



Edition 02

Autumn2 2023

Dear Parishioners,

The autumn has been busy and moving fast. We started back in September with our Family Fun Day and soon we will be preparing for Christmas! As you can read, Coffee/Tea morning is a big success and a great time to be with friends. The Alpha course is nearly finished and I hope the comments will encourage you to join up next time round. We are also continuing to plan different events for our monthly Youth Group including a few trips. More about that next time.

As we approach the season of giving, I've included some ideas overleaf, on how we can help others – both near and far.

If you have any ideas or would like to know more, please contact me on 020 8451 4677
I would love to hear from you.

And finally, to quote St Teresa of Calcutta,
"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you."

I look forward to receiving your donations for the foodbank (see Advent Giving) and spreading our goodwill to others.

Wishing you a blessed Advent season filled with peace, love and anticipation.

God bless, *Maria Nowicka*
Parish Outreach Worker

COFFEE/TEA MORNING

Available after morning Mass on Tuesdays. Why not come and join us? This is what the 'regulars' say:

Very good for the community to have a chat in the mornings. (Breda)

Very nice! Meet with friends for a chat. (Margaret & Phil)

Lovely. Everything is perfect! (Clare)

A sense of togetherness and Christian unity. (Joseph)



ALPHA

One of the highlights of the Alpha Course is the Away-Day which is centred around The Holy Spirit. The Dominican Sisters are wonderful hosts and the chapel – an oasis of calm. Here are some thoughts from the participants...

"So worthwhile...away from the ordinary.

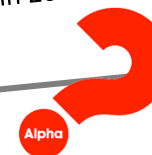
Inspiring. Lovely to be around other Christians and hear their point of view." Andrea

"The videos are the best bit with real life stories that you can relate to." Keith

"Very interesting course. I love it! Learning much more now than I did years ago." Gillian

"I will be very sad when it ends." Jan

Curious? We will be running Alpha again in 2024.
Look out for the posters!



Don't forget our local **St Vincent's** charity shop at 62 High Road. All donations welcome and support their amazing work tackling poverty.



SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Next weekend marks the start of **Advent** when we prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ. However, with the cost-of-living crisis, many in our communities are facing difficulties. The Advent Giving Calendar gives us an opportunity to do something practical and think about those who might need some extra support this Christmas.

At St Mary Magdalen, we have chosen to support the **foodbank** at **Newman Catholic College**. Each day, the calendar suggests items to purchase, and we ask that you bring your contributions to the church during your regular weekend Mass. There will be a container at the back for your collections.

Thank you for support.

There are also some large Calendars available on the back table.

SUPPORTING OUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY

CAFOD'S World Gifts help people from around the world who are facing harsh difficulties. £5 helps plant a vegetable garden or provide clean water. There are many other life-changing gifts too. Brochures are available at the back of the church or go to: <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>



WORLD GIFTS 2023-24

THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS GIVING

2 FREE coasters when you spend £50 or more

NEW GIFTS INSIDE!
Each World Gift is a real example of CAFOD's work. Find your perfect, waste-free Christmas gifts inside.

CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

ORDER BY 14 DECEMBER
FREE DELIVERY FOR CHRISTMAS

“From people living on the front lines of the climate crisis, through refugees fleeing conflict, to families who live on one meal a day – all gifts help real people and make a massive positive difference!”



Advent Giving Calendar Caritas Westminster

1 Rice

2 Pasta

3 Shampoo

4 Cooking oil

5 Cereal

6 Tinned sweet corn

7 Nappies

8 Dried herbs or spices

9 Cleaning product

10 Tea and coffee

11 Detergent

12 Lentils or beans

13 Long life milk

14 Deodorant

15 Biscuits

16 Tinned fruit or pudding

17 Sanitary products

18 Nut butter or jam

19 Sugar or honey

20 Shower gel or soap

21 Tinned meat or fish

22 Cooking sauce or condiment

23 Chocolate

24 Something festive

Download the calendar here →

SCAN ME