



1. Next Sunday (25th April) is the **World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life**. As members of the Church, we are encouraged to pray earnestly for an increase in priestly and religious vocations. Next week, there will be a collection in support of the Priest Training Fund, which pays for the formation of Southwark Seminarians and Deacons and the good work of our vocations team.

Please be generous in supporting this appeal. Your gifts will support the 7 men currently in formation to the Priesthood for our Diocese. There will be envelopes available in the church which can be used to Gift Aid your donation. You can also donate online via www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/vocations.htm, or via telephone on 020 7960 2504 (office hours Monday – Friday).

Parishioners at Holy Ghost will notice that the Gift Aid envelopes for this special appeal feature **our own Father Giovanni!** This is a reminder that we are very blessed to have a newly ordained young priest in our parish – but also a reminder that our prayers and practical support are necessary if we are to have priests in the future. Every parish needs to be a place which actively seeks to foster and encourage priestly vocations in our own families – let us do our best to make Holy Ghost just such a parish.

2. We are continuing with our support of our local parish and community, and on Sunday 18 April, the **'Friends of the Holy Ghost'** would like to support the charity "Little Village"

through collecting donations for them. Little Village is a like a food bank, but for clothes, toys and equipment for babies and children up to the age of 5. Since Little Village started in 2016, they have supported over 11,000 children and in 2020 alone they have supported 7000 children, this is the highest number they have ever supported in a single year. We would like to help Little Village to continue to support those families in need with this donation drive.

The items that we can accept on their behalf, on Sunday 18 April, can be found on Little Village's latest wish list, click [here](#) for details of the specific items needed or visit the website on the following link. <https://littlevillagehq.org/donate-stuff/>. Any questions in regards to the donation drive please don't hesitate to contact us at hgbalhamvolunteers@gmail.com

3. Please don't forget that we still need your help with stewarding in church. Our churches are permitted by law to open and hold services during the lockdown, but they need to be safe places. **Our very special gratitude goes out to our stewards**, whose work is now more important than ever. If you value our open churches, and the ability to come to Mass, please do consider volunteering as a steward – we need your help.

We are now looking for stewards to help with our April Masses – please follow the link below:

<https://doodle.com/poll/b2zmrays3tuvhh6z>

4. In 2020 our Holy Ghost parish raised £2,083 through our red boxes and donations to *Missio* and the Mill Hill missionaries. Thank you! Communities around the world are so grateful that people here are supporting them through prayer and generous donations. The missionaries and the communities they serve are living in such difficult circumstances, made even harder by Covid-19. They have asked us to pass on their thanks and tell us that they pray for us all. You can find out more at missio.org.uk.

With our prayers and best wishes for the Easter season,

Fr Richard and Fr Giovanni