



Dear parishioners,

As the new term gets underway, we again bring you thoughts and updates from Holy Ghost

1. Feast of Our Lady's Birthday

When we are small, birthdays are always very exciting – it seems then a good thing to be another year older. However, with increasing age, birthdays can become a reminder of mortality! In any case, birthdays are never just a matter for the person concerned – they are also an opportunity for celebration for all that person's friends and family, as they celebrate the gift of life, and their gratitude for the one they love.

This coming week we will celebrate Our Lady's Birthday - The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on September 8th (in the picture above we see Mary as a young girl, entering the Temple in Jerusalem). This feast is an opportunity for the whole Church – Mary's 'friends and family' – to celebrate, and to give thanks for her role in the history of salvation – the one who brought into the world Jesus Christ, who is Himself the Way, the Truth and the Life.

2. Masses and opportunity for prayer

As you will all no doubt be aware by now, our Sunday Masses take place at 5.30 (Saturday), 9.30, 11.30 and 6.00 Sunday. There is Mass each weekday at 9.30, and on Saturdays at 10.00

The church will also be open for private prayer from Monday – Friday, 8.30 till 9.30 am. If you come to church at this time, please help us (and everyone else) by cleaning any surface you touch (especially the benches and kneelers) before leaving. Cleaning materials are at the back of church, clearly displayed, and there is a bin for used cleaning rags at the back of the Lady Chapel. If we all do our bit, we can keep the church as a safe environment for everyone.

3. Parish Office

Valerie, our parish secretary, returns to work this week, after being on furlough during lockdown. HOWEVER, she will be working from home, and will not be in the Parish Office. If you wish to contact her, please email balham@rcaos.org.uk. It is better to email, rather than phone, as we cannot guarantee when phone messages will be picked up.

4. Help with stewarding on Sunday

Please remember that we need help with stewarding at our Masses on Sunday. Without the help of the stewards, we will not be able to function.

You can volunteer to help using Doodle:

<https://doodle.com/poll/8kacvqsc8nasine>

If you have trouble using the Doodle, or have any other questions, you can email Monse and Sara at this address –

holyghostvolunteers@gmail.com

As I have said before, during this COVID emergency, the parish depends on YOUR help if it is to survive and flourish. So, if you can volunteer, please don't hesitate to do so.

With our prayers and best wishes,

Fr Richard and Fr Giovanni