



1. This Sunday will be **the Seventh Sunday of Easter**. The Mass can be found on page 281 of the Parish Mass Book.
2. **This weekend, 28th/29th May there will be a retiring collection for the 'Priest Training Fund'**. Envelopes are available in the church porch which you can use for to Gift Aid your donation, which we very much encourage you to do if possible. Priests are essential to the life of the Church, so please do be generous in supporting this appeal. Our Archdiocese currently has six men in formation for the priesthood, and it costs £30,000 a year to sponsor each seminarian. Please support our priests of the future with a gift today!
3. The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have announced that **the Sunday Obligation to attend Mass will be restored as from Pentecost Sunday (5th June 2022)**. This obligation was suspended early in the pandemic, but its restoration means that all Catholics are once again expected to attend Mass every Sunday. Happily, a great number of our parishioners are already doing so! But the restoration of this obligation is a reminder to us all just how important and valuable our Sunday worship really is.

4. Pentecost Sunday also marks the day when all remaining COVID restrictions can be removed from our worship. **Therefore, from Pentecost onwards we will restore the 'Sign of Peace' at Mass** (the last remaining thing we need to bring back!). However, we do ask all parishioners to be sensitive to others needs and concerns. Some people may be more vulnerable to infection than others, and may still be reluctant to make physical contact. These people may prefer a simple bow, rather than a handshake. Just be sensitive to others' feelings, and don't be offended if not everyone wants to shake hands again just yet!
5. **We are planning to undertake a new parish census**, as our present records are becoming out of date. **We will be doing this on the weekend of 11th and 12th June. If you have a smartphone, we encourage you to bring it to Mass with you on that weekend!** If you do not have access to technology, there will be the possibility of filling out a hard copy of the census form – but we encourage everyone who can to complete it on-line, as this will save time and ensure greater accuracy.
6. **We always welcome more volunteers to be welcomers at Mass.** Please see this link - <https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/bmZNkm3d>.
7. **Forthcoming YOUTH CLUB meetings** – these will be on Sunday 12th June and Sunday 3rd July – meetings take place in the crypt straight after the 6.00 pm Mass and are open to young parishioners aged 13 – 18. For more information contact Alannah at: balhamyouth@rcaos.org.uk
8. Are you helping to care for an elderly or vulnerable person? You may be interested in THE SPLENDOR OF CARING: Twelve stories of vulnerability, mercy, healing, forgiveness and joy by Dr Kathleen Murphy, a writer and Sister of Mercy (St Pauls, £9.99). There is a sample copy in the porch. Available from stpauls.org.uk/the-splendour-of-caring.html All proceeds to Mercy Ships, Children's Eye Treatment in Africa and the homeless charity The Passage in London.
9. We would like to draw your attention to a **conference being held at St Mary's Catholic Church West Croydon on Saturday 4th June** from 9.45 am – 5.00 pm. The conference features internationally renowned Catholic theologian and author Dr Ralph Martin and (among others) Fr Marcus Holden – former assistant priest at Holy Ghost, parish priest of St Bede's Clapham Park and Episcopal Vicar for Evangelisation and Catechesis. The conference comes highly recommended and the cost is just £22. More details on the poster and fliers in the church porch – to book call 01834 812643 or see www.saintant.com

With our prayers and blessing during this joyful Easter season,

Fr. Richard and Fr. Giovanni