



1. This weekend we celebrate the **Fifteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time**. The readings can be found on page 108 of the Parish Mass Books.
2. Father Richard begins his summer holiday on July 16th, and Father Giovanni will go away later in the summer. **Due to this, we will begin our summer timetable on July 17th. PLEASE NOTE – there will be no 8.00 am Mass from July 17th until September 4th inclusive – the 8.00 am Mass resumes on September 11th.** Likewise, there is no Eucharistic Adoration during this period, however, the Friday morning Adoration will continue as usual. Apart from the above, all other services continue as normal.
3. Seafarers and fishermen play a vital role in all our lives, but they often work in difficult and hazardous conditions. The Catholic charity 'Stella Maris' ('The Apostleship of the Sea') provides chaplaincy and practical help to all those who work at sea. **There will be a retiring collection for this charity on this Sunday (9/10th July)** and envelopes are available in the porch now if you would like to Gift Aid your donation.
4. A baptismal medallion (a gold Miraculous Medal) was lost at Holy Ghost School's summer fete last Saturday, and has been recovered. It may be precious to somebody. If it is yours, please speak to Fr Richard.
5. As you will know, Susan Lawless, the Headteacher of Holy Ghost Primary School will be retiring this July. Miss Lawless has made a huge contribution to our school and parish, and several generations of parish children owe her a huge debt for the excellent education and Catholic formation which Holy Ghost School has provided. **There will be a special Mass to mark Miss Lawless' retirement at 1.30 on Friday 15th July**, starting at 1.30 pm. Afterwards,

there will be refreshments and further celebrations in the grounds of Holy Ghost School. All are very welcome as we give thanks for all Miss Lawless has achieved during her time at Holy Ghost. Please note – the Mass will also be live-streamed: just go to the parish website and follow the link at the top of the homepage.

6. Miss Lawless will be succeeded by **Bronagh McCann**, who is currently Deputy Headteacher of a Catholic Primary School in Westminster Diocese, and will take up her post here in September. We look forward to welcoming Bronagh and we pray for both her and Miss Lawless in the months ahead.
7. For those using **GIFT AID ENVELOPES** – new boxes of envelopes can be collected from the table near the Confessionals (at the back of the Lady Chapel)
8. **We always welcome more volunteers to be welcomers at Mass.** Please see this link:

<https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/eZ4gV4gb>

9. **The Backpack programme** helps build human and spiritual development. It has been run in schools, parishes, youth groups, and used with addiction recovery. The backpack program is a resilience initiative. The contemporary formation provided is described by participants as a life-changing. The lessons offer skills in emotional self-regulation, with practical tools for mind and body calming. People flourish as they develop increased self-awareness and learn to instil boundaries for healthier relationships. Contemplative prayer cultivates their choice to make their relationship with God both private and personal. A virtue-based approach in contemporary society builds resilience and peace, which are more essential than ever before. **The backpack for Adults is available from September in our parish !** 11 sessions of 2 hours in the Plunkett room, starting the last week of September, day and time to be confirmed. Price is £140. Don't let money be a problem, just contact Laetitia at: laetbery@yahoo.fr You can also do the course online on <https://thebackpack.life/>
10. **The annual 'March for Life' takes place in London on Saturday 3rd September**, praying for an end to abortion and a new respect for the sanctity of human life. There will be a Mass at St George's Cathedral, Southwark at 11.00 am, as well as morning events at the Emmanuel Centre Westminster, before the March itself begins at 2.00 pm (ending in Parliament Square at 4.30 pm). More details to follow.
11. Pope Francis has written an Apostolic Letter, entitled 'Desiderio desideravi', on the Sacred Liturgy. He writes that: 'With this letter I simply want to invite the whole Church to rediscover, to safeguard, and to live the truth and power of the Christian celebration'. The whole document can be found at the Vatican website (www.vatican.va) The Pope ends his letter with a beautiful quote from his namesake, St Francis of Assisi, also writing about the Mass:

Let everyone be struck with fear, let the whole world tremble, and let the heavens exult when Christ, the Son of the living God, is present on the altar in the hands of a priest!

*O wonderful loftiness and stupendous dignity!
O sublime humility! O humble sublimity!
The Lord of the universe, God and the Son of God,
so humbles Himself that for our salvation
He hides Himself under an ordinary piece of bread!
Brothers, look at the humility of God,
and pour out your hearts before Him!
Humble yourselves that you may be exalted by Him!
Hold back nothing of yourselves for yourselves,
that He Who gives Himself totally to you may receive you totally!*



With our prayers and best wishes,

Fr. Richard and Fr. Giovanni