



1. A reminder that we have resumed our twice- weekly **HOLY HOURS** – these take place on Fridays after the 9.30 Mass, from 10.00 – 11.00 am, and on Sundays before the 6.00 pm Mass (Holy Hour runs from 5.00 – 5.45 pm). During the Holy Hour the Blessed Sacrament is exposed on the altar for Adoration, making this a perfect time for quiet, personal prayer before Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist. The Holy Hours end with Benediction. A priest is also available to hear Confessions during the Holy Hour. We do encourage you to make use of these opportunities for private prayer and devotion.
2. This 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.

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 Masses during May – including ASCENSION THURSDAY which falls on Thursday 13th May, and is a Holyday of Obligation. We will have Masses at 6.45 am, 9.30 am and 8.00 pm that day. Please follow the link below:

<https://doodle.com/poll/9yx5pqu9kp9zwbmk>

4. On behalf of the **Friends of Holy Ghost volunteers and Little Village (Balham)** we wanted to take the opportunity to say THANK YOU for your generosity and help in relation to the Donation Drive conducted on behalf of Little Village last weekend (17th/18th April).

The team at Little Village also asked us to pass on their thanks for all of the fantastic donations that they are still working through and repurposing for those families who will really benefit.

Just a few quick stats...

- Bags and bags of good quality clothes
- 6 push chairs/buggies

- 4 Moses baskets
- 2 Cots
- Numerous toys / games

All of which was successfully delivered to Little Village on the evening via a convoy of volunteers' cars.

If anyone would still like to donate either clothing or cash please visit <https://littlevillagehq.org/> and follow the instructions.

Friends of Holy Ghost are continuing to support those in of our neighbourhood who may need some help and we will be in contact again soon with some further initiatives throughout the year.

With our prayers and best wishes for the Easter season,

Fr Richard and Fr Giovanni