



Dear parishioners,

Some more news and updates from Holy Ghost.

1. November – the month of the Holy Souls

We will soon begin the month of November – a month of prayer and remembrance. In particular, we pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. It is a duty to pray for our loved ones who have departed this life – and through our prayers, especially at Holy Mass, we can help them on their final journey to heaven.

Envelopes are now available in the church porch, in which you can place a list of your dear departed, together with a Mass offering for the Holy Souls. THESE ENVELOPES MUST BE POSTED INTO THE LETTERBOX OF THE PARISH OFFICE, 27 NIGHTINGALE SQUARE. These names will later be placed beneath the altar, and remembered at all Masses celebrated here during November.

2. Help needed for November

Once again, we're appealing for people to act as stewards for Sunday Mass – this time for November.

We are truly grateful to Monse, Sara and all those who are helping to make our Masses possible.

You can sign up at the 'Doodle' below –

<https://doodle.com/poll/t8ypkfkniag859zk>

If you have questions, or difficulty in using the Doodle, you can also email Monse and Sara at this address:

holyghostvolunteers@gamil.com

Thanks again for your help and support in these challenging times.

3. Gift Aid boxes and Standing Orders

Quite a number of people have asked about getting their new Gift Aid boxes (we were unable to do our usual distribution weekends, due to the lockdown).

There are two ways to let us know if you need new boxes:

- a) Email Denis Cross, our Gift Aid Co-ordinator at balhamgac@rcaos.org.uk
- b) Pick up a form from the back of church, complete and drop it into the letterbox of the Parish Office (27 Nightingale Square)

If you are a taxpayer, but not yet a member of the parish's Gift Aid scheme, and would like to join, you can also email your details to Denis, or use one of the same forms as above.

PLEASE NOTE: as we don't know when (or if?) we will be able to pass around the collection baskets in the old way, we do urge everyone who can to move to online giving, via standing order wherever possible. Once again, Denis can give advice on how to do this. Setting up a standing order is certainly the safest, as well as most efficient way of supporting your parish financially.

We are also investigating possibilities for 'contactless' giving in church, and more will follow on that very soon.

4. Stephen Rogan, John Abugenze, Bridey Dillon RIP

We were very sorry to hear that Stephen Rogan, a parishioner of very long standing, had recently passed away. His Requiem Mass will take place at Holy Ghost on Monday 26th October at 12.00 noon. Due to COVID restrictions, attendance is strictly limited to family guests only – however, the Mass will be live streamed so that others can take part.

We were also sorry to hear of the passing of John Abugenze and Bridey Dillon, two other long-standing parishioners. We don't yet have details of their funerals, but hope to do so soon.

Please keep them all in your prayers – and all those who mourn them. *Requiescant in pace.*

5. News from our SVP (Society of St Vincent de Paul)

Holy Ghost's local SVP (St. Vincent de Paul) group continues to meet regularly. We would like to take the opportunity during SVP Awareness Week to remind you of the various ways we are here to help. Due to the Covid-19 situation, we are unable to visit people's homes, however we can continue to help with: food shopping and errands, having phone conversations with those living alone, and helping new parishioners to settle into the community. We provide support for a variety of concerns, so contact us with any suggestions and we will be happy to either help ourselves or point you in the right direction to more specific support.

We are also providing extra financial and physical support to other local charities, such as Ace of Clubs. With that in mind, we are holding a Plant and Christmas Card Sale on Sunday 1st November. There will be a variety of plants and Christmas cards to choose from for a donation of your choice (donations will be placed in a money box to ensure no hand-to-hand contact and proper social distancing can take place).

If you are interested in the work of SVP, then please follow the link to the general website <https://www.svp.org.uk>

If you are interested in joining the local conference, then please contact the Parish Office: balham@rcaos.org.uk.

6. First Holy Communion, Confirmation 2021

A reminder that we are now inviting registers of interest for First Holy Communion and Confirmation classes in 2021. For more details, go to our website (www.hgbalham.com), look under 'News and Events', and then under 'Parish Updates'. Click on the box marked 'Sacramental Preparation' for full details – please be sure to read the information carefully, and to carry out the instructions as requested.

With best wishes and every blessing,

Fr Richard and Fr Giovanni