NEWS

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

12 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: £1084.04

Thank you for your generosity and commitment.

STELLA MARRIS - SECOND COLLECTION-THIS WEEKEND: Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all of our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. Sea Sunday is Sunday 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.

ST GABRIEL'S MONDAY CLUB: We are having our St Gabriel's Monday club on Monday 13th July 2026 at St Gabriel's Church hall from 1pm to 3pm for the elderly 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 in friendship.

CONFIRMATION SESSION FOR CHILDREN & PARENTS: Our confirmation children and Parents will have a joint session on Monday 13th July 2026 at St Gabriel's Church Hall from 7pm to 8pm. This will be the final session for this year confirmation. The confirmation certificates will be given to all the children.



GARDEN DAY at ST GABRIEL'S: Come and help to tidy up St Gabriel's site, do the weeding and look after the planting. So, in a change in the normal schedule, the 10.00am Mass on 18 July will be at St Gabriel's. We will not have adoration on that day. 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!

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.



MARY'S MEALS want to collect all your foreign currency and turn it into cash to feed hungry children in the 16 countries it works in. Mary's Meals feeds children for only 10p per meal so a little goes a long way. They will come to our church on 25/26th July. Thank you for your support.

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 on this 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:

John Sugrue; Geneva Giddens; Francis George; Fr Michael Ring; Joan Gabriel; James McShane; Mary McGrath; Brother Stanislaus of Twyford Abbey; Margaret Burke;Eleanora Wright; Michael O'Hanlon; Juan Calimag; John Cahill; Frances Lewis; Alan Davies;David Watson; Daniel Casey; Nora Cahill; Gregory Furtado.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS & CHURCH OPENING TIMES:
Parish office hours: only on Monday, Wednesday, Friday 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 1pm.*

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!



THIS SUNDAY Reflection: GOD'S WORD LIFE GIVING FORCE

A disciple once complained:
"You tell us stories, but you never reveal their meaning to us."
Said the Master:
"How would you like it if someone offered you fruit and masticated it before giving it to you?" *Song of the Bird—Tony de Mello*

First reading (Isaiah 55:10-11): Our first reading offers profound comfort: God promises that just as rain does not return to the heavens without watering the earth, His Word will not return to Him empty. It will achieve the exact purpose for which He sent it. When we open our minds and hearts to this Word, and allow it to penetrate our daily lives, it transforms our struggles into growth and our emptiness into an abundant harvest.

Second reading (Romans 8:18-23): As St. Paul reminds us in the second reading, the present sufferings we endure are "not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us." We live in a world that groans, but our focus is fixed on the ultimate redemption and the life of the Spirit.

Gospel (Matthew 13:1-23): The imagery of the sower and the seed is a deeply encouraging message. Notice how extravagant, almost reckless the sower is! He doesn't just plant in perfectly tilled earth; he tosses seeds on the path, on rocky ground, among thorns, and on rich soil. This tells us that God's grace is for everyone—He scatters His Word lavishly, without prejudice. The defining factor is not the generosity of the sower, but the condition of our hearts.

Are we the path, where distractions immediately steal the message? Or the rocky ground, where our faith withers the moment things get difficult or uncomfortable? Perhaps we are the thorny soil, where the cares of this world and the pursuit of success choke out our spiritual lives. God invites us to intentionally cultivate our hearts into rich soil—to make room for His Word so that it can take deep root and produce a harvest thirty, sixty, or a hundredfold.

Today's scriptures remind us that God's Word is an active, life-giving force. Like rain that nourishes the earth, it is designed to bear abundant fruit in our lives. While we face worldly struggles, the ultimate harvest of grace far outweighs our present sufferings.

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

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).

All Saints Catholic Academy Trust and John F Kennedy – Careers Event All Saints Catholic Academy Trust is working with John F Kennedy (Hemel Hempstead) and St Joan of Arc (Rickmansworth) Catholic Secondary Schools to host a collaborative Year 12 Careers Event to prepare our students for the future of work. We are seeking financial sponsorship from local businesses to deliver a high impact experience. Whether you are a parent, governor, parishioner, local business owner, you can support us by:

- Sponsoring the event or funding a workshop
- Connecting us with a business contact, introduction, or lead.

Sponsors will benefit from direct brand exposure to thousands of local families, networking opportunities, and access to top future talent. Please contact governance@ascat.co.uk if you are interested in supporting

SACRED HEART LANGUAGE COLLEGE - Open Evening / Open Morning at The Sacred Heart Language College (Wealdstone): Those wishing to apply for a place in Year 7 for September 2027 are invited to visit the college during one of our Open Sessions on the following dates:
Open Evening: Tuesday 8th September 2026, 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Open Morning: Thursday 17th September 2026, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

VACANCIES: WESTMINSTER DIOCESE HUMAN RESOURCES:
For further details, please visit https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/

Job Title	Department Name	Closing date
Safeguarding Officer	Safeguarding	17/07/2026
Parish Music Director & Organist	Highgate	24/07/2026

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:

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.