

News and Events from the Archdiocese of Birmingham in October

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To: The Sacred Heart and St Catherine of Alexandria - Droitwich <sacredheart.droitwich@rcaob.org.uk>

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THE ARCHDIOCESE *of* BIRMINGHAM

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Pope Francis to launch the Synod, National Novena to John Paul II, Sr Anna talks about the Virgin Mary in the new Women in Scripture podcast



The Synod 2021 - 2023

Pope Francis will formally open the Synod in Rome this weekend (9/10 October) with dioceses across the world following the weekend after (16/17 October).

A Mass to mark the Opening of the Synodal Pathway in the Archdiocese of Birmingham will take place at St Chad's Cathedral on Sunday 17 October, celebrated by Archbishop Bernard Longley. **All are welcome to join via the Cathedral live stream.**

His Grace will also be releasing a Pastoral Letter to mark the occasion and will use this opportunity to combine the work of the Synod with our work on the Diocesan Vision.

The overall theme is 'For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission'.

More details will be on our website next week.

Marking Prisoners' Sunday, 10 October

Join Pact, the Prison Advice and Care Trust, this Sunday.

There are a number of ways in which you can mark the national day of prayer and action and support Pact's



mission.

Resources can be used in your parish, community, school, university group and social group.

Prisoners' Sunday



National Novena to St John Paul II

Ahead of the Assisted Dying Bill which is due to receive its Second Reading, with full debate, on Friday 22 October there will be a national novena seeking the intercession of St John Paul II, on whose feast the Second Reading falls.

It will run from 13-22 October.

The Novena Prayer:

Merciful God, we pray with thanks and gratitude for the great spiritual gift of Saint John Paul II's apostolic life and mission. Through his heavenly intercession we ask that the 'Assisted Dying' Bill be defeated and that the infinite worth of each human person is upheld through proper investment in palliative care. Grant also that we may grow in love for You and proclaim boldly the love of Jesus Christ to all people. Through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be....

Assisted Dying Bill



Taster sessions: Prayer and Life Workshops

All are welcome to a taster session for the launch of a series of Prayer and Life Workshops on Saturday 16 October (north Staffordshire) and Saturday 23 October (Birmingham/Wolverhampton).

Prayer and Life Workshops is an international initiative started in Chile by Fr Ignacio Larranaga, a Spanish Franciscan friar, in the 1980s, and has since spread worldwide.

The programme consists of a weekly two-hour workshop and daily prayer resources.

Prayer and Life Workshops in the Archdiocese

Dare to Hope

DARE TO HOPE

Caring for our Common Home

An opportunity for people of different faiths to share thoughts and understanding about climate change and our responsibility to care for creation.

How does religious belief impact upon attitudes towards the environment? What can be achieved together?

The next Zoom event is on Thursday 14 October.

To register & receive a link, please contact:

Email [Interreligious dialogue](#)



New Women in Scripture episode

Episode 5 of the Women in Scripture podcast series is available this weekend, with Sr Anna O'Connor who chose Mary.

The podcast series celebrates the lives and influence of women in scripture, some of the greatest women of all time.

It is hosted by Natalie Orefice, Advisor for Parish Evangelisation, and is part of the God Who Speaks Scripture initiative, helping to deepen our faith and love of the scriptures.

[Women in Scripture podcast](#)



Annual Intercultural Mass

The Annual Intercultural Mass is back and will be celebrated at St Osburg's Church, Coventry, so linking to Coventry's designation as "City of Culture" this year and marking One World Week and World Mission Sunday.

Bishop David Evans will celebrate the Mass, on Saturday 16 October at 12.30pm, followed by a social gathering. All are welcome and asked to bring food from your country of origin to share.

This year the schools in partnership with Immaculate Conception School in Beirut will participate. The theme of "One World Week" is the environment: Act Now for Our Children's World

[Annual Intercultural Mass](#)

Time4Change event, Racial Reconciliation, Sunday 17 October

Time4Change, the Birmingham Churches' Anti-Racism network, has announced that the venue for its landmark Racial Reconciliation gathering on the afternoon of Sunday 17 October will be St Andrew's, the home of



Birmingham City Football Club.

Co-facilitators of Time4Change, Bishop David Urquhart (The Church of England Diocese of Birmingham) and Pastor Calvin Young (Mount Zion Christian Centre, Aston) are leading the call to Birmingham's Christian congregations to gather together at the momentous service for 'Racial Reconciliation, Repentance and Restoration' across the city's Churches – and across the whole city.

Book to attend the event in person, download the video for your parish, volunteer to support the event or download resources for your own service in October, for Black History Month.

Time4Change



New Living Prayer course

Admissions are now being accepted for a new prayer course hosted by the Carmelite Priory, Oxford.

Living Prayer is a new nine-month residential prayer course enabling one to practise contemplative living according to one's own lifestyle.

The course meets one weekend (Friday – Sunday) a month from 5 November 2021 to 3 July 2022 and is presented by the Living Prayer Course Team of the Centre for Applied Carmelite Spirituality and invited speakers.

Each weekend includes a review of the previous months' practice(s), soul-friending, Silent Prayer, talks, sharing and rest. Each month's theme is supported by a Spiritual Counsel and Prayer Practice(s).

Food and accommodation are included. The admissions deadline is Wednesday 20 October to begin in November.

Living Prayer course

Dates for your diary: the month ahead

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

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

Sun 10 Oct: [Marking Prisoners' Sunday](#)

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

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

Sat 16 Oct: [ACTA National Conference](#)

Sat 16 Oct: [Annual Intercultural Mass](#)

Sat 16 Oct: [Taster session for Prayer and Life Workshops \(north staffordshire\)](#)

Sun 17 Oct: [Time for Change Racial Reconciliation Service](#)

Mon 18 Oct: [Reflection Evening with Cursillos in Christianity](#)

Thu 21 - Sun 24: [Retrouvaille Lifeline for Marriage Course Virtual Weekend](#)

Sat 23 Oct: [Pilgrimage of Reparation and Prayer for Sanctity of Life Walsingham](#)

Sat 23 Oct: [Taster session for Prayer and Life Workshops \(Birmingham/Wolverhampton\)](#)

Sun 24 Oct: [World Mission Sunday](#)

Thurs 4 Nov: [Monthly organ recital at St Chad's Cathedral](#)

Sat 6 Nov: [Training and Formation for Ministers to the Liturgy: Day for Ministers of Holy Communion](#)

[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



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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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