9pm** at **St Gabriel's Church Hall.** We have started table tennis for youth and children on **Saturdays 1pm to 3pm.** During funerals and hall hired by parishioners, we will not have table tennis games. Come and enjoy the game!



**CALLING ALL SINGERS/MUSICIANS! MUSIC FOR SUNDAY MASS:** The one who sings with love prays twice. 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!



**SAFE ENVIRONMENT**: As we are required to provide safe environment for all to worship in our parish. Please parents do not let your children (below 18 years) to use the toilet facilities unattended.

**BE AWARE OF EMAIL FRAUDSTERS**: There is a rise in scam emails targeting our parishioners. These emails impersonate the parish priest, often using a similar email name and masking the real email address. They typically request the recipient to purchase Amazon or other gift cards as gifts for the priest.
Never to purchase gift cards as gifts for the parish priest, based on an email request, unless they have verified the request directly in person or through a trusted means.

Please double-check any suspicious email by directly contacting the parish office. Please avoid sharing personal or financial information in response to unsolicited emails.

**DEVOTION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY:** On the 13th May 1917, Our Lady first mentioned devotion to her Immaculate Heart to the children of Fatima saying "You have seen hell, where souls of poor sinners go. To save them God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace." On the 10th December 1925, Our Lady appeared to Lucia detailing how devotion to her Immaculate Heart was to be practiced. Confession, Rosary, Mass and Meditation are the 4 requirements to fulfil the devotion.



**Four Practices to fulfil the Five First Saturday's Devotion:**

1) **Confession:** Make a good confession. the Sacrament of Penance helps us to prepare us to receive fruitfully a Communion of reparation, removing those obstacles to our love for Jesus and Mary".

2. **Communion**. You should attend Holy Mass and receive Holy Communion with the intention of offering reparation for the offences against Our Lady's Immaculate Heart.

3. **Devote recitation and meditation on the Mysteries of the Rosary**: in Our Lady's company: "You can do this any time on the First Saturday. If possible, a special time to do this is after Mass and receiving Holy Communion.

4. **Reparation:** All of the conditions mentioned above – in numbers 1 to 3 – should be fulfilled with the intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. These minimum requirements for fulfilling the conditions of Our Lady's promise to obtain for us "at the hour of death the graces necessary for salvation." We have first Saturdays' devotion to the Immaculate Mary **at St Bernard's Church at 10am.**

## OTHER NEWS

**PATRONAL FEAST at St John Fisher, North Harrow** – A number of events are taking place at St John Fisher, North Harrow to mark the feast of St John Fisher. In particular on Saturday evening from 7pm – 8pm there will be a Catholic storytelling event on witness and faith in the Parish Centre; come to listen to inspiring stories of Catholics from history presented by Kevin Turley; listen, engage and be inspired! Followed by light refreshments. Donations welcome. For more details visit:
https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/harrownorth/

**ST RAPHAEL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL - Applications for Reception 2026-2027**

We are still accepting applications for admission to Reception in September 2026. If you have a child who will be 4 years old by 31st August 2026, you are welcome to apply for a primary school place for September 2026. Visit website: https://www.st-raphaels.org/admissions/.

If you would like to book a visit, please telephone the school office (0208 8410848).

***St Michael's Catholic Grammar School - Open Evening for Secondary Transfer - Wednesday 24 June 2026***

The online application to apply to sit the entrance tests for entry in September 2027 is now available Year 7 2027. The deadline for applications to be completed and Certificate of Catholic Practice provided to the School Office is 4pm on Tuesday 7 July 2026.

We have 128 places in each year and are historically heavily oversubscribed with girls who meet the criteria of Baptised Catholic girls from a Practising Catholic family. Priority for up to 32 places is given to girls who are registered as Pupil Premium with their primary school and meet the Catholicity criteria. Full details of the Admissions Policy can be found on the School's website St Michael's Admissions 2027-28.

**VACANCIES: WESTMINSTER DIOCESE HUMAN RESOURCES:**

For further details, please visit https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/

| Job Title | Department Name | Closing date |
|---|---|---|
| Safeguarding Officer | Safeguarding | 05/07/2026 |
| Receptionist & Administrative Assistant PT | SJPC | 06/07/2026 |

**OTHER JOB VACANCIES**: The Sacred Heart Language College, Wealdstone, has vacancies for a ***Key Stage 3 Pastoral Support (support staff post).*** Full details are available from the websites: www.tshlc.harrow.sch.uk and www.blessedholyfamily.co.uk

**Archdiocese of Southwark Vacancies: Seeking Two Parish Fundraisers**

This is an exciting opportunity for enthusiastic and motivated individuals who are passionate about supporting the mission of the Church and helping parishes to thrive. For further information and details of how to apply, please visit www.rcaos.org.uk/get-involved. Closing date 1st Aug.

**SOME FINANCE MATTERS:**




**MISSIO RED BOXES THANK YOU!** In 2025 our parish raised £1,932.63 through our Rex Boxes and including individuals giving directly. Red Boxes are available from the Parish Office or from the Sacristy at St Bernard's.

**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. You can contribute your offertory now with Dona app. ***Thank you to everyone for your commitment and generosity.***

**DONATION TO THE 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.