



1. This weekend we celebrate the **Twenty First Sunday of Ordinary Time**. The readings can be found on page 127 of the Parish Mass Books.
2. Father Richard has now returned from his summer holiday, and Fr Giovanni has left for his break in Italy. **Therefore, our summer timetable continues – there will be no 8.00 am Mass from July 17th until September 4th inclusive – the 8.00 am Mass resumes on September 11th.** Likewise, there is no Eucharistic Adoration during this period, however, the Friday morning Adoration will continue as usual. Apart from the above, all other services continue as normal.
3. We were saddened to hear of the recent death of **Mrs. Ifeoma Oniri**, a long-standing and much-loved parishioner. Please keep Ifeoma, her family and friends in your prayers. Funeral details will be available in due course.
4. Looking ahead – considerably! – to Christmas, **we hope to hold a parish Christmas Fair again this year**, after an absence of several years caused by Covid. **There will be a meeting for everyone interested on Thursday September 15th at 8.00 pm in the Parish Centre.** More details to follow – but please note the date now!
5. In September and October this year, **the relics of St. Bernadette, the young visionary who saw Our Lady at Lourdes, will journey to England, Scotland and Wales for the very first time.** This very special, once in a lifetime event will provide an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience the special gifts and graces of Lourdes in a church or

cathedral near them. If you would like to know more, visit <https://stbernadette.org.uk/>, where you can register to visit the relics. Please note, there is no charge for registration, and all people are warmly invited to be part of this special journey.

6. **The Backpack programme** helps build human and spiritual development. It has been run in schools, parishes, youth groups, and used with addiction recovery. The backpack program is a resilience initiative. The contemporary formation provided is described by participants as a life-changing. The lessons offer skills in emotional self-regulation, with practical tools for mind and body calming. People flourish as they develop increased self-awareness and learn to instil boundaries for healthier relationships. Contemplative prayer cultivates their choice to make their relationship with God both private and personal. A virtue-based approach in contemporary society builds resilience and peace, which are more essential than ever before. **The backpack for adults is available from September in our parish!** 11 sessions of 2 hours in the Plunkett room, starting the last week of September, day and time to be confirmed.
7. **The annual 'March for Life' takes place in London on Saturday 3rd September**, praying for an end to abortion and a new respect for the sanctity of human life. There will be a Mass at St George's Cathedral, Southwark at 11.00 am, as well as morning events at the Emmanuel Centre Westminster, before the March itself begins at 2.00 pm (ending in Parliament Square at 4.30 pm). More details to follow.
8. **We wish all our parishioners a very happy summer** – for those of you who are travelling, we wish you a safe journey and we look forward very much to seeing you again in the new term.

With our prayers and best wishes,

Fr. Richard and Fr. Giovanni