



1. You may well wonder why our picture this week shows a **Christmas scene!** The answer is that the parish is beginning to look ahead to Christmas and needs your help... The Covid pandemic means it will once again be impossible to hold a Christmas Fair this year but we hope to raise money and help others through '**Acts of Courage and Kindness**' that can support the community whilst raising money for the parish. We did this last year and it was a huge success. The idea is that people can take on an act of kindness (e.g., organise a collection for a food bank, do grocery shopping for elderly neighbours or bake cakes) or pledge to do something noteworthy (e.g., run a 5k to get fit) and they can then ask others to sponsor them for this, with the money raised going to Holy Ghost Church, to support its worship and community outreach projects. People can choose the act of kindness or the pledge themselves, or they can work together with others so we bring some community spirit together. Last year we also had a local restaurant business donating a portion of their takings from orders made by Holy Ghost parishioners. Last year Bee, Linda and Cristiana put a lot of work into this project and made it a great success. They are very willing to assist again, but they all have new commitments and so **we need someone else who could take on the job of co-ordinating emails and so forth to make this idea a reality.** If you could help, please speak directly to Fr Richard or Fr Giovanni – or drop us an email at the parish address – balham@rcaos.org.uk . The team from last year have lots of experience and wisdom to share, and hopefully we can make this a big success once again.
2. This Sunday will be the **Twenty Ninth Sunday of Ordinary Time.**
3. **We are now registering interest for Sacramental Programmes** (First Holy Communion and Confirmation) for the coming year. If your child wishes to take part please read the attached notes carefully, and follow the instructions provided.
4. The **Sunday Holy Hour**, with Eucharistic Adoration, has now resumed, and will continue every Sunday from 5.00 – 5.45 pm. We continue have a Holy Hour (during which Confessions are also available) every Friday from 10.00 am till 11.00 am

5. **School Admission forms.** At this time of year, we receive many 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, 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.

6. **Holy Ghost Primary School** shall be hosting an **OPEN DAY on Tuesday 9th 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.

7. Are you looking for a **comprehensive refresher course of your Catholic faith**? Are you looking for a course of Catholic instruction to help you prepare for becoming a Catholic or receiving the sacraments as an adult (such as confirmation)? If so, **Evangelium Online** delivered by Fr Marcus Holden with the Agency of Evangelisation and Catechesis is for you! The course runs on Sunday evenings from 7-8pm from now until Easter. To register, please click on this [link](#) (or contact: aec@rcaos.org.uk) and joining instructions will be emailed to you.

With prayers and best wishes,

Fr. Richard and Fr. Giovanni