



1. This coming Sunday will be the **Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**. The readings for Mass can be found on page 141 of the Parish Mass Books.
2. A reminder that we now have **HOLY WATER** back in the stoups beside the doors to the church. Taking Holy Water on entering a church is a very old custom, which goes back many centuries (see picture above). Holy Water is a reminder of baptism, through which we entered the Church – and so it is very appropriate to make the Sign of the Cross with Holy Water as we come in to Mass. Holy Water is also one of the ‘sacramentals’ of the Church – a rich source of blessing. We are very fortunate to be able to have Holy Water again, after almost two years when the pandemic made it impossible. Do try to get back into the habit of taking Holy Water as you enter church – and teach your children to do it too (the smaller children will hardly ever have seen it!).
3. **On the weekend of 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> February**, there will be a retiring collection for the **CLERGY SUPPORT FUND**. The Clergy Support Fund of the Archdiocese of Southwark provides care for priests in their old age and retirement, and in time of ill health. A gift to this worthy fund will ensure a dignified retirement for our priests, after they have dedicated a lifetime of service to Christ, His Church and His people. In 2021, the Clergy Support Fund provided care to 71 retired priests, at a cost of £1.25 million. With the number of priests over the age of 65 steadily increasing, so too will the financial obligation to the Archdiocese. Please be generous with a gift to the Clergy Support Fund, and continue to keep our priests in your prayers. Thank you!
4. **A retreat for Lent:** Make some space to develop your relationship with God this Lent. Sign up for our Diocesan ‘retreat at home’ called **Saving Grace**. Every week you will receive an email with links to a 25minute video in which Archbishop John Wilson will introduce the theme and the reading, and Chris Chapman will deliver the retreat, with others contributing.

You will also receive materials to use in your own prayer and reflection. All you have to have to do is sign up and then set aside what space you can for Saving Grace! Background information about the retreat can be found at:

<https://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/savinggrace> and you can sign up to receive the materials directly here: [http://eepurl.com/hnK\\_Rz](http://eepurl.com/hnK_Rz)

5. Of your charity, pray for the soul of **William (Willie) McGaughey**. A former parishioner of Holy Ghost, he moved to County Donegal in Ireland, where he recently died. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

With our prayer and blessing,

Fr. Richard and Fr. Giovanni