



1. This weekend we celebrate the **Twenty Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time**. The readings can be found on page 149 of the Parish Mass Books.
2. **Newly ordained priest Father Mark Wharton – who becomes the assistant priest in Bromley parish - will celebrate a First Mass with us at Holy Ghost on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October at 11.30, and will give First Blessings after Mass. It is a great joy for us to welcome a new priest to the parish. Please continue to pray for new vocations to the priesthood, which are much needed.**
3. Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October is **CAFOD Harvest Fast Day**, and there will be a retiring collection for CAFOD at all Masses this Sunday – special envelopes are available in the church porch if you wish to Gift Aid your donation.
4. Parents who need **School Reference Forms** signed for primary or secondary school transfer should drop them off at the Parish Office, 27 Nightingale Square, and Father Richard will complete them as soon as he is able – **please make sure you include contact details in case he needs to ask you any questions**. You will be informed when the documents are ready for collection. Please note – if the school has asked you to provide a 'Certificate of Catholic Practice' (CCP), you must download this from the internet, print off and complete your own details before passing it on to Fr Richard. The Parish Office does NOT provide the CCP for you.
5. **Children's Liturgy** has recommenced. 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.

6. **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
7. **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)**
8. **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.
9. **On Tuesday October 11<sup>th</sup> we welcome Georgia Clarke of ‘Catholic Voices’, who will speak on “How to defend the Faith without raising your voice”**  
  
**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) . **At the time of writing there are still a few places left.** The talk takes place at the Parish Centre, 27 Nightingale Square. Refreshments at 7.30 pm, talk at 8.00 pm
10. **The monthly recollection for women** preached by Fr Frank Calduch will take place on Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> of October at Holy Ghost Church. Timetable: 9.00 Rosary 9.30 Mass 10.00 Adoration 10.15 First meditation 10.45 Personal prayer 11.00 Second meditation 11.30 Coffee and Tea in the parish centre. The priest will be available for confessions before Mass, in between and after the meditations.
11. We invite volunteers to act as welcomers at Mass – you can sign up using this link <https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/dJqNOrDb>

**12. 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 ‘Mass attendance form’ every Sunday (or Saturday evening). Forms are available at the back of church and, once completed, should be left in the tray provided.**

13. As you will probably have noticed, **we are appealing for donations to buy new albs for our altar servers.** Unfortunately, the email that went out last week had a mistake in the parish bank details – this has now been corrected! Thank you to those who have already contributed – your generosity really is much appreciated!

With our prayers and best wishes,

Fr. Richard and Fr. Giovanni