

## News and Events from the Archdiocese of Birmingham

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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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## New Year, new opportunities: Training, courses, Synod conference



### New Women in Scripture Podcast - the bleeding woman

Esther Corrigan speaks to Natalie Orefice about an unnamed biblical woman - the bleeding woman.

Listen now for free via Soundcloud, Spotify or iTunes.

[Women in Scripture Podcast](#)



### Walking Together on the Synodal journey

A Diocesan guide to help kickstart conversations in parishes and communities is available to download from our website.

The 'Walking Together' handbook is a step-by-step guide of what to do as parish meetings get underway.

You can also watch back information talks held online.

[Walking Together](#)

### Refugee befriending training

Restore is motivating for action with their next training course for those interested in befriending or wanting to



learn more about refugee issues. The next training session will take place on:

Tuesday evenings  
1, 8 and 15 February 2022  
7:15pm – 8:45pm

The three sessions will take place on Zoom. Places must be booked in order to attend.

All three sessions of the training course are different, and anybody who is interested in becoming a befriender must attend all three. An outline of what is included in each session is:

**Week 1:** Global refugee issues, overview of situation in the UK, introduction to Restore and befriending including input from a volunteer befriender

**Week 2:** An overview of the asylum application process and introduction to refugee resettlement, including a refugee sharing about their experience of the asylum process

**Week 3:** Practicalities of befriending: guidelines, boundaries, safeguarding, support, contact with and feedback to Restore and how to apply.

## Restore Training Course



## From Courses to Conversions: Rethinking Sacramental Preparation

Two free sessions by Divine Renovation.

### Part 1: First Communion - Tuesday 25 January, 7-8pm

Do you find you're pouring resources into sacramental preparation that sees young people slip away at the end? Are you frustrated at the fruitlessness of families jumping through hoops, never to be seen again? You are not alone in your discontent! In this webinar, we share 'from the trenches' experience of parishes doing it differently. Could now be the time when you decide to leave behind courses and instead prioritise conversions?

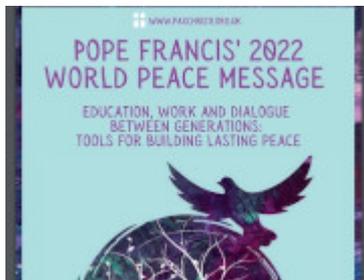
### Part 2: Confirmation - Tuesday 22 March, 7-8pm

Join us for the second in our two-part series. With Georgia Clarke (St Elizabeth's Richmond), Matt Regitz (Leadership Coach) and Hannah Vaughan-Spruce (Divine Renovation UK).

## Sacramental Preparation

## Peace Sunday – 16 January 2022

Theme of Pope Francis' World Peace Day:  
*Education, work and dialogue between generations:*



*tools for building lasting peace.*

Once again Pax Christi, the international Catholic movement for peace, has produced a variety of online and paper resources to celebrate the theme. While there are some limits as to how we come together, we have materials for parishes, communities and families - allowing for as much creativity as possible, this is not limited to one day or place!

Peace Sunday



## The Common Good - 25 Years on

In the autumn of 1996 the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales published a teaching document entitled *The Common Good and the Catholic Church's Social Teaching*. This aimed to help guide Catholics and others in the months leading to the May 1997 General Election.

To mark the 25th anniversary St Mary's University is organising a study day on Wednesday 26 January. In person and online.

The Common Good



## Theology Conference - Exploring the Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission

St Mary's College, Oscott, working with St Mary's University, London, will host a conference exploring the Synodal Church.

**Friday 11 March – Saturday 12 March 2022.**

Building on the communion ecclesiology of Lumen Gentium, Pope Francis has launched a vision of a Synodal Church.

This Theology Symposium offers a forum to begin to reflect theologically on this vision.

It will integrate insights from ecclesiology, pastoral theology, spirituality, sociology, history and canon law.

Featuring several guest speakers.

Exploring the Synodal Church

## Housing Vacancy in Stratford

There are currently two vacancies via Municipal Charities at St Joseph's Homestead in Albany Road, Stratford-upon-Avon.



Priority would be given to women who are Roman Catholics.

The criteria are that the person needs to be female over the age of 55 in limited financial means. Preference is given to those attending a place of worship.

The weekly maintenance charge is £98.75 a week and the service charge is £42 a week.

The properties will become vacant from mid-January.

If you are interested in viewing this property then contact Jess Daly, the Scheme Manager, on 01789 293911.



## Which magazine is best?

The search is on for Britain's best church magazine.

Entries are now invited for the annual competition run by the Association for Church Editors (ACE), which is an independent organisation.

For the 2022 competition, which closes on 7 February, awards will be made for A5 magazines which include all or some colour printing.

Church Mag

## Dates for your diary: the month ahead

Sun 16 Jan: [Peace Sunday](#)

Starts Sat 22 Jan: [Course: Letting Teresa Speak](#)

Sat 22 Jan: [Cursillo Encounter Day](#)

Tue 25 Jan: [Divine Renovation Webinar: Rethinking Sacramental Preparation](#)

Wed 26 Jan: [The Common Good - 25 Years On](#)

Sat 29 Jan: [Kenelm Charity Gala](#)

Tue 1 Feb: [Restore Training Course](#)

[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.

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

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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](mailto: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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