



1. This weekend we celebrate the **Twenty Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time**. The readings can be found on page 140 of the Parish Mass Books.
2. Please note, **the Sunday afternoon Holy Hour has now resumed**. Eucharistic Adoration from 5.00 – 5.45, with Confessions available. Ends with Benediction at 5.45.
3. **Children's Liturgy** recommences this Sunday, September 18th at the 9.30am Family Mass. The session is run for children ages 4-8 who have not yet prepared for their First Holy Communion. Families wishing to register may complete the required form located in the church foyer. If you have already registered your child(ren) for last year's programme and your information has not changed, there is no need to re-register. The programme relies on the active participation of all parents & caretakers so please be prepared to be called upon to volunteer in some capacity.
4. **We are now registering interest for First Holy Communion classes in the new Academic Year**. Parents of children in Year 3 (or above) who do not attend either Holy Ghost School, and who would like them to receive their First Holy Communion in 2023, are invited to express their interest now (**PLEASE NOTE: parents with children at Holy Ghost School will be contacted via the school, and arrangements for them will be made separately**). To be eligible to join the First Holy Communion Classes, children must already have been attending Sunday Mass regularly at Holy Ghost, and their families must be registered with the parish. Classes will be run on Wednesday afternoons from 5.00 – 6.00 pm. To express your interest, please email Fr Richard at [richardwhinder@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:richardwhinder@rcaos.org.uk) – it is ESSENTIAL to put 'First Holy Communion 2023' in the subject box. Those expressing an interest will then be invited to a meeting where registration will take place and the course will be explained. **Please note, it is**

**not possible to attend this meeting unless you have previously registered.** Expressions of interest must be received by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October

5. **We invite older teenagers – for example those recently Confirmed – to volunteer as helpers for these First Holy Communion classes. They would work alongside the adult catechists to help the younger children as they learn more about their faith. If interested, please email Father Richard – [richardwhinder@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:richardwhinder@rcaos.org.uk)**
  
6. **We are also taking applications for the Confirmation programme 2022/2023.** The course will run from November to May and candidates will be invited to a short interview in October before the beginning of the course. To apply, please email [balhamcat@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:balhamcat@rcaos.org.uk) with 'CONFIRMATION' in the subject line, and you will receive a document with all the details you need.
  
7. **During the autumn term, we are holding a short series of formational talks** –The next talk is "How to defend the Faith without raising your voice" - led by Georgia Clarke of 'Catholic Voices'. This talk takes place on Tuesday October 11<sup>th</sup>.  
  
**PLEASE NOTE – this talk has limited numbers and it is essential to book a place if you want to attend** – book by emailing Martin Galea at [martingalea1@btinternet.com](mailto:martingalea1@btinternet.com) . The talk takes place at the Parish Centre, 27 Nightingale Square. Refreshments at 7.30 pm, talk at 8.00 pm
  
8. **We will be holding a DBS RECHECK DAY for parish volunteers on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September,** from 9.00 – 12.00 at the Parish Office (27 Nightingale Square). This is for volunteers carrying out a role which requires a DBS (safeguarding) check, such as First Holy Communion or Confirmation catechists. We hope as many of our volunteers as possible will attend on this day, which makes the process easier and quicker. PLEASE NOTE: this event is for re-checking those who already have a Diocesan DBS check – new volunteers, who have never been checked before, will have to be done on another occasion. We hope to contact eligible volunteers in person prior to 30<sup>th</sup> September, but please take this as advance notice.
  
9. We invite volunteers to act as welcomers at Mass – you can sign up using this link <https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/dJqNOrDb>
  
10. Parents hoping to have their children accepted at Catholic Schools normally need to provide a 'priests' reference form' (sometimes called a 'Certificate of Catholic Practice'), confirming their regular attendance at Sunday Mass for a period of 3 years or more. To assist the priest in making his professional judgment about a family's attendance, many parishes, including our own, have traditionally made use of 'Mass attendance Forms', which a family will fill out each week to demonstrate attendance at Mass.

During the period of the pandemic, the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales suspended the obligation to attend Sunday Mass, since for many people it was very difficult or indeed

impossible to come to church at this time. For this reason, we did not provide 'Mass attendance Forms' during this time.

However, as of Pentecost Sunday 2022 (5<sup>th</sup> June) the Sunday obligation has been restored. **Therefore, we are returning to the practice of providing 'Mass attendance forms' which will be available after every Sunday Mass as from 11<sup>th</sup> September 2022.**

**Families who will be applying for places in a Catholic school – primary, secondary or Sixth Form – in the near future should make sure they fill in a form every Sunday (or Saturday evening). Forms are available at the back of church and, once completed, should be left in the tray provided.**

11. **St Vincent de Paul Society** - Holy Ghost Conference is looking for new members to support our small team of SVP members. Our 4 members, motivated by faith, visit vulnerable or isolated people and offer them friendship and practical support. Trinity Hospice have also requested for our support but we are struggling to keep up with our aim to achieve our goal.

**There will be a meeting for anyone interested in helping the elderly and the less able on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre.** You will have the opportunity to listen to our speaker Alejandra Fong, Membership Development Officer - End of Life Companionship Project who will be speaking on how we can support the Trinity Hospice.

12. **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 begins soon!** 11 sessions of 2 hours in the Plunkett room, starting 29th September for a two-hour session from 12.00 to 2.00 pm in the Plunkett room on Thursdays. Price £140 which includes the book and the lunch for 11 sessions. Course ends on 15th December. Contact Laetitia at [laetbery@yahoo.fr](mailto:laetbery@yahoo.fr)

With our prayers and best wishes,

Fr. Richard and Fr. Giovanni



**We continue to pray for the repose of the soul of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and for the King and the Royal Family at this time of loss. PLEASE NOTE – the 9.30 Mass on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September will be a Requiem Mass for the repose of the Queen, which people may wish to attend prior to her funeral in Westminster Abbey. *Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.***