NEWS
Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time **25th 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: £979.58
WORLD MISSION SUNDAY: £768.76
Thank you for your generosity and commitment.

THANK YOU for celebrating WORLD MISSION SUNDAY. Thank you for your generosity toward World Mission appeal. Your prayers and support will help churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the Church is new, young or poor. Thank you.

TABLE TOP SALE ON THIS WEEKEND: 24/25 OCTOBER: Our SVP will organize TABLE TOP SALE on this weekend of 24/25 October at St Gabriel's and 1st November at St Bernard's to raise funds for SVP. If anyone willing to donate any new or items in good conditions for Table top sale could please leave things at the parish office.

ALTAR SERVICE TRAINING: The most important characteristic for an altar server is the ability to be invisible. There will be a training for all altar servers on this Saturday 24th October 2026 and next Saturday 31st October at St Bernard's Church after the adoration at 11.15am. We invite all those who are interested.

ST GABRIEL'S MONDAY CLUB: We are having our St Gabriel's Monday club on coming Monday 26th October 2026 at St Gabriel's Church hall from 1pm to 3pm for the elderly of the parish. Come and join us in friendship.

PARIS MASS BOOK: On November 29th 2026, the new liturgical year begins with the First Sunday of Advent. We will begin year B of the Liturgy and will be using the new Parish Mass book (year B, volume1)! We invite your contributions towards the 200 books we are buying for both Churches. We will have a second collection on next weekend 31/01November. Thank you for your generosity.

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS: SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER: is All Saints' Day and, of course for us a ***Holy Day of Obligation***. The times of Mass that day in the parish will be the usual for Sundays.

CELEBRATE THE SAINTS, NOT "*HALLOWEEN*": "The Eve of All Hallows" on 31st October should be for us a time of preparation for the great Feast Day. It is increasingly important that Catholics DO NOT get involved in "Halloween" activities, which celebrate the opposite. Put a candle and a holy picture in your window. Have a kids party and dress up as your patron saints. Celebrate our faith. Don't aimlessly follow the herd, but "Be in the world, not of the world" to paraphrase the Gospels and St Paul, for "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14).

COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED: MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER:
Mass for All Souls' Day will be offered at 10.00am at St Gabriel's.

NOVEMBER: MONTH OF HOLY SOULS: The Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day) on Monday 2 November will commence the month of prayer for the Holy Souls. You are invited to take an envelope from the back of church in which you can put a list of your deceased family and friends and enclose any offering you can make for the offering of Mass. You can return this envelope to either the Parish Office, the Presbytery, or to one of the boxes kept by the altar during November. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered throughout November for the repose of the souls of those so remembered.

PARISH LUNCH: Here's the new plan to find a way to do a Parish bring-and-share lunch: Mark the date **Sunday November 22nd 2026**. The Sunday is the Christ the King feast to end the liturgical year which seems like a good date to have a gathering. We will have our Youth Talents' SHOW encouraging our young ones to play song, poem, drama or any talents on stage. Please contact the Parish Office now to register your children's interest. THANK YOU.

SVP SENIOR CHRISTMAS PARTY: Our SVP 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.

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 Bernard's 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.

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.

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

Rose McKee; John Higginbottom; Marie Lally; Mary Donnelly; Patrick Cogan; Teresa O'Neill; John Ring; Norman Hussey; Antonino Perez; Domingo Montero; Denise Wright; Andrea Sibal; Domingo Montero.

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

"What shall I do to love my neighbour?" "Stop hating yourself."
The disciple pondered those words long and seriously and came back to say, "But I love myself too much, for I am selfish and self-centred. How do I get rid of that?"
"Be friendly to yourself and your self will be contented and it will set you free to love your neighbour."

One Minute Wisdom—Tony de Mello

First reading (Exodus 22:21-27): The First Reading grounds this abstract concept of love into raw, daily reality. God does not define love through lofty emotions; He defines it by how we treat the most exposed members of our communities: the stranger, the widow, the orphan, and the poor debtor. Our love for God is measured exactly by how we treat those who can offer us absolutely nothing in return. True worship is found not just in the temple, but in how we handle our power, our resources, and our privileges in relation to the weak.

Second reading (1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10): St. Paul commends the Thessalonians for putting this law of love into immediate, vibrant action. They received the Gospel during a time of intense trial and affliction, yet they welcomed it with "joy inspired by the Holy Spirit." Because their hearts were transformed, they naturally became models for others. Paul notes that their faith echoed far beyond their own borders.

Gospel (Matthew 22:34-40): When the Pharisee tests Jesus in the Gospel, asking which commandment is the greatest, he provides a radical distillation. He binds Deuteronomy 6:5 (loving God with all our heart, soul, and mind) to Leviticus 19:18 (loving our neighbour as ourselves), declaring that the entire Law and the Prophets hang on these two pegs. .Jesus' response in the Gospel highlights three targets for our love: God, neighbour, and self. True self-love means accepting ourselves as flawed but deeply, unconditionally loved by God.
The entire message of Sacred Scripture is anchored on a single, inseparable reality: we cannot truly love the God we cannot see if we fail to love the neighbour we can see.

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

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.

CAFOD schools' volunteers wanted:

Could you inspire the next generation and gain valuable experience of presenting to young people at the same time? CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, is looking for volunteers to visit local schools to present assemblies and workshops. Full training and support provided. See cafod.org.uk/Volunteer for more information or contact Westminster's CAFOD representative Chris Driscoll at cdriscoll@cafod.org,uk or call 07776 493162

VACANCIES: WESTMINSTER DIOCESE HUMAN RESOURCES:

For further details, please visit https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/

Job Title	Department Name	Closing date
Parish Bookkeeper	Northwood and Carpenders Park	30/10/2026
Site Supervisor	St Albans and St Stephens	11/11/2026
Signs of Hope Manager	Caritas Hope	12/11/2026
Specialist Support Worker, Modern Slavery	Bakhita House	13/11/2026

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 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.