NEWS

# Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

19 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: £945.28**

*Thank you for your generosity and commitment.*

**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!

**THANK YOU - STELLA MARRIS:** Thank you for giving to Sea Sunday. **Our parish raised £609.55**. Your generous gifts will ensure that Stella Maris chaplains can continue to be a friend for seafarers and fishers in times of need. To find out more about how your support helps those who live and work at sea, please visit www.stellamaris.org.uk

**ST GABRIEL'S MONDAY CLUB**: We are having our St Gabriel's Monday club on coming Monday 20th July 2026 at St Gabriel's Church hall from 1pm to 3pm for the elderly of the parish with Community Connex. Every Third Monday Community Connex come to help us being together with more activities and talks. Come and join us in friendship.

**SYCAMORE MEETING:** Coming **Monday 20th July 2026** we will gather for the sycamore session at St Gabriel's Church Hall at 7pm for sharing of food and 7.30 for the meeting. Those who have questions about faith and struggle with situation of doubt about religious practices, please come to find about your faith. All are most welcome.

**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 after the Sunday Mass or send an email in order to know next steps to arrange Baptism.

Please call parish office to book your name for the NEXT class.




**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2027**: For Children who will be in Year 3 in September 2026, application for the Holy Communion programme is now open and application forms can be collected at the parish office. Acceptance into the programme depends on already established habitual practice of the faith in the parish.



**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2027**: For children in Year 9 or above in September 2026, Registration for the programme is now open, and forms can be collected in the parish office. Please call the parish office to find more details.

**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:**

*Julius Ojilibe; Jan Cervi; Gregg and Celeste Giddens; Gerald Patrick Mullins; Diego Fernandes; William Inniss; Mary Cleary; Ron Brisson; Gina Stivala; Olive De Dombal; Francis Karieren; Mary O'Connor; Arthur Peel; Kevin Fernandes.*

**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 PATIENCE & UNDERSTANDING

*A little boy not familiar with an echo thought he had heard in the woods the voice of another boy not far off. He shouted: "Hello, there!" and the voice shouted back, "Hello, there!" He cried again: "Who are you?" and the voice replied, "Who are you?" He cried once more: "You mean boy," and the cry came back: "You mean boy." Then this little boy went home and told his mother that there was a bad boy in the woods. His mother understood how it was and said to him, "Well, speak kindly to him and see if he does not speak kindly to you." — The boy went to the woods again and shouted, "You are a good boy." Of course, the echoing reply came, "You are a good boy." "I love you," he said loudly. "I love you," replied the faithful echo.* *- Anonymous*

**First reading (Wisdom 12:13, 16-19):** The Book of Wisdom sets a powerful tone for our reflection: God's almighty power is revealed in His leniency and mercy. When we look at the world around us, and even within our own hearts, we see a complex mixture of "wheat" (acts of love, grace, and kindness) and "weeds" (jealousy, selfishness, and pain). We often want to root out the bad immediately, what we need is patience and trust in God.

**Second reading (Romans 8:26-27):** St. Paul provides the answer in the second reading: the Holy Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness. When we are exhausted by the brokenness of the world or when we don't even know how to pray for the right things, the Spirit intercedes for us with inexpressible groans.

**Gospel (Matthew 13:24-43):** In the Gospel, Jesus advises us patience. He warns that in trying to hastily purge the evils of the world, we might do more damage and destroy the good. God, in His infinite wisdom, allows both to grow until the harvest. This patience does not mean God condones evil. It simply means He gives every person time to repent, change, and grow. But how do we endure this tension between good and evil while waiting for that final harvest? The Gospel closes with the mustard seed and the leaven, reminding us that God's Kingdom often starts small and works silently. Though the weeds may feel overwhelming, the quiet, transformative power of God's grace is actively at work, changing the world from the inside out. Our readings remind us that God is patient and understanding amidst the presence of good and evil. While it's tempting to want immediate justice or a perfect world now, God asks us to trust His timing and rely on the Holy Spirit to strengthen us in our daily struggles.

**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).

**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.

**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

**Faith Sharing Group Leaders' Gathering**
**Saturday 12th September**
**2:00-5:00pm**
**St Monica's, Palmers Green**

This day is particularly aimed at current or aspiring Faith Sharing Group Leaders, as we will have a first look at autumn's Faith Sharing Resource and hear about how Faith Sharing Groups work in different parishes. During the day there will also be the opportunity to tell us about the support your parish would need to establish or develop Faith Sharing Groups.
For more information and to book please scan:

**Called to Serve Day**
**Saturday 4th October,**
**10:00am-4:00pm, SPEC Youth Ministry Retreat Centre, Pinner**

This day, led by the Agency for Evangelisation, Caritas Westminster and Westminster Youth Ministry is for all currently or wishing to be involved in catechesis, youth work or social action. To book, please scan the QR code or email catadmin@rcdow.org.uk
£10 suggested donation.

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

| Job Title | Department Name | Closing date |
|---|---|---|
| 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 August.

**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.