NEWS

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

30 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: £961.19

Thank you for your generosity and commitment.

ST GABRIEL'S MONDAY CLUB: Our St Gabriel's Monday club will gather on coming Monday 31st 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.

SPIRITANS FATHERS MISSION APPEAL: Spiritans mission is the evangelisation of the "poor" (Lk 4:18). Therefore we, Spiritans, (Congregation of the Holy Spirit) 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 the weekend of 5/6th September they will talk about their mission at St Gabriel's Church. They will share about their mission on Sunday 13th September 2026 at St Bernard's Church.

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! All the

seats are gone already. Those who have booked to go for pilgrimage, please call parish office for to receive further information.

PARISH LUNCH. MARK THE DATE: Here's the new plan to find a way to do a Parish bring-and-share lunch: Mark the date: **Sunday October 11th 2026**. We gather this Sunday to celebrate St Gabriel's feast and Our Lady at Walsingham. BUT - this depends on all of us. Can you help organize and make it happen? Please contact the Parish Office now to register your interest in helping. THANK YOU.

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.



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:

Teresa McCusker; Reg White; Joseph Serwin; David Picachy; Maria Murray; Catherine Augustin; Joe Neave; Fr George Lyons; Lilian Santos; Mary Melia; Michael Desmond; Neonila Fokina; Archibald Thomas Walter Saldanha.

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD

VERA MURPHY (RIP): Vera Murphy was one of our faithful parishioners who died on Saturday 22nd August 2026. We will inform about her funeral service. Please include her in your prayers.

VILMA FERNADEZ (RIP): Vilma Fernandez was one of our parishioners who died on 21st August. The funeral mass will be on Tuesday 29th September at 11.30am at St Gabriel's Church. Please pray for her soul.

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 3pm.*

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!



THIS SUNDAY Reflection: COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

The disciple was a Jew. "What good work shall I do to be acceptable to God?"
"How should I know?" said the Master. "Your Bible says that Abraham practised hospitality and God was with him. Elias loved to pray and God was with him. David ruled a kingdom and God was with him too."
"Is there some way I can find my own allotted work?"
"Yes. Search for the deepest inclination of your heart and follow it."

One Minute Wisdom—Tony DeMello

First reading (Jeremiah 20:7-9): In the first reading, the Prophet Jeremiah shows us the raw, emotional cost of saying "yes" to God. He feels duped. His obedience to God has brought him nothing but derision, mockery, and social isolation. Jeremiah decides to walk away, promising never to speak in God's name again. He quickly finds out that he cannot hold it back. God's word becomes "like a burning fire shut up in my bones." When you truly encounter the living God, faith is no longer a casual hobby. It becomes an unstoppable interior fire that compels you to stand for truth, even when the culture mocks you.

Second reading (Romans 12:1-2): St Paul gives concrete ways to follow Jesus: "Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice" "Do not conform yourselves to this age" "Be transformed by the renewal of your mind." True discipleship requires moving past human logic to embrace a divine perspective, even when it hurts.

Gospel (Matthew 16:21-27): In the gospel today Jesus explains that the Messiah must suffer, die, and be raised, Peter pulls Him aside to rebuke Him. Peter wants a crown without a cross. Jesus does not gently correct Peter; He says, "Get behind me, Satan!" Peter had unconsciously become a stumbling block, trying to tempt Jesus away from His saving mission. Jesus then lays down the three-step condition for anyone who wants to follow Him: Deny yourself; Take up your cross; and Follow me.
Following God is not a path of worldly comfort; it is a transformative fire that demands we surrender our personal agendas to embrace the cross. The cross is never the final destination; the resurrection is. Jeremiah suffered, but God was his strength. Jesus died, but He conquered the grave.

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

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.

The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School September 2027 Year 7 Admissions
Our Year 7 open evenings will be held on Thursday 17 September 2026 and Tuesday 22 September 2026, for boys who will be eligible for Year 7 entry in September 2027. The Headmaster will address parents and pupils at 4.30pm and again at 6.00pm. Following each speech, parents will be taken on a tour of the school. We therefore recommend you arrive in good time for either 4.30pm or 6.00pm.

The online application form link for Year 7 is available on the school website www.cvms.co.uk/admissions or please follow this QR code:

The Upper Room Leadership Programme
Are you the current or next Youth Ministry Leader? **Upper Room Leadership Programme** equips Catholics to lead and inspire the next generation through faith, formation, practical training and ministry experience. The programme ends with a youth ministry qualification and pilgrimage to Lourdes with expectation for you to serve and lead in your parish! To sign up by **16 September 2026** and learn more please visit https://youth.rcdow.org.uk/

Young Adults Mass and Resonate Panel Talk
Join Westminster Youth Ministry for **Resonate**, which is the Diocesan monthly Young Adults Mass and Talk. The Mass is held in the historic Westminster Cathedral Crypt, followed by a live panel Q+A! The panel will bring together three different vocations in the Church: priesthood, religious life, and marriage. This evening is an opportunity to hear honest, real, faith orientated reflections from people who are living out their vocation in very different ways. Whether you are discerning your future, wondering what God is calling you to, trying to understand vocation more deeply, or simply curious and have general questions to ask then this panel is for you! **8 September 2026**, **Mass – 19:00, Resonate Talk – 19:45** at Vaughan House 46 Francis Street, Westminster, London, SW1P 1QN.

Retrouvaille: Designed specifically for severely troubled marriages, couples on the brink of separation, or those already divorced who want to try again.
When Love needs First Aid - couples in crisis
When we experience marital stress, we need help to move from isolation toward renewed communication, consolation, and hope. https://rcdow.org.uk/news/when-love-needs-first-aid/

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.

Further details, can also be found at: https://www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide/

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	Closing Date
Parish Organist	Whitton	02/09/2026
Events Coordinator	Soho Square	02/09/2026
Cleaning & Facilities Assistant	Seeds Hub	18/09/2026

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.