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# THE ARCHDIOCESE *of* BIRMINGHAM

[Website](#)   [Events](#)   [News](#)

## Wishing all our readers a blessed and peaceful New Year

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### Pope Emeritus Benedict

We pray for the repose of the soul of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, whose funeral took place this morning (Thurs) in St Peter's Square.

He served as Supreme Pontiff from April 2005 to February 2013, and died aged 95 on Saturday 31 December 2022.

Archbishop Bernard Longley issued a statement following the death, recalling "with gratitude the warmth and impact of Pope Benedict's presence during his State Visit in 2010 and especially during his visit to Birmingham for the Beatification of Cardinal Newman".

A Book of Condolence is available at St Chad's Cathedral.

[www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk)

### Pax Christi - Peace Sunday 2023

Peace Sunday – 15 January 2023

Theme of Pope Francis' World Peace Day:  
*"No one can be saved alone. Combatting Covid-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace."*



Once again Pax Christi, the international Catholic movement for peace, has produced a variety of online and paper resources to celebrate the theme.

[www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/events](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/events)



## Synodality Training Course

Register for the entire course by **Sunday 15 January**.

Aimed at the entire People of God, the course will consist of four stages: three academic modules and a residential meeting.

Dealing with topics related to the synodal process: what is synodality? Is it in line with what is expressed in the Magisterium of the Church and Canon Law? How is it possible to live it in the Church?

[www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news)



## This month - #Pray24Brum

#Pray24Brum takes place on **Friday 20 and Saturday 21 January** at St Chad's Cathedral and online.

Each year #Pray24Brum, organised by Birmingham Churches Together, takes place during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and provides an opportunity to celebrate unity across different Christian traditions.

This year's 24-hour prayer relay theme is *'Do Good, Seek Justice'* and it will run from 8am to 10pm on Friday 20 and 8am to the 4.30pm Mass on Saturday 21, with each hour of prayer led by a different person/group.

All are welcome to any hour of prayer they can make.



## Still available to watch: Archbishop's Christmas Message

Archbishop Bernard Longley gave his recent Christmas message from St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham.

*"Choosing the right gift for a friend or loved one is less important than the friendship or love that it represents."*

You can now watch, read and listen to the message online.

[www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news)



## New Year, new opportunity

CIGB - Churches and Industry Group Birmingham-Solihull - is an ecumenical charity that supports workplace chaplaincies across the Birmingham and Solihull areas.

Its latest training course starts on **Thursday 9 February** and runs for seven weeks.

The course is intended for people who are interested in exploring Workplace Chaplaincy as an outworking of their faith life. It introduces some of the core themes and skills of workplace chaplaincy.

[www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/events](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/events)



## Next week: Birmingham Anglican Cathedral to Host Divine Beauty at Night

Birmingham's St Philip's Cathedral's remarkable stained-glass windows will be lit up in dazzling colour this January as part of an immersive light and sound experience to make visitors say "WOW!".

World-renowned light and sound projection company Luxmuralis will be bringing their four historic Burne-Jones windows to life, in a spectacular performance suitable for all ages.

Divine Beauty at Night will be a series of special one-off immersive events that sees imagery from the stained-glass windows projected, floor to ceiling on the inside of Birmingham Cathedral for three evenings from **12-14 January**.

<https://birminghamcathedral.com/divine-beauty-at-night/>



## Online reflection series starts this month

**The Sayings of Light and Love by St John of the Cross**

In this monthly online reflection series, Dr Susan Muto and the Carmelite friars in Oxford will explore with you the precious jewels of insight and experience from The Sayings of Light and Love by St John of the Cross, over a one-year period.

Starts **Tuesday 31 January**.

<https://www.carmelite.uk.net/online-talks-retreats/sayings-of-light-and-love-series/>



## Job opportunities

BVSC - the centre for voluntary management is searching for a Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) – Project Lead. **Application deadline: Friday 6 January.**

The Columban Missionaries Britain are seeking a part-time Communications Officer to join its team. **Application deadline: Friday 27 January.**

[www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/jobs](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/jobs)



## Schools competition: Still time to enter

The Columban Missionaries in Britain and Ireland is currently running its Schools Media Competition which has the title: *'Building Peaceful Futures'*.

The competition is targeted at students aged between 13-18 years old who are invited to demonstrate an awareness and an understanding of conflict and peacemaking in the world today through the submission of either a written article or an original image.

Encouraging creativity and faith engagement with issues in the world today, the competition welcomes entries until **10 February 2023**, with winners being announced on 13 March 2023.

[www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news)



## 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.

[www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/support-our-work](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/support-our-work)

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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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