

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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Archdiocese of Birmingham

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Pray for Christian Unity, Listed Places of Worship Grants Extended, Events Across the Archdiocese

This is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU) is traditionally celebrated between January 18 and January 25 – the the octave of St Peter and St Paul.

This year's theme is 'We Saw His Star in the East'.

The story of the Magi visiting the Holy Family in Bethlehem is a very familiar one.

The Magi have sometimes been seen as a symbol of the world's diversity – different religions and cultures – that come to pay homage to the Christ-child. The story might therefore represent the unity of all created that God desires.

Week of Prayer Resources

Pray24Brum

An invite from Birmingham Churches Together.

Pray24Brum enters its seventh year of hosting 24 hours of prayer for the City during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The 24 hours of prayer takes place between 8am and 8pm on Friday 21 January and between 8am and 8pm on Saturday 22 January 2022.

Take part in Pray24Brum

The Synod: Now's the time to get talking

Momentum to take part in the Synod is building across the Archdiocese as more and more parishes kickstart their conversations.

The Synod was launched in Rome last October by Pope Francis and the Diocesan phase is now underway. The deadline to receive feedback from parish conversations is **Monday 28 February**.

There is still time for parishes and communities to begin conversations and all are encouraged to get involved.

Please make use of the Diocesan handbook, 'Walking Together', available to download from our website. It is a step-by-step guide of what to do and includes the questions to discuss and a feedback sheet.

If you need support at any stage of your Synod journey please ask for help by emailing synodalpathway@rcaob.org.uk

Our Synod

Listed Places of Worship Grants

Extended

Some good news to share with parishes that worship in and care for a listed church.

The government's Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme has been extended for a further three years until 31 March 2025.

This scheme gives grants to cover the VAT incurred in making repairs to listed places of worship. This grant is not limited to a single application and can be accessed following any repairs undertaken to your church building.

For more information on works that are covered and for help in applying for the grant please contact:

Listed Buildings Support Officer:

tom.stockwell@rcaob.org.uk

or Funding Officer:

kevin.baugh@rcaob.org.uk

Divine Renovation and Alpha Event: What is God Saying to the Church?

Tuesday 1 March 2022. A live online event to inspire you in your work in parish renewal, mission and evangelisation.

As we slowly emerge into a post-pandemic world, mission-minded parish leaders know we have an incredible opportunity to recommit our energies to finding bold and new ways to evangelise. But there are important questions many are wrestling with:

- What is the most urgent call for the Church?
- What have the past two years revealed about the Church and how she is fulfilling her mission?
- What are we being called to repent of, to turn from, and to turn towards?

Event registration and watch party packs will be available on the Divine Renovation website from Tuesday 25 January.

Join Fr James Mallon, Bishop Robert Barron and Rev Nicky Gumbel for a conversation on What is God Saying to the Church? This is a FREE online event.

What is God Saying to the Church

Columban Schools Competition: Who are society's changemakers?

The theme is: 'Anyone can make a difference: 21st Century Changemakers' and the entry deadline is **Friday 11 February**.

Young people aged 13-18 are asked to consider: Who in the world today is doing something about inequality, injustice, exclusion and environmental degradation? What can they teach us? How can we draw on our own faith and personal experience to be changemakers?

Columban Schools Competition

Dates for your diary: the month ahead

Started Tues 18 Jan: [Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](#)

Starts Fri 21 Jan: [Pray24Brum](#)

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

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

Tue 25 Jan: [Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission Forum - Walk Together](#)

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

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

Starts Wed 26 Jan: [Papal Talk Series](#)

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

Sat 29 Jan: [Pact: Just People online workshop part 1](#)

Sun 30 Jan: [World Leprosy Day](#)

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

Thu 17 Feb: [North Staffs Deanery Vocations Mass](#)

[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

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.

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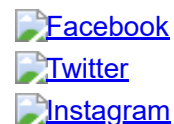
We hope you are finding this e-newsletter useful. **Please share with anyone you think will benefit, and encourage them to subscribe via the website.**

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