



1. **Children's Liturgy.** The Children's Liturgy has now resumed and will 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.
2. The **8.00 am Sunday Mass** will resume on this Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> September.
3. The **Sunday Holy Hour**, with Eucharistic Adoration, will resume on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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
4. **Holy Communion** can now be received on the hand or on the tongue, according to choice.
5. It is no longer a legal requirement for churches to participate in the government's '**track and trace**' scheme. However, if you wish to continue taking part, please use the QR code, clearly displayed in the church porch – this allows you to 'check in' using your smartphone.

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. On the weekend of 18/19<sup>th</sup> September, we will have an **update on parish finances** at all our Sunday Masses. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and generosity over the past few challenging months – and encourage you to keep it up as parish life slowly returns to normality.
8. **School Admission forms.** We have already had a few parents asking for school admission forms to be signed. As always Father Richard is very happy to help. However, given the very large number of forms we receive each year, we must ask you to follow the well-established procedure for getting your forms processed. You should drop off your forms – together with any accompanying documentation – in the post box at the Parish Office, 27 Nightingale Square. Once Father Richard has signed them, you will be contacted to collect them – we do not forward them to the schools on your behalf. If he has any questions Father Richard will contact you directly. Please note, since Mass attendance has obviously been disrupted by the pandemic, forms will be signed on the basis of Mass attendance prior to the pandemic. If you have moved to the parish in recent months, you may wish to contact your previous parish for supporting evidence. Some schools ask for a ‘Certificate of Catholic Practice’ to be signed. These must be downloaded from the internet, by the parents of the applicant, and you must fill in your own details, leaving father Richard to sign the document – the Parish Office does NOT supply these certificates. Please do not leave it to the last minute to get these forms signed! That only leads to stress (and possible disappointment) all round.
9. **Holy Ghost Primary School** shall be hosting an **OPEN DAY on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 1.15pm**. There will be a talk led by the Headteacher, Miss Lawless, and a tour of the school by the year 6 pupils. There is no need to register to attend. Please note, the event is not suitable for young children/babies.
10. **The Archbishop’s Certificate** is an online course for all in Southwark who wish to know their Catholic faith more deeply. Participants will take a two-year journey through the Church’s teaching to understand their faith in a more profound way and be able to share it with both confidence and joy. The course will commence in October 2021 and the cost will be £365 per year. Registration must be completed in advance. Further details can be found in the attached document.
11. As parents, it is not always easy to talk with your teenagers about love, relationships and sexuality. **Teen STAR** runs Courses for teenagers on these subjects and helps them to understand more about their body and emotions, to think about their relationships, to reflect upon peer and media pressure and to consider what love and sexuality are and what they mean. Courses will be run in the Holy Ghost Parish in 2020-2021 for girls 13/14 years old and for boys 15/18 years old. They have been run at the Holy Ghost in previous years

and have been very well received. For more information, please visit [www.teenstarcourses.org.uk](http://www.teenstarcourses.org.uk), contact [info.teenstaruk@gmail.com](mailto:info.teenstaruk@gmail.com) or call Anais Symington 07874909133. **There will also be a Teen STAR presentation on Monday 20th September at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre – all parents very welcome to attend.**

12. Please find attached to this newsletter a **letter from the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales**, concerning the current moves to legalise Assisted Suicide – a development which would have grave implications for the sick, the elderly and the vulnerable. Copies are also available at church. Please keep yourself informed about this important issue, and join with other Christians and people of all faiths and none, in seeking to defend the sanctity of human life.
13. The Bible can be quite intimidating, due to its size and complexity. Many Catholics long to read the Bible, but they don't know how. **The Bible Timeline Study System**, developed by Jeff Cavins, uses a phenomenal approach which actually works! It divides the whole Bible into 12 colour-coded Periods, easy to understand and memorise. In the course you will be guided through each of the 12 Periods. This way, you will clearly see how the many characters and events in Scripture are related to each other in one unified narrative, from Adam & Eve to Jesus Christ. You will grasp the Big Picture of the Bible from start to finish, the Old and New Testament, ...for life! Each live-streamed session has a time of discussion with Q&A. For more information please visit: [www.comeandsee.org](http://www.comeandsee.org)

With prayers and best wishes,

Fr. Richard and Fr. Giovanni