NEWS

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

20 September 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.

September is the month of prayers to Seven Sorrows of Mary

LAST WEEK OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS: £1003.91

Thank you for your generosity and commitment.

SPIRITAN FATHERS' MISSION APPEAL: Spiritans would like to express heartfelt thanks for your generosity towards their mission appeal in our parish last two weeks. Your generous contribution aids to serve the poor. **Thank you for your generosity**.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM SUNDAY– SECOND COLLECTION: Evangelii Gaudium Sunday takes place on THIS Sunday, September 20, 2026. A special day to celebrate the joy of the Gospel and pray for the work of evangelisation across England and Wales. A second collection will be held THIS weekend 19/20 September to support the work of the Catholic Bishops' Conference Mission Directorate, which aids local church mission and outreach.

ST GABRIEL'S MONDAY CLUB: We are having our St Gabriel's Monday club on coming Monday 21st September 2026 at St Gabriel's Church hall from 1pm to 3pm for the elderly of the parish. The Community Connex will join us conducting various activities. They gather together every Monday afternoon share some time together with some tea and coffee. Come and join us in friendship.

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.

MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY: PARISH ROSARY: SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER 3-4PM AT St GABRIEL'S: Mark this date in your diaries and let us fill the church that afternoon, joining with Mary our Mother and all the saints to bring the needs of the Church and the world to Almighty God. Let us come to know the power of praying the Rosary in the fight against evil and for personal holiness. Plan to bring someone else with you too…

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.

HOLY CONFIRMATION FIRST MEETING: All registered confirmation candidates with their parents will have an introduction session on WEDNESDAY 14th October 2025 from 7pm to 8pm at St Gabriel's Church Hall. Parents will bring baptism certificate and fill the forms. We requested all parents to come with their children.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION FIRST MEETING: All those children who are registered will come to their first introductory session on Wednesday 21st October at St Gabriel's Church hall at 6.30pm to 7.30pm. We request all parents come with their children.



THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER:

For Care of water - Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

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. The funeral mass will be on Wednesday 23rd September at St Gabriel's Church at 11am. Please include her soul in your prayers.

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

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

Joe Prendergast; Trevett D'Abreo; Maureen O'Connell; Anne Hynes; Valerie Mattias; Thomas Smith; Eilish Cox; George D'Rozario; Michael Woods; Maureen Dawson; Hilda Donovan; Peter Leslie Baptiste; Norman Baptiste; Donald Griffin; Juanita Griffin; Bridget O'Shea; Mary Sheridan; Clifford Malcolm Anderson;Eugene O'Reilley; Lelia ByrneMaura Harris; Treasa Chandy Vanniamparambil

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!



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.

THIS SUNDAY Reflection: THE SCANDAL OF GENEROSITY

The writer Leo Buscaglia was once invited to be on the jury of a school competition to find 'the child who cared most for others'. The winner was a boy whose neighbour, a gentleman of over eighty, had just been widowed. When he saw the old man sitting in his garden crying, the boy jumped over the fence, sat on the man's lap and stayed there for a long time. When he went back home, his mother asked him what he had said to the poor man. 'Nothing,' said the boy. 'He's lost his wife and that must have really hurt. I just went over to help him to cry.' *Stories for Children—Paulo Coelho*

First reading (Isaiah 55:6-9): Prophet Isaiah exposes the gap between our mind and of God: "*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord*". Isaiah urges us to "seek the Lord while he may be found" and promises that God will "abundantly pardon". Humans hold grudges, measure offenses, and limit forgiveness. God's mercy is vertical, expansive, and baffling. As high as the heavens are above the earth, His willingness to restore the broken exceeds our capacity to comprehend it.

Second reading (Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a): Saint Paul embodies what happens when a person fully internalizes this higher way of thinking. Writing from a prison cell, Paul is not calculating what God owes him for his agonizing missionary work. Instead, he is completely emptied of self-interest. He exhorts us to "live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ"—which means living a life shaped by Christ's self-giving generosity rather than competitive comparison.

Gospel (Matthew 20:1-16): In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of a landowner hiring laborers at various hours of the day. Those hired at the eleventh hour work for just one hour, yet they receive a full day's wage—a denarius. Naturally, the full-day workers grumble, expecting more. The landowner's response exposes the root of human brokenness: "Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" The first workers were perfectly happy with their wage until they saw others receiving the same grace. Envy turns a blessing into a grievance.

The central truth connecting today's readings is that God's grace operates on a system of radical generosity, completely overturning our human calculations of fairness and merit. God does not run a business; He runs a kingdom built on unmerited mercy.

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

The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School September 2027 Year 7 Admissions

Our Year 7 open evenings will be held on **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.

Gunnersbury Catholic School: Year 7 Open Days:

- 23 September 2026: 1.30pm – 3.00pm & 5.00pm – 7.30pm
- 28 September 2026: 1.30pm – 3.00pm
- 30 September 2026: 10.30am – 11.30am

St Joan of Arc Catholic School - Open Events for prospective students and parents who are looking for Year 7 places in September 2027.

Open Evening - Thursday 1st October 2026 - 5.00pm until 8.00pm
Open Morning - Friday 2nd October 2026 - 9.30am until 11.30am

The online application form link for Year 7 is available on the school website www.cvms.co.uk/admissions:

All Saints Catholic Academy Trust is holding our School Open Events this October for prospective students and parents who are looking for Year 7 places in September 2027.

The Open Events will be held as follows: -

Open Evening - Thursday 1st October 2026 : 5.00pm until 8.00pm
Open Morning - Friday 2nd October 2026 : 9.30am until 11.30am

Details of our Open Events, together with our Admission Policy and Supplementary Information Form (SIF) can also be found on our school website.

We are asking for your help please by advertising these events to parents/parishioners via your Parish newsletter. I have attached a copy of our Open Events flyer for your use and if at all possible, we would be grateful if this could be added to your weekly newsletters and placed on your Church noticeboard.

We would also like to extend the invitation to your Parish Priest. The evening is always very enjoyable and they would be most welcome to attend. If your Parish Priest would like to join us, please let me know by emailing me directly at admissions@joa.herts.sch.uk

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/

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/

GOOD COUNCIL NETWORK Good Counsel Network is a life-affirming women's organisation which offers moral support, support to find medical help, legal advice and practical help to women seeking abortion. https://www.goodcounselnetwork.com/

LIFE - Life is a UK-based pregnancy support charity that provides emotional help, housing, and practical aid to people facing unexpected pregnancies or pregnancy loss. https://lifecharity.org.uk/

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.

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.

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.