NEWS

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

11th 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: £1077.93

Thank you for your generosity and commitment.

PARISH LUNCH: This Sunday (11th October 2026) we will have our Parish bring-and-share lunch. We invite all of you to St Gabriel's hall following the 12 Noon Mass, as a way to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham and St Gabriel and the archangels, together. Come along to enjoy sharing of food and friendship. THANK YOU.

SVP CAKE SALE: During our Parish Lunch, SVP will be organising a Cake Sale. Any donation of baked goods to raise funds for those in need will be appreciated. THANK YOU.

ST GABRIEL'S MONDAY CLUB: We are having our St Gabriel's Monday club on coming Monday 12th 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.

SYCAMORE GROUP NEXT MEETING: The group will next meet on Monday 12th October 2026 at St Gabriel's Church Hall, 7pm for food and then meeting at 7.30pm. for an hour or so. Sycamore is a resource designed to help us come to ask questions about Catholic Faith. All are welcome.

WORLD MISSION DAY-SECOND COLLECTION-NEXT WEEKEND: 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*". Donations are collected at these worldwide Masses and they go, in their entirety, to support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the Church is new, young or poor, so 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 2026 at St Bernard's Church after the adoration at 11.15am. We invite all those who are interested.

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.

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.

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 2026 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

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:

Paul McCormick; Eileen Brady; Daniel Casey; Florence Inniss; Michael Hickey; John Stivala; Kathleen Mullins; Josefine Trozzo; Wally Hatton; Tom Hannessy; Prince Benjamin; Joan Reilley; Annamah Joseph; Indrani Stanislaus xxxxx.

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**.

SVP Summer Raffle 2026 - Many thanks to all that contributed by selling and purchasing tickets and promoting the raffle. The Winning Numbers are:

1 x £5000: 601018
1 x £1000: 453036
15 x £100: 504031, 595895, 478543, 609979, 580493, 509133, 520472, 582943, 539265, 535111, 510788, 540090, 457117, 450007, 458960,

THIS SUNDAY Reflection: GOD'S WEDDING FEAST OF JOY

"Where can I find God?"
"He's right in front of you."
"Then why do I fail to see him?"
"Why does the drunkard fail to see his home?"
Later the Master said, "Find out what it is that makes you drunk. To see you must be sober."
One Minute Wisdom—Tony de Mello

First reading (Isaiah 25:6-10a): The prophet Isaiah offers a breath-taking vision of the ultimate destination of our faith: a heavenly feast on the mountain. God promises to prepare a banquet of "rich food and choice wines" and, most profoundly, to "destroy death forever" and wipe away every tear. This paints a picture of boundless joy, comfort, and eternal life. .

Second reading (Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20): St. Paul provides the blueprint in the second reading. He writes that whether he is in want or in plenty, he has learned the secret of being content because he can do all things through Christ who strengthens him. Wearing the wedding garment means relying on God's grace to navigate the ups and downs of life with a spirit of humility, generosity, and trust.

Gospel (Matthew 22:1-14): In the Gospel, Jesus uses a parable to show us that this heavenly banquet begins here and now. The king sends out invitations to a wedding feast, but the invited guests are too busy with their own affairs to attend. When those guests refuse, the invitation is extended to everyone—good and bad alike. The doors of the kingdom are thrown wide open.

However, the story takes a jarring turn when the king spots a guest not wearing a wedding garment. This isn't about fashion; it represents a heart that has accepted the invitation but refused to be transformed. The wedding garment symbolizes the putting on of Christ—living a life of virtue, mercy, and repentance. We cannot simply show up to the banquet of God's grace and expect to remain unchanged. God invites us just as we are, but He loves us too much to let us stay that way.

Today's readings contrast the joy of salvation with the tragedy of taking God's grace for granted. True faith demands actively living out the virtues of the Gospel and putting on the garment of Christ's righteousness.

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!



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

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."

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:

OCTOBER CANDLELIT PROCESSION at the Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden, Sunday 18th October 2026 at 7pm. Join Archbishop Richard, Pilgrims, and the Community of Allen Hall Seminary, as we ask Our Lady's prayers for the gift of Priests for the Church, and for the Protection of London.
The Shrine is situated at 1 Nicoll Road, London NW10 9AX. Bakerloo Line & Overground (Mildmay Line) to Willesden Junction.
Buses 18,187,206,220,226,228,260,266 & 487 all pass close by.

A DAY WITH MARY - A Day With Mary is taking place at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 7th November 2026 (9.45am to 5.00pm). The Most Reverend Richard Moth, Archbishop of Westminster will be the Celebrant & Preacher at 10.30am Cathedral Mass on that day. Further information is available at https://www.adaywithmary.org/

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/

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 have been experiencing problems with the contactless payment console at St Bernard's. We have raised this issue with the relevant departments and we expect to have it resolved soon. **Thank you for your patience.**

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.