



1. This Sunday is the Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. It is also Remembrance Sunday, when we pray especially for those who lost their lives during the two World Wars of the Twentieth Century. We pray for them this weekend – we also remember all those who continue to die in conflicts around the world, and we pray for peace.
2. November is traditionally the ‘**month of the Holy Souls**’. We should all pray for our departed loved ones, family and friends during this month, and indeed for all the departed members of our parish community and wider circle. There are special envelopes provided in the church porch in which you can place this ‘November Dead List’, together with a Mass offering for the Holy Souls. Please post these in to the Parish Office, and the names will then be placed in the casket beneath the High Altar for the remainder of the month. Please do not place the names directly in the casket – it is important they go via the Parish Office first.
3. **Thank you** to those who took part in our meetings last week to discuss the Synod called by Pope Francis and our parish response to that. If you missed the meetings you can still respond by making an on-line submission. Here is a link to the on-line form: <https://forms.gle/u7jsuCwb16MBfkhG9>. There are also postcards at the back of

church, which you can use to make your responses. We will continue to keep you updated on the Synodal process in the weeks to come.

4. On Sunday 21st November, the feast of Christ the King, **we will hold a special event for younger parishioners.** This day is WORLD YOUTH SUNDAY an important day to celebrate Jesus as our true King and to reflect how we can respond to his call to his Kingdom of Grace. Jesus came to bear witness to the truth and calls us to do the same, therefore it is fitting the Pope has appointed this same Sunday as World Youth Day. The Pope has recognised that the world needs young people's enthusiasm and passion to help us build up the Church. Parishes from around the world will be celebrating their young people and their important role. **So, on Sunday 21 November we want to invite all young people aged 13 - 18 to come and join us after the 6.00 pm Mass** in the crypt for a pizza evening; we will be celebrating you as young people, celebrating our faith and how as young people you can respond to this call to witness the truth of Christ. There will be faith, friendship, fun and most importantly food! **The meeting will begin straight after Mass and end at 8.15pm.** We would love to see you all there! Alannah Booth and Sister Biatar, who have helped with Confirmation catechesis for several years will be heading up this new initiative. If you have any questions, you can contact the parish office – balham@rcaos.org.uk and we will fill you in. Please also let us know if you have any special dietary needs (vegan, gluten free etc.)
5. **Your parish choir needs your help.** We sing at the 11.30 Mass on Sundays as well as on major festivals of the Christian Year. We are a group of dedicated and hard-working singers who are happy to welcome new members in all voice parts. The choir is composed entirely of members of Holy Ghost Parish who serve their community and their God through song in the liturgy. This is an ideal opportunity to join a group, to perfect or learn new skills and to serve your Christian community in a meaningful way. Join us on a Thursday at 8pm for a rehearsal. For singers who wish to participate in the Carol Service, you will need to attend rehearsals from 18th November onwards. I look forward to seeing new singers in our ranks.
Darquise Bilodeau, Choir Director
6. **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.

With prayers and best wishes,

Fr. Richard and Fr. Giovanni