

News and Events from the Archdiocese of Birmingham

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THE ARCHDIOCESE *of* BIRMINGHAM

Book now: Two events for altar servers, tours at Oscott and much more!



Hosted by

THIS SATURDAY: Encounter Day, Walsall

You are warmly invited to a day of prayer, reflection and discipleship to discover how you and your parish can use Cursillo as a tool for renewal and ministering co-responsibly.

The Encounter Day on Saturday 24 July from 10.30am - 2.30pm will be held at St Mary the Mount, Walsall, led by the Cursillo Team from Liverpool.

[Join the Encounter Day](#)



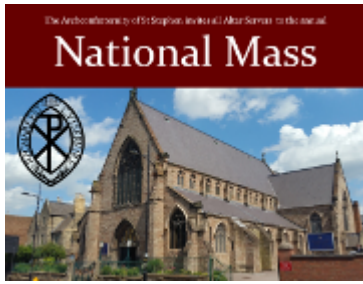
THIS SUNDAY: First ever World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

This Sunday parishes across the Archdiocese are set to dedicate one of their Sunday Masses to the first ever World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.

Pope Francis has called for the universal church to celebrate the occasion on Sunday 25 July - the closest Sunday to the memorial of Jesus' grandparents, Ss Joachim and Ann (26 July).

Three diocesan initiatives are now being developed to mark the occasion and you're invited to get involved.

[World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly](#)



Calling all altar servers! National Mass

Book your place now to attend a very special event to be hosted in Wolverhampton this September.

The Archdiocese of Birmingham has been asked to host the National Mass for the Guild of Saint Stephen, on behalf of the Archconfraternity in Westminster.

It will take place on Saturday 25 September at 12noon at the parish of Ss Mary and John, Wolverhampton.

Archbishop Bernard Longley will be principal celebrant and homilist at the Mass.

[Book for National Mass](#)



Calling all altar servers! Proximity

A new annual event for altar servers of all ages.

Proximity will take place in the inspirational setting of St Mary's College, Oscott, our diocesan seminary, on Saturday 2 October.

The aim is to form servers in faith as those who come close to Jesus at the altar, so that they may grow closer to him in their lives.

This year, our day is based around the life and witness of recently-beatified teenager Blessed Carlo Acutis.

[Book for Proximity](#)



Research: Impact of Covid-19 on bereavement and grief

The National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) is conducting research on people's experience of bereavement during the Covid-19 pandemic. This will explore how the Covid-19 pandemic has affected bereavement, funeral practices, mental health support and responses to public health messaging.

They would like to interview 30 bereaved people from a variety of social, cultural, and religious backgrounds, with a second, follow-up interview taking place six months later.

[Find out more and take part](#)

Women in Scripture Podcast 2 - Abigail

The second episode of Women in Scripture is out now with a focus on Abigail.



Presented by Natalie Orefice, Advisor for Parish Evangelisation, this is a new monthly podcast on different women in the Bible.

It aims to ask and answer who they are and what they can teach us today.

The podcast is part of the God Who Speaks initiative, helping to deepen our faith and love of the scriptures.

Women in Scripture Podcast



The Diocesan Vision: Unfolding God's Plan

If you haven't already done so please take a few moments to watch, listen to or read the recent Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Bernard Longley.

It outlines the vision for the Archdiocese:

Our vision is to be a Catholic diocese which is faithful to the mission entrusted to us by Jesus Christ, full of missionary disciples who work together co-responsibly in vibrant communities of faith, joyful in their service of God and neighbour.

How can you be part of the Diocesan Vision: Unfolding God's Plan?

Diocesan Vision: Unfolding God's Plan



Ride and Stride for churches

Ride + Stride is the single largest source of income for many Historic Churches Trusts enabling them to make Grants to places of Christian worship.

Taking place on Saturday 11 September the funds raised can be split between the nominated Trust and the participant's chosen church or chapel.

Find a local Ride and Stride event



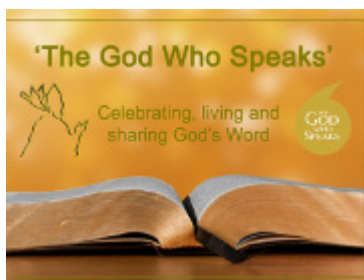
Manresa Link retreats

Manresa Link is an ecumenical group in the Midlands who put on retreats for people in their ordinary lives.

These Ignatian retreats encourage us to nurture an intimate relationship with Jesus and open ourselves up to the graces God offers so generously.

Manresa Link invites you to take part in a basic training course in Birmingham. Running October 2021 - January 2022.

Manresa Link Retreats



Summer School of liturgy and music

The Society of Saint Gregory presents its annual Summer School of liturgy and music.

It will be held from 4-6 August via Zoom.

This year's theme is 'The God Who Speaks: Celebrating, living and sharing God's Word'.

[Sign up to Summer School](#)



Book now: Oscott Tours restart in September

St Mary's College, Oscott is preparing to welcome visitors from September 2021.

Tour dates for the 2021-22 season have been announced.

Tours cost £10 per adult, which includes a cup of tea and a slice (or two) of home baked cake. They start at 1pm, with arrival from 12.30pm, and last approximately two hours.

[Book a tour at Oscott](#)

Dates for your diary

Sun 25 July. [World Day for grandparents and the elderly](#)

5/8 August. [Faith & Reason: A Catholic Integration](#)

Tues 7 Sept. [Webinar - Welcome Home](#)

Starts 8 Sept. [Spiritual Direction Programme](#)

24/26 Sept. [Family Retreat for Catholic families](#)

Sat 25 Sept. [National Mass for the Guild of Saint Stephen](#)

Sat 2 Oct. [Proximity 2021 - a new annual event for altar servers](#)

[Visit our Events page](#)

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 your Parish



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



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.**

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

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