



Dear parishioners,

As September arrives, and the new school term begins, some further updates on parish life...

1. **Children's Liturgy resumes.** The Children's Liturgy will begin again on Sunday 12th September, and then run every Sunday in term time at the 9.30 Mass. The Children's Liturgy is an opportunity for children to learn about Jesus and His Church in their own setting with age-appropriate language and explanations. Each session includes a reading and discussion of that Sunday's Gospel and a theme-reinforcing activity (colouring, craft etc). Children aged 4 – 8 (Reception class till end of Year 2) are eligible to take part. Please note that the Children's Liturgy is run entirely by volunteers and depends upon parental support for it to be possible. If your child would like to take part they need to be registered in advance. You can do this by filling in one of the forms in the church porch (and this Sunday will be the last opportunity to do this before the sessions begin on 12th September).
2. **Guidelines for Mass.** Just a quick reminder of the current guidelines which apply when attending Mass:
 - a) The use of face coverings is left to personal choice, but as elsewhere, they are encouraged in busy indoor settings
 - b) We are not yet allowed to have Holy Water in the stoups by the church doors – hopefully this will change soon. Meanwhile, those who wish to have some Holy Water at home are very welcome to collect some from the sacristy after Mass
 - c) Stewards at Mass are no longer required
 - d) Holy Communion may now be received either in the hand or on the tongue
 - e) Congregational singing is now permitted – and will resume at Holy Ghost on 12th September
3. **Hymn books and Mass books.** Since congregational singing is allowed again, we will need to bring up the hymn books from the crypt (use of shared books is also permitted now). We will also bring up the Sunday Mass Books, to allow people to follow the readings and prayers more easily. **We will be doing this after 9.30 Mass on Sunday 5th September.** If a few people can lend a hand to bring up these books, your help will be much appreciated!

4. The **8.00 am Sunday Mass** will resume on Sunday 19th September (the weekend after Fr Giovanni returns).
5. The **Sunday Holy Hour**, with Eucharistic Adoration, will resume on Sunday 3rd October, and will then continue every Sunday from 5.00 – 5.45 pm. Meanwhile, we also have a Holy Hour (during which Confessions are also available) every Friday from 10.00 am till 11.00 am
6. We plan to plan to begin registration for **First Holy Communion and Confirmation classes** later in the autumn term – please listen out for announcements at Sunday Mass. A reminder that children who wish to enrol for these sacramental programmes need to have been attending Mass in advance, and their families need to be registered members of the parish.
7. The **London Eucharistic Octave** takes place from 11th – 19th September, to coincide with the International Eucharistic Congress taking place in Budapest, Hungary, at the same time. There will be a week of special events and liturgies, culminating with a Blessed Sacrament Procession through central London on Sunday 19th September. See posters in the church porch for the full timetable of events.
8. This coming Wednesday (8th September) we celebrate the **Feast of Our Lady's Birthday**. As we celebrate the birth of Mary, the Mother of God, we ask her prayers for our parish, its school and our community, as a busy new term begins.

With prayers and best wishes,

Fr. Richard

