NEWS

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

18th 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: £1007.25

Thank you for your generosity and commitment.

PARISH LUNCH: THANKS to all our volunteers and musicians and all the participants. We had a great lunch well organised. Please mark the date for our next parish lunch will be 22nd November 2026 to celebrate the feast of CHRIST THE KING. We will have talents show of our parish children with their poem, singing and dancing.

WORLD MISSION DAY-SECOND COLLECTION-THIS 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. We will have a second collection today.

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…

ST GABRIEL'S MONDAY CLUB: We are having our St Gabriel's Monday club on coming Monday 19th October 2026 at St Gabriel's Church hall from 1pm to 3pm for the elderly of the parish. Community Connex will conduct quiz and other activities. Come and join us in friendship.

HOLY CONFIRMATION SESSION: All registered confirmation candidates will have their session on Monday 19th October 2026 from 7pm to 8pm at St Gabriel's Church Hall. Please bring baptism certificate and filled forms.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION FIRST MEETING: All those children who are registered will come for 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.

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.

SVP TABLE TOP SALE & SENIOR CHRISTMAS PARTY: Our SVP will organize TABLE TOP SALE on the weekend of 24/25 October at St Gabriel's and 1st November at St Bernards to raise funds for SVP. They will organize the Christmas party for the elderly on Saturday 5th December 2026 from 3pm to 5pm. All those who are interested to attend, please call the parish office to register your name.

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.

BAPTISM CLASS:
Our next baptism class will be on 25th October at 3pm at St Bernard's Church Hall.

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

William Dalton (RIP): William Dalton was one of our parishioners who died on Monday 7th September 2026. The funeral service will be on Tuesday, 20th October 2026 at St Bernard's Church at 11.30pm. Please include him in your prayers.

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

Mary Griffin; Susan Lumeh; P.J. Casey; Peter McGovern; Ann-Marie Brennan; Americo Rodrigues; Melanie Cornish; Joanna Farr;Jacqueline Garry; Janice Abbot; Charmaine De Rose Taylor; Anna De Souza; John Joseph Monahan; Margaret O'Malley; Esther Doheny; Josef Nyary; Jason Mistry; Dam Thonson; Fr Duncan Adamson; Raksha Shah; Adela Sibal; Amanda Tyson; Danishay Georigo Tyson; Patrick Horan; Jorad Raban.

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**.

THIS SUNDAY Reflection: WE ARE THE IMAGE OF GOD

"Every word, every image used for God is a distortion more than a description."
"Then how does one speak of God?"
"Through silence."
"Why then do you speak in words?"
At that the Master laughed uproariously. He said. "When I speak, you mustn't listen to the words, my dear. Listen to the silence."

One Minute Wisdom—Tony de Mello

First reading (Isaiah 45:1,4-6): The prophet speaks to a people who feel crushed by foreign empires. Empires rise and fall, presidents and Caesars come and go, but God remains on the throne. When life feels out of control or dominated by secular powers, Isaiah reminds us: "I am the Lord, and there is no other." We do not need to panic or despair; history is still safely in God's hands.

Second reading (1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b): Saint Paul praises the Thessalonians for their "work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope." He reminds them that they are chosen and loved by God. When we recognize that we bear God's image, our faith ceases to be a mere intellectual concept or an obligation. It becomes alive. It manifests as a faith that works, a love that labours for others, and a hope that remains steadfast.

Gospel (Matthew 22:15-21): In the Gospel, When Jesus looks at the denarius and asks, "Whose image is this and whose title?" the crowd answers, "Caesar's." Caesar's image is stamped on the metal, so give it back to him. But ask US deeper question: *Whose image is stamped on you?* Paying your civic duties (taxes, being a good neighbour, working for justice) is part of living in the world. However, your heart, your soul, your worship, and your ultimate allegiance belong completely to God.
Today's reading tells us that we do not belong to the passing trends of this world. We belong to the living God. Let us return to the world the anxieties and idols that belong to it, and freely give to God what is already His: our whole hearts, our trust, and our lives.

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,



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 Event for prospective students and parents who are looking for Year 7 places in September 2027.
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.