

## News and Events - 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>

📎 1 attachments (826 KB)

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Archdiocese of Birmingham

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# Volunteer for Lourdes 2023, Advent Retreat Day, Dates for the Diary

*A printable PDF of this newsletter is attached for sharing.*

## Applications now open!

Volunteer your skills to look after our Accueil (assisted) pilgrims on next year's Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Applications to join the Lourdes Nursing and Medical Team, or the Handmaids and Brancardiers, for the 2023 Diocesan Pilgrimage are now open.

Next year's pilgrimage takes place from Saturday 27 May to Friday 2 June.

Please consider seizing this opportunity to try something new and make a real difference to the lives of those who make the journey to the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Volunteer for Lourdes 2023

## Advent Retreat Day, Banbury

All welcome to join on **Saturday 3 December** from 10.30am to 3pm, as Banbury Catholic Churches host an Advent retreat day led by members of the Christian Life Community.

The theme for the day is the Incarnation, looking at the birth of Christ as we prepare for the season of Christmas.

Lunch is provided and therefore booking is essential by Friday 2 December.

Please email [stjohn.banbury@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stjohn.banbury@rcaob.org.uk) or contact Fr Ryan Service on 01295 262073.

## Retreat Day

### **The Season of Advent is here**

In preparation for the birth of Our Lord please visit our dedicated Advent and Christmas webpage.

It will be regularly updated with activities, resources, reflections, readings and prayers suitable for individual, parish and school use over the coming weeks.

You can start with Advent calendars with tips and facts on responding to the Call of Creation, or with prayers and reflections from CAFOD.

Let us celebrate the Season of Advent.

## Prayers and Reflections for Advent

### **Family Advent Prayer Service**

The Columban Missionaries would like to invite you to join them for their Family Advent Prayer Service on **Saturday 3rd December between 10-11am via Zoom.**

Besides music, song and scripture there will be opportunities to take action and reflect, plus time for sharing with one another and for prayer. This will be a wonderful occasion to gather together and prepare for the birth of Christ!

Please encourage your family, friends and neighbours to join!

## Family Advent Prayer Service

### **New blog post: 'Envision. Encounter. Equip.'**

The latest blog post from the Diocesan Office for Mission is now available to read.

'Envision. Encounter. Equip.' has an Advent/New Year theme.

To **Envision** means to help each person SEE the mission that God has for THEM.

To **Encounter** means to OFFER all people the opportunity to MEET Christ.

To **Equip** means to OPEN the Church's eyes to the

GIFTS she already has, and to the tools she needs for the first two tasks.

The Office for Mission is on hand to help parishes take those steps, however small.

[Read Blog Post](#)

## **Next week: Divine Renovation webinar**

Featuring guest speaker Fr Gary Buckby, Parish Priest at Our Lady and St Rose of Lima Parish, Birmingham.

*"My Parish isn't Missional!": How to lead when you're not in charge* will take place online on **Thursday 8 December** at 7pm.

Join the conversation exploring the ways you can influence, lead, pray and serve fruitfully in a parish that is not yet oriented to mission.

[Register for webinar](#)

## **Eternal Wall featured on BBC Radio 4**

Earlier this week the Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer project was featured on 'The Untold' on BBC Radio 4.

[You can listen back here](#)

The Archdiocese is supportive of the Eternal Wall project, which will see a striking monument built in nearby Coleshill.

All across the Archdiocese are invited to submit their experiences of answers to prayer, which will form part of the one million answered prayers represented by the structure's one million bricks.

[Find out more about the Eternal Wall](#)

## **Dates for the Diary! Restore Training Course, February 2023**

This training is open to anyone who wants to find out more about refugee issues or who wants to explore the possibility of befriending a refugee or asylum seeker through Restore. (All welcome and no obligation to volunteering with Restore at the end).

The February course will run via Zoom on **Wednesday 1, 8 and 15 February 2023** from 7.15pm to 8.45pm.

[Book Restore Training](#)

## **A Gift of Joy and Hope, the third official book by Pope Francis, out now**

First published in Italy at the end of 2020, at the height of lockdown, *A Gift of Joy and Hope* (The Gift of a Smile in Italian) is Pope Francis' bestselling book there.

In response to the devastating loss the world faced during the pandemic, His Holiness was inspired to write a book to help people find hope and meaning.

The book is filled with thoughts and reflections on how to cope with the world we're currently in, from the anxieties of the age to the importance of nature.

*A Gift of Joy and Hope* encourages readers to look outside themselves and trust that joy and hope are still possible.

It was published by Hodder Faith in September.

A Gift of Joy and Hope

### **Dates for your diary: the month ahead**

**Sat 3 Dec:** [Advent Retreat Day](#)

**Wed 7 Dec:** [SSG Wednesday Workshop - The Word of God at Christmas](#)

**Thu 8 December:** ["My Parish isn't Missional!": How to lead when you are not in charge](#)

**Tue 13 December:** [Online School of Prayer, December session](#)

**Thu 15 Dec:** Good Shepherd Ministry, Wolverhampton: [Ecumenical Service to mark 50th Anniversary Year](#)

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](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!



Archdiocese of Birmingham  
Cathedral House  
Queensway  
Birmingham  
B4 6EU

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