

News and Events from the Archdiocese of Birmingham

Birmingham Archdiocese <communications@rcaob.org.uk>

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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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A printable PDF of this newsletter is attached for sharing.

Relics Tour, Family Fast Day, Prisoners' Sunday

The Relics of St Bernadette arrive in the Archdiocese tomorrow, Friday

A number of special Masses will be celebrated over the weekend as the relics of St Bernadette come to our Archdiocese.

The relics will be visiting *St Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham*, *Our Lady of Lourdes in Hednesford, Staffordshire*, and the *Immaculate Conception in Bicester* from tomorrow until Monday.

All are welcome to attend this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to celebrate St Bernadette and venerate her relics.

This very special event will provide an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience the special gifts and charisms of Lourdes.

If possible please register the time you wish to attend (*this helps the venues anticipate numbers, it is not a timeslot - entry to venues will be via queuing*).

Venues to Visit and Register

Tomorrow, Friday 7 October, is CAFOD Family Fast Day

Join together with your parish, friends and family so that families around the world survive today and have food for all their tomorrows.

Family Fast Day

New edition of environment document launched - The Call of Creation

On the recent Feast of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecologists and animals, the Social Justice Department of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has launched a new edition of its teaching document on the environment.

The Call of Creation (first published two decades ago, in 2002) was released at the conclusion of the Church's month-long Season of Creation (Tuesday 4 October).

The Call of Creation

An Introduction to GDPR and Working Safely - sign up now

Join Debbie Jones, our Diocesan Data Compliance Manager, for a session on handling data in your parish and the potential pitfalls to avoid.

Although this week at the Conservative Party Conference changes to the UK GDPR were announced, there will still be obligations for us to manage personal data in the same way as under GDPR. Many of the changes to be introduced in the new Data Reform Bill will not affect us.

Debbie will be hosting three online sessions on **Thursday 13 October, Thursday 27 October and Friday 28 October**, all at 10.30am.

The sessions will run for approximately 45 minutes, including time for questions, and will provide guidance, such as where to find useful GDPR resources, what you should do if you think there has been a data breach and much more.

They are **ideal for parish secretaries, new parish staff members, parish safeguarding reps and all others who handle personal data in our parishes.**

If you would like to sign up to a session please contact Debbie on 0121 230 6271 or via email: debbie.jones@rcaob.org.uk

Prisoners' Sunday, 9 October

This Sunday we invite parish communities to join in prayer and support for Prisoners' Sunday: A Fresh Start.

The national Catholic prisons charity, Pact (Prison Advice & Care Trust), will now be providing family services in 10 prisons across the Archdiocese area as well as its substantial work in the community.

Pact and its work

Ecumenical Service on Prisoners'

Sunday

All are welcome to join an Ecumenical Service at 4pm on **Sunday 9 October** at Our Lady & St Brigid's, Northfield, Birmingham.

We hope that this service will be a welcome place for prayer and connection for all those affected by imprisonment, but most especially for parishioners who may have been in, or have family in, prison.

Marking the start of Prisons Week.

[Ecumenical Service](#)

This week: Supporting the LOUDfence initiative

Ribbons, messages and prayers are being displayed along Colmore Row, Birmingham, this week as a sign of visible solidarity with survivors of abuse.

The initiative, known as LOUDfence, is being hosted by St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham, with the support of various partners, including survivor-led charity Survivors Voices and the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham.

[Find out more about LOUDfence](#)

Job vacancies: New opportunities!

Are you looking for a new challenge? Then please take a look at the latest jobs and volunteering opportunities now available across the Archdiocese area.

- Registry Assistant at Maryvale Institute
- Head Chef and Housekeeper at the Jesuit Community, Harborne
- Communications and Marketing Officer at Father Hudson's Care
- Resources Coordinator at Brushstrokes Community Project

[Find out More: Jobs Page](#)

Holy Hour at St Peter Apostle, Leamington Spa. All Welcome.

7-8pm on **Tuesday 11 October**, run by the Catholic Leamington Young Adults Group and Youth 2000 Worship Team.

There will be Eucharistic Adoration with guided prayerful reflections, worship and confessions with Fr Stephen followed by Benediction.

Refreshments afterwards next door in the Dormer Conference Centre.

All are welcome.

Blessing of Graves at Oscott Cemetery

Family and friends of those who are buried at Oscott Cemetery (at St Mary's College, Oscott) are warmly invited each November to the Blessing of Graves, a commemoration of all the faithful departed buried in the Cemetery and an opportunity to pray for the repose of their souls.

Taking place on **Saturday 5 November**.

Blessing of Graves Service

Dates for your diary: the month ahead

Fri 7 and Sat 8 Oct: [Building Back Greener Conference](#)

Fri 7 Oct: [Cafod Family Fast Day](#)

Sun 9 Oct: [Prisoners' Sunday](#)

Sun 9 Oct: [Ecumenical Service to mark Prisons Week](#)

Mon 10 Oct: [Justice and Peace Commission Annual Assembly Session 1](#)

Mon 10 Oct: [St Bernadette Relic Tour live stream for Schools](#)

Mon 10 Oct: [Restore Training Course, Autumn, week 2](#)

Wed 12 Oct: [Science and Faith in the Second City Event 5](#)

Wed 12 Oct: [Webinar: 'Can we improve on God's design?'](#)

Sun 16 Oct: [Sight Loss Sunday](#)

Sun 16 Oct: [Pause for Hope Ecumenical Service Birmingham](#)

Mon 17 Oct: [Restore Training Course, Autumn, week 3](#)

Tue 18 Oct: [Workshop on Faith and Science for Christian Leaders](#)

Tue 18 - Thu 20 Oct: [Transition Retreats - Carmelite Priory Oxford](#)

Wed 19 Oct: [Maryvale Online Forum](#)

Sat 22 Oct: [ACTA 9th Annual Conference](#)

Thu 3 Nov: ['Neighbours without borders' evening lecture 1](#)

Sat 5 Nov: [The Blessing of Graves at Oscott Cemetery](#)

More Events

Supporting your parish

You have asked us how you can continue giving to your parish.

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

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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