NEWS

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time 4th October 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.

October is the month of the Holy Rosary

LAST WEEK OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS: £1097.36

Thank you for your generosity and commitment.

CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY: Harvest Family Fast Day will be on Friday 2 October. Put your faith into action by praying, fasting and giving to support your neighbours. In Zimbabwe, hunger and thirst are stopping children from learning. Your support this Fast Day will help children stay in school by providing the food and safe water they need. We will have a second collection next weekend 3/4th October 2026.

ST GABRIEL'S MONDAY CLUB: We are having our St Gabriel's Monday club on coming Monday 5th October 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.

PARISH LUNCH: Coming Sunday October 11th 2026 we will have our Parish bring-and-share lunch: Please come to celebrate Feasts of Our Lady of Walsingham and St Gabriel and the archangels, by being together. Come and join us as a community in friendship. THANK YOU.

WORLD MISSION DAY: World Mission Day 2026 will be celebrated on Sunday, October 18, 2026. This year marks the historic 100th anniversary of the day's establishment by Pope Pius XI. The official theme chosen by Pope Leo XIV is "One in Christ, united in mission", reflecting his pontifical motto "*In Illo uno unum*". Please give generously. Thank you.

MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY: PARISH ROSARY: Sunday, 18th 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…

ALTAR SERVICE TRAINING: Anyone who has received their first Holy Communion is welcome to become an altar server in our parish. The most important characteristic for an altar server is the ability to be invisible. There will be a training for all altar servers on Saturday 24th October at St Bernard's Church after the adoration at 11.15am.

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 Mental health ministry **-** Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD

PHILOMENA FERNADES (RIP): Philomena Fernandes was one of our parishioners who died on Friday 6th September. The funeral service will be on Wednesday, 7th October at St Bernard's Church at 10.00am. Please include her in your prayers.

MATTHEW UGWU (RIP): Matthew Ugwu was one of our parishioners who died on Friday 7th July. The funeral service will be on Thursday, 15th October 2026 at St Bernard's Church at 12.00pm. Please include him in your prayers.

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

John Halligan; Gerard Sheridan; Michael Melia; William Ring; Bill Daly; Susan Leong; Dulcie Knight; William Daly;Angelo Joseph; Andrew Culleton; Bryan McCrohan; William Brendan Stack; Sebastiao Araujo; Patrick Dowling; Hieronim Cendrowicz; Nken Osemene; Bill Cassidy; Christina Lynch; Rosita Jumawan Rabina; Miracle Nsonsa; Nora Maffne; Helen Morrison.

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: GOD'S VINEYARD & GRATEFUL HEARTS

"It was time for the monsoon rains to begin and a very old man was digging holes in his garden. "What are you doing?" his neighbour asked.
"Planting mango trees," was the reply.
"Do you expect to eat mangoes from those trees?"
"No, I won't live long enough for that. But others will. It occurred to me the other day that all my life I have enjoyed mangoes planted by other people. This is my way of showing them my gratitude." The Prayer of the Frog—Tony deMello

First reading (Isaiah 5:1-7): In our first reading, the prophet Isaiah sings a love song that quickly turns into a courtroom drama. God clears the stones, plants choice vines, builds a watchtower, and digs a winepress. He invests His heart and resources into His people. He expects a harvest of sweet, juicy grapes: justice and righteousness. Instead, the vineyard yields "wild grapes"—sour, useless fruit. We must look at our own lives. God has poured His grace into us through baptism, the sacraments, and His Word.
Second reading (Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20): St. Paul offers the antidote: "Dismiss all anxiety from your minds". He teaches us to replace control with surrender through "prayer and petition, with thanksgiving". Paul tells us to fill our minds with whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable. If we feed our minds with negativity, anger, and worldly greed, we will produce wild grapes. If we anchor our minds on God, "the God of peace will be with you."
Gospel (Matthew 21:33-43): In the Gospel, the tenants fall into a dangerous spiritual trap: they forget they are tenants and start acting like owners. When the landowner sends his servants (the prophets) to collect the fruit, the tenants beat and kill them. Finally, the owner sends his own son, thinking, "They will respect my son." But greed blinds them. They think that by killing the heir, the inheritance will become theirs. This is the ultimate spiritual mistake. We do not own our lives, our talents, our families, or our wealth. Everything we have is a gift on loan from God. When we try to kick God out of His own vineyard—excluding Him from our choices, our finances, or our moral lives—we replicate the sin of the wicked tenants. Jesus warns that the vineyard will be taken away and given to a people who will produce its fruit.
Today, the vineyard has been entrusted to us—the Church. We are the modern tenants. God has not abandoned His vineyard; He has simply trusted us to tend it until He returns.

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."

FIRST SATURDAYS' DEVOTION – We Have First Saturday devotion to the Immaculate Mary at St Bernard's Church at 10am.

OTHER NEWS

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

Open Morning - Friday 16th October 2026 – 9.15am until 10.15am
Open Morning - Monday 19th October 2026 - 9.15am until 10.15am

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

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/

Adoremus National Eucharistic Congress will take place in London this year on **Saturday 10 October**

Parishioners are invited to join the **Procession of the Blessed Sacrament** from Southwark Cathedral, along the South Bank of the Thames, to Westminster Cathedral. **The procession will begin at 3pm** and it would be wonderful for as many as possible to join us for this public witness to our faith.

The Procession will finish at 5pm with Solemn Benediction at Westminster Cathedral presided over by Bishop Jim Curry. This will be followed by **Mass at 6 pm celebrated by Bishop Gerard Bradley,** Auxiliary Bishop of Southwark.

After the Mass **at 8pm, the first of three Holy Hours will begin** led by the youth ministry teams of Westminster, Southwark and CYMFed – the Catholic Youth Ministry Federation. The Holy Hours will include reflections on Eucharistic saints, prayer led by youth ministry teams and music from One Hope Project. Teenagers and Confirmation groups are especially welcome.

From **11pm** an all-night Vigil before the Blessed Sacrament begins, which will finish with Mass at 6am.

Please note that e**veryone wishing to attend the Holy Hours and all night-vigil needs to register their attendance** at: https://westminstercathedral.org.uk/adoremus/

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.