

News and Events from the Archdiocese of Birmingham

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THE ARCHDIOCESE *of* BIRMINGHAM

National Day of Reflection for Covid 19, virtual Cathedral tour, news and events for Lent



National Day of Reflection for Covid-19

Tuesday 23 March has been designated a National Day of Reflection to mark the anniversary of the first national lockdown with a minute's silence at midday and doorstep vigils of light at 8pm.

All are asked to make this not only a Day of Reflection but also a Day of Prayer.

Catholic Bishops'
Conference Statement



Take a virtual tour of St Chad's Cathedral

All are welcome to visit our Diocesan Mother Church from the comfort of their own homes.

For the first time ever you can take a virtual 360 degree tour of this Pugin-designed building.

The new virtual tour is suitable for all ages and is packed full of information.

As you prepare to begin the tour you can watch welcome videos from Archbishop Bernard Longley and the three Area Bishops: David Evans, William Kenney and Stephen Wright.

On the tour, click the red and white crosses of St Chad to see a short video about that feature of the Cathedral-including on the ceiling to the right of the main sanctuary where a bomb came through but didn't explode!

Visit St Chad's Cathedral



Chrism Mass

Wednesday of Holy Week, 31 March at 11.30am.

This important annual Mass of the Blessing of Holy Oils for the coming year and the renewal of priestly promises will take place but will be livestream only for most of the clergy and for the Religious and the Lay Faithful this year.

Each Deanery of the Archdiocese will be represented by the Dean.

Please join the Chrism Mass via the livestream and pray for our priests and for the many blessings that God will give his people through the Sacraments in the coming year.

[St Chad's Livestream](#)



Covid-19 impact survey

Please share your experience of faith during the pandemic.

We want to hear from all across the Archdiocese about the impact the last 12 months has had, and how we can learn from it and move forward.

The survey takes around 10 minutes to complete.

[Complete survey](#)



Beda College Discernment Weekend

The Beda College in Rome is running a discernment weekend for men between the ages of 30 and 55 from Friday 3 September to Sunday 5 September 2021.

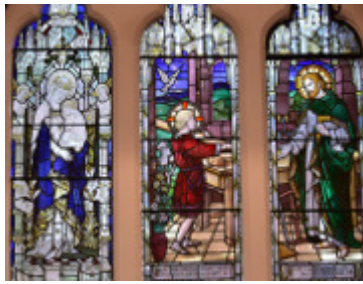
It takes place at St Beuno's Spirituality Centre in North Wales.

The weekend is to reach men who are not already in touch with their diocese and is a first step for those who may be exploring the possibility of priestly vocation in later life.

[Information and Registration for Discernment Weekend](#)

Family activity sheets

Carol Ann Harnett produces a weekly family activity sheet for the parish of St Joseph's in Malvern.



It features a mixture of activities to support the family as the Domestic Church.

There is always a set of reflective questions on the Gospel plus suggestions of crafts, prayers, service etc, so that the family can live out the Four Dimensions of the Faith.

The activity sheets are available to all on the parish website or by email stjoe.fam.activities@gmail.com

Family activity sheets at St Joseph's



John Bradburne - Centenary Year

Earlier this month (March 6) the John Bradburne Memorial Society (JBMS) launched its 100-day Poetry Project, in honour of the life and work for his Centenary Year in 2021.

The Society is also running a 'Gift a Chicken' fundraiser.

Support the John Bradburne Memorial Society



Lent and Easter 2021

The Lenten season continues.

Please feel free to make use of the wealth of online activities, resources and retreats for your Lenten journey to Easter.

Suitable for individuals, parishes and schools to use.

Your Lenten Journey



Get involved in Sycamore

Evangelisation team invite you to join in a webinar 'Sycamore: an online tool for evangelisation'.

On **Tuesday 23 March 7-8.30pm** the evangelisation team will be joined by Fr Stephen Wang and Susan Longhurst from Sycamore who will let us know how Sycamore is being used in parishes, schools, and chaplaincies to connect and engage online with their local communities.

You may be experienced at running Sycamore, you may have only just begun or looking to start - all are welcome! We will look particularly at:

- Advertising and Invitation
- Tips for running the sessions
- Thoughts for follow on

Who is it for: Parish clergy and religious, catechists of

sacramental programmes, teachers, parishioners & all those interested or involved in faith formation or evangelisation.

To book your place, please email:

natalie.orefice@rcaob.org.uk

Book onto the Sycamore webinar



Living Laudato Si': Your Parish and Your Planet

Online Zoom retreats in March and April with a number of guest speakers, including Archbishop Bernard Longley (April).

Talks, discussions and practical activities on living the message of Laudato Si' in and through your parish.

Any interested parishioner is most welcome to join.

Laudato Si' Zoom Retreats



Exploring the Directory for Catechesis Virtual Conference 2021

Maryvale Institute with the Archdiocese of Birmingham presents this conference.

Bookings now being taken for sessions in April and May.

The conference will focus on the new Directory for Catechesis, published in March 2020.

The Directory makes clear the essential elements in teaching and personal formation required by the mission of catechesis.

Directory of Catechesis Conference



Census 2021 is here!

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey which ensures everyone from local government to charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed such as doctors' surgeries, schools and new transport routes.

Census day is this **Sunday, 21 March**, and households will now be receiving letters with online codes explaining how they can complete their forms. Paper questionnaires are available for those who need them.

There's a wide range of support services such as

language support and accessible census guidance. You can also get help from census staff in the contact centre over phone, in a web chat or on social media.

For more information, and to find out how to get help, visit census.gov.uk or call the contact centre on 0800 141 2021.

Visit the Census website

Work for the Brushstrokes project, Smethwick

Father Hudson's Care are recruiting for an Office and Admin Coordinator, 25 hours per week, fixed term for one-year at Brushstrokes. The closing date is 11 April 2021.

Jobs page

Mayo Connections

Genealogy: Do you have ancestors or relatives with Mayo connections? If you would like to find out more about your Mayo roots, the [North Mayo Heritage Centre](#) can help.

Contact 00 353 9631809, write to us at Enniscoe, Castlehill, Ballina, Co. Mayo, F26FR94 or email northmayo@gmail.com.

Radio Maria England: Science and Faith

Tune in to the new Science and Faith programme on Radio Maria England

Broadcast times every week until Easter: Sundays at 5pm, Wednesdays at 2am, Thursdays at 11am and Fridays at 9pm.

We will be covering topics such as the big bang theory, creation, evolution, genetic modification, bioethics, neuroscience, freewill, miracles and divine actions, and the resurrection of Jesus.

Several guests are world-renowned leading scientists or theologians.

Radio Maria

Dates for your diary

Sat 20 Mar. [Two new prayer courses begin, hosted by the Centre for Applied Carmelite Spirituality](#)

Sat 20 Mar. [Free online event to celebrate the release of What Is Man?](#)

Tues 23 Mar. [Birmingham Conversations: Celebrating the Festivals](#)

Wed 24 Mar. [Divine Renovation webinar: The Right People in the Right Seats](#)

Sat 27 Mar. [Mass of St Oscar Romero from St George's Cathedral, Southwark](#)

July/August. [Holy Land Pilgrimage hosted by the Young Catholic Adult Network](#)

[Visit our Events page](#)



Live Masses online

Live streaming of Masses continues at St Chad's Cathedral.

If your parish does not offer a live streaming facility please join us.

Online Masses at St Chad's



Supporting your parish

You have asked us how you can continue giving to your parish during the pandemic.

Parishes still greatly need your support, even more so without their weekly congregations and visitors.

We do though recognise that many parishioners may be struggling financially, and there is no expectation to give where you are unable to do so.

You can donate via standing order or single donation.

Support our Work



Please follow us online

If you are on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram please follow the Archdiocese of Birmingham online.

Our accounts are being used more than ever before to share news, events and information.

[Twitter/](#) [Facebook/](#) [Instagram/](#) [Web/YouTube](#)

We hope you are finding this e-newsletter useful. **Please share with anyone you think will benefit, and encourage them to subscribe via the website.**

If you have any news, events or information you'd like to share this way please email it to communications@rcaob.org.uk marked 'For Newsletter'.

It's great to see information coming into us which we can share with others, please keep it coming!

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