

**PARISH OF ST CHARLES BORROMEO
8 OGLE STREET, LONDON. W1W 6HS**

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Church open: **Mon to Fri 8:00am to 6pm**
Confessions: **At midday before 12:30 Mass.**
Masses: **Tues to Fri 12:30**
Evening Mass Thursdays 6pm.
Sat 8:15 pm & Sun 9am & 11am.



SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 2025



'Do whatever he tells you.' (John 2:5).

Preparation for Married Life Starts at 8pm on Thursday 30th January. The course consists of 8 sessions lasting approximately one hour each Thursday evening and finishes with a day together on Saturday 29th March. It is free and open to all but we ask anyone wishing to attend to please email the parish to register.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18- 25 January – the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul. As we celebrate 1,700 years since the Council of Nicaea, the worship for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has at its heart, the Nicene Creed. To find out more you are welcome to join the Annual General Meeting of Churches Together in Westminster on Monday, 20th January 2025 at St Saviour's Church, St George's Square, Pimlico, SW1V 3QW. The evening will begin at 5.30pm with Evening Prayer, followed by the meeting at 6pm, refreshments around 6:30pm and a talk about music in prisons at 7pm.

Mass for the Sick at the Cathedral at 2pm on Saturday 8th of February with Cardinal Vincent Nichols, during which Anointing of the Sick will be offered. Please write an email to the parish if you want us to book you a place.

Mass Schedule

Sat 18th Jan	8:15pm Catechumenate
Sun 19th Jan	9am Pro Populo.
2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	11am Oblak Family
Mon 20th Jan	NO MASS
Tues 21st Jan	12:30 Elizabeth Kavanagh's Intentions
St Agnes	
Wed 22nd Jan	12:30 Carole Grima RIP
Thu 23rd Jan	12:30 Mary Egan's Int.
St Francis of Sales	6:00 pm Carole Grima
Fri 24rd Jan	12:30 Private Intentions
Sat 25th Jan	8:15pm Catechumenate

"The measure of love is to love without measure." St Francis of Sales

Next Retrouvaille to help marriages on Zoom **27 Feb to 2 Mar.**
Email: info@retrouvaille.org.uk Call or text 0788 7296983

"Beauty will save the world"

A talk by Dr Gabriele Finaldi, director of the National Gallery
Here at St Charles Borromeo, Ogle Street

Monday 17th February
At 7:00pm

Entrance to this talk is free but in order to ensure there is enough space for all we ask those wishing to attend to please book their place at:

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/oglestreet/events/beauty-will-save-the-world/>



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



The image above portrays the First Christian Ecumenical Council, held in Nicaea, in 325 AD. This year we celebrate its 1,700th anniversary. In the centre is Jesus with rent clothes. St Peter of Alexandria asks the Saviour—depicted as a child—: ‘Why are your garments torn?’. And Jesus answers: ‘Arius has torn my garment which is the Church’. Arius is depicted wearing a turban. He is the only one without a halo. Arius denied the divinity of Christ. His teachings were condemned and a Creed was formulated. The Nicene Creed is accepted by most Christian churches worldwide, across Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Protestant, and Anglican traditions.

Beloved,

Unity in marriage, in families, in parishes, in the Church, among Churches and nations, in the world, is and can only be a gift of God.

Apart from God, we can only manage to create ‘external conformity’. Unity which is born of selfishness, coercion, fear, deception or manipulation: a false unity that cannot last, that sooner or later crumbles.

In the 1940’s, when war had destroyed the aspirations of a handful of young girls who gathered to pray, Chiara Lubich, their leader, asked them: “Is there an ideal that does not die, that no bombs can destroy, an ideal we can give our whole selves to? Yes, there is. It is God.”

This gave birth to a new spirituality of unity, known as the Focolare Movement.

We can become one with God and in God through love because He is love.

But Love is not an emotion. ‘Love—says Chiara— is Jesus crucified’.

Love is willing the good of the other to the extent of renouncing one’s own good. This was consummated to the uttermost degree by Christ abandoned on the cross: he renounced his perception of unity with the Father, so that all, —no matter how distant, how divided, how disappointed, how broken, how sinful, how sad, how sick— could be one in Him.

This week: out of love, renounce some of your “good” to listen to your wife or husband, to play with your children, to talk to your neighbour, to hear the story of a poor person, to visit the sick, to call your estranged relatives, to forgive an offender and this week, most importantly,—to pray for Christian Unity!

To the degree that this comes out of love, out of a sincere desire to do good to another person, this act of renunciation will bear fruit, it will last, it will help you to give yourself to the only ideal that does not die, that no bombs can destroy, the only ideal worth giving our whole selves to.

Fr Oscar