

News and updates from the Archdiocese of Birmingham: There's lots happening this next week!

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THE ARCHDIOCESE *of* BIRMINGHAM

Embrace Life in the Spirit, visit a FREE festival and discover the Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer



Starts next week! Life in the Spirit series

Bookings are now being taken for the Life in the Spirit series, which starts online on Wednesday 22 September.

Life in the Spirit brings the blessings of:

- a personal refreshment of faith
- an improved prayer life where we hear more clearly from God
- a renewed relationship with the Word of God
- a better understanding of how we are all gifted to serve one another
- a lively journey of faith and a deeper understanding of God's purpose for our lives.

All are welcome to join the programme, hosted by The Charis Diocesan Renewal Group.

[Sign up for Life in the Spirit](#)



Next week: free festival dedicated to Scripture, Art and Flowers

Book tickets now for this FREE festival which includes workshops, talks and a Saturday night concert.

FLORILEGIUM: A festival of Scripture, Art and Flowers will be held at Carrs Lane Centre and St Michael's Catholic Church, Birmingham, between Thursday 23 and Saturday 25 September.

Tickets now available via the Archdiocese website.

Book now for FLORILEGIUM



New Data Compliance Manager

Hello and welcome to Debbie Jones, the new Data Compliance Manager for the Archdiocese.

Debbie has started her role this week and will be responsible for the data protection role currently shared by Clare O'Brien and Steve Roche.

Debbie has previously worked in a similar role in the Archdiocese of Liverpool and is well acquainted with data protection issues in diocesan and parish life. She can be contacted via email debbie.jones@rcaob.org.uk and on 0121 230 6271.

One of Debbie's first priorities will be virtual training for curial and parish personnel.



Fossil Fuel Divestment

The Archdiocese has divested from companies which extract fossil fuels with immediate effect, cementing its commitment to action in the climate emergency.

The Archdiocese has changed its policy to exclude investments in any company which derives more than 5% of its revenues from fossil fuels. Divestment in fossil fuels is one of the first steps of many which we will take to ensure that we will not fund the industries which destroy God's creation and impact the poor.

Archbishop Bernard Longley said: "Our commitment to divestment in fossil fuels is a response both to the cry of the earth and of the poor, and to the Gospel of Life, taking us one step further towards its consolation."

Fossil Fuel Divestment



Bishop's Open Letter on Assisted Dying Bill

Bishop John Sherrington, Lead Bishop for Life Issues for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, has written an open letter inviting Catholics to pray for the defeat of the Assisted Dying Bill to be debated in the House of Lords in October.

There are three important actions in the next weeks: praying, writing and sharing.

Assisted Dying Bill



Silver Jubilee Year for Alton Castle residential programmes

The celebrations start with the annual Parish Garden Party and Castle Open Day tomorrow, Saturday 18 September from 12.30pm.

Includes exclusive roof top and Castle tours along with stalls, refreshments and a chance to try out a brand-new low ropes course.

Then on October 16 all are welcome to dance the night away at a Charity Gala at the Castle.

Please support the Kenelm Youth Trust and its work in reaching out to all young people.

Alton Castle Jubilee celebrations



Father Hudson's Care annual collection

September 25th / 26th marks the weekend of the annual collection for Father Hudson's Care, in which parishes across the Archdiocese hold a second collection for the charity at Mass.

Anyone who still wishes to donate can do so over the weekend or through the JustGiving page [Father Hudson's Care Annual Parish Collection 2021](#)

Just £10 could help change someone's life.



Day for Catechists

East Birmingham Deanery in collaboration with diocesan Ethnic Chaplaincies presents a Day for Catechists on Saturday 25 September from 10am.

The day aims to update current Catechists and introduce candidates for this Ministry in light of the new Catechetical Directory.

Bookings requested by Tuesday 21 September.

Register now for event

Thanksgiving Mass for Marriage

There's still time for couples celebrating milestone marriages this year, or preparing to marry next year, to register.

The Thanksgiving Mass for Marriage will be held on Saturday 9 October at St Chad's Cathedral, celebrated



by Bishop David Evans.

The search is now on to find the longest married couple in the Archdiocese (over 70 years in both 2019 and 2020).

Thanksgiving Mass for Marriage



Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer launches crowdfunding campaign

This Christian landmark will be visible from over six miles away and will be built within the Archdiocese of Birmingham at Coleshill.

It will be constructed using one million bricks, with each brick featuring an answered prayer.

The team behind Eternal Wall have launched a crowdfunding campaign to raise £2.5 million to Make Hope Visible! If this money is raised, Eternal Wall will start its construction.

Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer



£50m hoarded in loose change

The BBC has recently reported that UK residents are hoarding an estimated £50m in loose change, with little sign of it all being spent.

Due to lockdowns, people have held onto cash for three times longer than before and many are storing low denomination coins at home rather than spending or donating them.

Nearly six in 10 people are holding coins at home and many charities are now urging people to donate this loose change.

With many, if not all parishes having seen large drops in donations over the past year and a half, and with collections now starting up again, perhaps you could gather your loose change to bring to the next Mass.

Don't forget that you can also give to your parish online at any time.

Support your parish

Dates for your diary: the month ahead

Sat 18 Sept. [Alton Castle: Parish Garden Party and Castle Open Day](#)

20-22 Sept. [John Henry Newman online symposium](#)

20-22 Sept. [Interreligious Dialogue: End of Summer School](#)

Wed 22 Sept. [Life in the Spirit series starts](#)

23-25 Sept. [FLORILEGIUM: A festival of Scripture, Art and Flowers](#)

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

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

Sat 25 Sept. [St Scholastica's Retreat - Open Day](#)

Sat 25 Sept. [JBMS Centenary Celebration Concert](#)

Sun 26 Sept. [Clergy Training Fund Mass of Thanksgiving](#)

Starts Mon 27 Sept. [Birmingham Justice and Peace Commission Assembly 2021](#)

Wed 29 Sept. [In conversation: "The Common Good and Society"](#)

Starts Wed 29 Sept. [The Bible Timeline Course](#)

Starts Thu 30 Sept. [Taking Liturgy Seriously Study Course](#)

Fri 1 Oct. [CAFOD Harvest Family Fast Day](#)

Starts Sat 2 Oct. [Manresa Link Prayer Guide basic training course](#)

Sat 2 Oct. [Proximity- Altar Servers event](#)

Sat 2 Oct: [Season of Creation Study Day 2: The Cry of the Poor](#)

Wed 6 Oct: [Love Christmas outreach webinar](#)

Starts Wed 6 Oct: [Restore training course](#)

Thurs 7 Oct: [Organ recital at St Chad's Cathedral](#)

Sat 9 Oct: [Training and Formation for Ministers to the Liturgy](#)

Sat 9 Oct: [Thanksgiving Mass for Marriage](#)

Sat 16 Oct: [Welcoming people with special needs and learning disabilities](#)

Sat 16 Oct: [Charity Gala at Alton Castle](#)

[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.**

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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