NEWS

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 August 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.

August the month of prayer to the Precious Blood of our Lord

LAST WEEK OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS: £809.43
MARY MEALS COLLECTIONS: £888.38
Thank you for your generosity and commitment.

MARY MEALS - Thank you for your generosity by offering foreign currencies and other things which will help feed children in 16 countries. Thank you.

AUGUST BREAK: As is traditional throughout August, the choirs and musicians will be resting their voices; our floral artists will rest their green fingers; the Repository Shops will take an opportunity to re-stock. This gives all those involved with these ministries a break over the Summer period to attend Mass without other responsibilities. We are grateful to them for their continued contribution to parish life.
Can you volunteer too?

ST GABRIEL'S MONDAY CLUB: Our St Gabriel's Monday club will gather on coming Monday 3rd August 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.

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.

SPIRITANS FATHER MISSION APPEAL: Spiritans mission is the evangelisation of the "poor" (Lk 4:18). Therefore we, Spiritans, go especially: to peoples, groups and individuals who have not yet heard the message of the Gospel or who have scarcely heard it, to those whose needs are the greatest, and to the oppressed. We willingly accept tasks for which the Church has difficulty in finding workers. The Spiritans will come to our church for appeal on 6th and 13th September 2026.

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.

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.

Our next baptism class will be on Sunday 9th August at St Bernard's Church Hall at 3pm.

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 AUGUST:

For Evangelization In the city - Let us pray that in large cities, often marked by anonymity and loneliness, we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

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

Francis Conway; James Carroll; Rose White; Gus Simon; Noel D'Cruz; Mary Marron; William Rogers; Michael Murray; Dominic Lobo; Ellen Cregg; James Linehan; Rebecca Donovan; Emanuel Ducasse; Michael Walsh; Candida De Melo; Americo Rodrigues; Debbie Ann Pellington; Joseph Vethanayagam; Lourthu; Eric Moniz.

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD!

EDWARD NOLAN (RIP): Edward Nolan passed away on Monday 13th July 2026. Her Funeral Mass will be on Wednesday 12th August 2026 at 11.00am at St Bernard's Church. Please remember him in your prayers.

AMANDA WONG (RIP): Amanda Wong was one of our faithful parishioners. She passed away on 26th July 2026. Her funeral service will be on 13th August 12 Noon at Breakspear Crematorium. Please remember her in your prayers.

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 PROVIDENCE & COVENANT

God decided to visit the earth so He sent an angel to survey the place be/ore his visit.
The angel brought back this report: "Most of them are starving and most of them are unemployed."
God said, "Then I shall become incarnate in the form of food for the hungry and work for the unemployed."

Song of the Bird—Tony de Mello

First reading (Isaiah 55:1-3): In the first reading, God calls out to a jaded, exiled people with an astonishing offer: "*Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price*". We often spend our energy, money, and time on things that do not truly satisfy us. We seek validation in accomplishments, wealth, or status. God warns us not to waste our energy on things that do not truly feed the soul. God binds Himself to us with the same loyal love promised to David. We cannot earn His grace; we can only open our hands to receive it.

Second reading (Romans 8:35, 37-39): St. Paul anchors this reality in our daily struggles. He asks, "*What will separate us from the love of Christ?*" what can tear us away from Christ—trouble, hardship, or fear—and answers with a resounding "nothing". Through the love of God, we are conquerors and safe in His hands.

Gospel (Matthew 13:1-23): In the gospel today Jesus tries to go to a lonely place to grieve and rest, but a large crowd follows Him. Seeing their deep need, Jesus forgets His own exhaustion and heals the sick and hungry. With only five loaves and two fish, Jesus feeds thousands, leaving twelve baskets full as a sign of superabundance. God invites us to an abundant, free feast of love, satisfies our deepest hungers through Christ, and promises that nothing can ever separate us from His steadfast care.
The scriptures for today center on God's boundless generosity, moving from an ancient invitation to a miraculous meal and an unshakeable promise.

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

OPPOSE ASSISTED SUICIDE - UNITE IN PRAYER AND COMPASSIONATE ACTION
The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill is back in the House of Commons and seeks to legalise assisted suicide. This would undermine the sanctity and dignity of human life. We are against this Bill in principle and it remains deeply flawed and dangerous in practice. There will be a vote on Friday, 11 September 2026 – please contact your MP asap.

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.

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.