NEWS

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS 1 November 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: £893.32

Thank you for your generosity and commitment.

ALTAR SERVICE TRAINING: There will be a training for all altar servers on THIS Saturday 31st October at St Bernard's Church after the adoration at 11.15am. We invite all those who are interested.

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).

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 new Parish Mass book (Volume1). We invite your contributions towards the 200 books we are buying for both

Churches. We will have a second collection on THIS weekend 31/01November. Thank you for your generosity.

TABLE TOP SALE ON THIS WEEKEND: Our SVP will organize TABLE TOP SALE on this **Sunday, 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.

COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED: MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER: Mass for All Souls' Day will be offered at 10.00am at St Gabriel's and 7.30pm at St Bernard's Church.

CONFIRMATION CHILDREN SESSION: All confirmation children will have their session on Monday 2nd November 2024 from 7pm to 8pm at St Gabriel's Church Hall. Children please bring your books and bible.

ST GABRIEL'S MONDAY CLUB: We are having our St Gabriel's Monday club on coming Monday 2nd November 2026 at St Gabriel's Church hall from 1pm to 3pm for the elderly of the parish. Come and join us in friendship. On Saturday November 7th a music concert is organised by Community Connex.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION SESSION FOR CHILDREN: All registered First Holy Communion children will have a session on Saturday 7th November 2026 from 10am to 11am at St Gabriel's Church Hall.

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.

BLESSING OF GRAVES: The information we have is as follows:
Greenford Cemetery,1st November at 3pm. Carpenters Park Cemetery, 8th November at 1:30pm. Harrow Weald Cemetery (Clamp Hill), 8th November at 2.30pm. Northwood Cemetery 14 November at 2pm. Alperton Cemetery, 28th November at 12 noon. Pinner New Cemetery, 28 November at 2pm.

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.

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.

THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR NOVEMBER:

For the Proper Use of Wealth- Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be at the service of the common good and in solidarity with those who have less

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

Terezinha Monteiro; Florence Weekly; Patrick Lavin; Joseph Vincent Braganza; Tony Griffin; Mary Madden; Jack Conway; Angie Broughton; Adrian Cook; Mary Quinn; Fintan McManamon; Anna Byrne; Suella Belinda Lobo; Nicola Margaret Smith; Bernard Furzer; Antonio Perez; Domingo Monteiro; Josephine Soosa.

THIS SUNDAY Reflection: WE ARE THE IMAGE OF GOD

I used to be deaf.
I would see people stand up and go through strange gyrations.
They called it dancing.
To me it looked absurd—until one day I heard the music!
I fail to understand why saints—and lovers—behave the way they do. So I'm waiting for my heart to come alive.

Song of the Bird—Tony de Mello

First reading (Revelation 7:2-4,9-14): In the first reading, St John is granted a breathtaking glimpse into eternity. He sees "*a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages.*" This is the Communion of Saints. John tells us they are the ones who "have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." They did not live lives free of pain. They endured "the great ordeal," yet they allowed God's grace to transform their suffering into love.

Second reading (1 John 3:1-3): St John's first letter reminds us who we are while we journey. He writes with sheer wonder: "*See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are*." Holiness does not begin when we die; it begins at Baptism. We do not need to earn God's love to become His children; we are already His children, and because we are loved, we learn to live like Him.

Gospel (Matthew 5:1-12a): The Beatitudes are Christ's self-portrait, and they turn the world's logic completely upside down. The world values power; pursues endless consumption; avoids pain at all costs; and demands retribution, where as Jesus says Blessed are the meek; the poor in spirit; those who mourn; and the merciful. The Beatitudes are not impossible rules meant to make us feel guilty. They are the traits of true freedom. The Beatitudes allows us to see God's presence in our lives and rely entirely on God.
We often treat holiness like a distant museum piece, assuming saints are flawless heroes born with halos. But the Liturgy of the Word shatters this illusion, showing us that sanctity is not a prize for a select few, but a roadmap intended for all of us.

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!



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

MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS - The Friends of Westminster Cathedral are inviting everyone on Wednesday 4 November at 6.30pm to Westminster Cathedral Hall, for a talk by Fr Hugh MacKenzie on *Magnifica Humanitas*. The talk will explore Pope Leo's reflections on the distinction between human and artificial intelligence, and what the rapid development of AI means for our understanding of humanity, morality and faith. As AI increasingly shapes our studies, working lives and relationships, this promises to be a fascinating and timely discussion. Drawing on Pope Leo's teaching, Fr Hugh will consider what makes human intelligence unique, why our God-given dignity cannot be reduced to data and algorithms, and the dangers of allowing technology to take the place of human judgement, authentic relationships or spiritual fulfilment. For further details and tickets visit https://westminstercathedral.org.uk/news-events/

Volunteering Opportunity for Young Catholics (18–34)
Caritas Westminster, in partnership with the Irish Chaplaincy and Anna Chaplaincy, is offering free training in prayerful accompaniment, listening, and pastoral and spiritual care. The programme includes four sessions (two online and two in person), preparing volunteers to visit older people in care homes, offering companionship and support.
No previous experience or Irish background is required. A wonderful opportunity to put your faith into action and make a difference!
Please register your interest by Friday 6th November. The programme is planned to begin later in November, and those who register will be contacted directly with further details, including training dates.
To register your interest, please click here - *forms.cloud.microsoft/e/mpyr8gYhSr*
For more information, *please email cianofarrell@rcdow.org.uk*

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/

Ghostly Lantern Show - St John Fisher, North Harrow

Saturday 28th November 7.30pm in St John Fisher Parish Centre, 80 Imperial Close HA2 7LW – Ghostly Lantern Show with Kevin Turley – Come in from the Dark – an evening of the extraordinary hidden within the ordinary. Stories of those who lived, loved, struggled, failed hoped and dared again. Admission free, donations are welcome; a retiring collection will be taken.

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
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.