



1. This weekend we celebrate the **Twenty Second Sunday of Ordinary Time**. The readings can be found on page 122 of the Parish Mass Books.
2. **The 8.00 am Sunday Mass resumes this Sunday, 3rd September. The Sunday Holy Hour (5.00 – 5.45 pm) will resume the following week, 10th September.**
3. As you may have heard, Deacon Andrew Bishop who was to have been ordained priest this July, and then replace Fr Giovanni as our assistant priest this September – has sadly had some health issues, meaning his ordination has been postponed, and he will not now be able to come to Holy Ghost, although he hopes to be ordained priest at some point in 2024. The diocese has promised us some temporary help during the autumn, with the hope of a permanent priest to come in January 2024. In the short term, **Father Ola Craig** (who was assistant priest here some years ago) will be returning to help out, for a few weeks or maybe a little longer. I know he will enjoy reconnecting with Holy Ghost, and that you will make him very welcome.
This situation obviously creates some challenges – and I will be particularly grateful for your help at this time. We may need to be a little flexible in accepting that there will be less priestly presence than we have been used to at Holy Ghost, at least for the next few months. However, I am very confident that all our regular parish activities will be able to continue as usual, and that every challenge is also an opportunity.
Please pray for Deacon Andrew, that he returns to full health very soon – and for our parish, that we find the right help we need to continue to grow and flourish in the months and years ahead.
4. **A reminder that our new ‘Holy Doughnuts’ group begins this week (September 3rd).** This is a club for children who have made their First Holy Communion, but have not yet begun preparation for Confirmation.

It will take place on the 1st Sunday of each month (Term Time) for half an hour following the 9.30am Family Mass (in the Parish Centre, 27 Nightingale Square) and again after the 11.30 Mass (in the church crypt.) Kids can attend either session. And doughnuts are definitely involved...!

Amanda Gahr, who will be leading the group, will be saying a few words about it at the 9.30 and 11.30 Masses on Sunday

5. Parents of children in Year 3 (or above) who do not attend either Holy Ghost School, and who would like them to receive their **First Holy Communion in 2024**, are invited to express their interest now (**PLEASE NOTE: parents with children at Holy Ghost School will be contacted via the school, and arrangements for them will be made separately**).

To be eligible to join the First Holy Communion Classes, children must already have been attending Sunday Mass regularly at Holy Ghost, and their families must be registered with the parish. Classes will be run on Wednesday afternoons from 5.00 – 6.00 pm.

To express your interest, please email Fr Richard at richardwhinder@rcaos.org.uk – be sure to put 'Confirmation 2024' in the subject box. Those expressing an interest will then be given further information on how to complete their child's registration.

Expressions of interest must be received by FRIDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2023.

6. Parents of children in Year 8 (or above) who wish to receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation** are invited to express their interest now.

To be eligible to join the Confirmation classes young people must already be attending Mass regularly at Holy Ghost and their families must be registered with the parish.

To express your interest, please email Fr Richard at richardwhinder@rcaos.org.uk – be sure to put 'Confirmation 2024' in the subject box. Those expressing an interest will then be given further information on how to complete their child's registration.

Expressions of interest must be received by Friday 13th October

7. **The East Hill Supper Club Food Bank** would greatly appreciate it if any Holy Ghost Parishioners felt able to donate tins of food, dried foodstuffs, shower gel, biscuits etc. to **this worthy cause**. A box will be found in the narthex of our church and the team will collect the contents on their way to East Hill late Tuesday afternoon.

8. **Families who will be applying for places in a Catholic school** – Primary, Secondary or Sixth Form – in the near future should make sure they fill in a 'Mass attendance form' every Sunday (or Saturday evening) during term time. Forms are available at the back of church and, once completed, should be left in the tray provided. These forms are used by the clergy to assist them in completing school reference forms when asked – most schools require evidence of 3 years weekly Mass attendance.

9. Parents who need **School Reference Forms** signed for primary or secondary school transfer should drop them off at the Parish Office, 27 Nightingale Square, and Father Richard will complete them as soon as he is able – **please make sure you include contact details in case he needs to ask you any questions**. You will be informed when the documents are ready for collection. Please note – if the school has asked you to provide a 'Certificate of Catholic Practice' (CCP), you must download this from the internet, print off and complete your own

details before passing it on to Fr Richard. **The Parish Office does NOT provide the CCP for you.**