



1. **'Sea Sunday'**. This Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> July we have a retiring a collection for the 'Apostleship of the Sea', a Catholic charity offering spiritual and material aid to those who work at sea. As we were reminded in the early days of the pandemic, with shortages of food and long queues at the supermarket, we are an island nation which depends very much on maritime trade – 90% of the goods entering the UK arrive here by ship. But seafarers often work long hours, in poor conditions, far away from family and loved ones. By supporting the Apostleship of the Sea, we show our gratitude for all they do. If you would like to Gift Aid your donation – which we encourage you to do if possible – there are envelopes available in the church porch which you can use.
2. **Mary's Meals**. On the weekend of 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> July, Mary's Meals speakers will be talking about the work of this rapidly growing charity, which feeds primary school aged children in poor countries. Food is normally provided in school but with the pandemic, school is no longer possible so the food is being distributed from local feeding centres. This is extremely important at present as otherwise the pandemic would also be leading to increased malnutrition. Overheads are very low ensuring that 93% of funds raised go directly on feeding the children. (**Please note:** Traditionally Mary's Meals have collected unwanted clothing but the pandemic has put an end to that so please don't bring any to church!).

3. **Stewards needed for July.** Once again, we are appealing for volunteers to act as stewards for Sunday Mass, **this time during the month of July**. There is a 'Doodle' where you can sign up to help, and the link is below.

<https://doodle.com/poll/wevieppkn43yqcs2>

Although life is, in some ways at least, returning to some degree of normality we do still need stewards to ensure our church is a safe environment and to make sure we can continue to offer the Mass and Sacraments to our parishioners. So, we remain extremely grateful to those who give their time and effort to help in this way, which really is of enormous benefit to our whole parish.

4. **Summer schedule** – over the summer both our priests will be taking a break, and catching up with family after a long time. Fr Richard will be away from 19<sup>th</sup> July until 14<sup>th</sup> August, and then Fr Giovanni will go back to Italy until 13<sup>th</sup> September. As, during the current pandemic, it is not possible to get overseas supply priests to help, there will be need to be a slight reduction in our weekly services during this period. **Therefore, please note – from Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July until Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September inclusive there will be no 8.00 am Sunday Mass. Likewise, there will be no Holy Hour on Sunday afternoons.** Other services continue as usual. A full schedule will resume on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September.
5. **Sacramental programmes 2021/2022.** We have had a number of enquiries about our First Holy Communion and Confirmation programmes for the coming academic year. We hope to be able to begin registration for these programmes in the autumn term – most likely in late September or October. Please keep an eye out for announcements at Mass. As yet, however, we are not taking children's names – please wait for the registration process to begin.
6. **Children's Liturgy.** We hope to be able to reconvene our Children's Liturgy (traditionally offered during Term time at the Sunday 9.30am Family Mass) starting in September, so long as COVID regulations permit. We would like to first gauge interest and are requesting parents of eligible children to complete and submit a brief registration form. Forms will be made available in the church foyer this Sunday and for the next few weeks. Please contact [HGChildrensliturgy@gmail.com](mailto:HGChildrensliturgy@gmail.com) with any questions. This will be very much a 'new start' which will need lots of help and support to get it going. We will be sending more information very soon, so please keep an eye out for further updates!

With prayers and best wishes,

Fr Richard and Fr Giovanni