



1. This weekend we celebrate the **Twenty Third Sunday of Ordinary Time**. The readings can be found on page 125 of the Parish Mass Books.
2. **The Sunday Holy Hour (5.00 – 5.45 pm) will resume this week.**
3. We welcome back Fr Ola Craig, who is kindly assisting in the parish on a temporary basis while we await a new parish priest.
4. 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.

5. 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
6. **The next Parish Film Night film is set for Monday, 25th September at 7:30pm** (with refreshments beforehand from 7:00pm). It is to feature "**The Scarlet and the Black**", which is based on the book 'The Scarlet Pimpernel of the Vatican' (1967) by JP Gallagher and stars Gregory Peck, John Gielgud and Christopher Plummer. The film tells the story of Monsignor

Hugh O'Flaherty, a Irish Catholic priest who saved thousands of Jews and escaped Allied PoWs in Rome during WW2. Full details are available on Wikipedia. Please let Martin Galea (at martingalea1@btinternet.com) know that you wish to attend

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.**
10. **Help raise funds for Holy Ghost School in partnership with the PTA**
We are collecting good quality used clothing items for RE-USE:
Men’s, ladies’ & children’s clothing, paired shoes, handbags, belts & accessories.
(No uniforms, workwear, pillows, duvets or pieces of fabric please)
Bag 2 School is a company that specialises in the reuse and recycling of good quality second-hand clothing, **the PTA have arranged for a collection on Friday, September 29th.** All the bags will be weighed and the school will be paid for the total weight collected.
The more we weigh the more we raise!
Extra bags are welcome - there’s no limit
Drop off your donations from Monday, September 25th to Thursday September 28th (collection day before 9am on the 29th) in the Church Porch
Use your own bags or the Bag 2 School bags which are available in the church porch. Once the clothes have been removed from the bags the plastic will be packed and sent for recycling.
Great opportunity to clean out the wardrobes and help raise money for the school.
If you have any questions, please contact the PTA direct at hgpta@hotmail.co.uk
Thank you so much in advance for support. Holy Ghost PTA
11. Fr Richard will be on pilgrimage in Lourdes from 11th – 15th September – therefore, there will be no parish update next week

