



the arena

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newsletter

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Dear All,

As we say goodbye to summer and prepare for the autumn can I start by saying thank-you for keeping in touch during this extended period of lock-down? One way or another we seem to have heard from most people - including those who have had to arrange really complicated ways of balancing work and child care.

We know that getting to Church has been particularly difficult and we hope that at least some of you have discovered the 10am Mass streamed on YouTube (www.stjamesislington.org.facebook page). On one Sunday in the height of the August 'get-away', there were more people watching the recording than making their way to St James'!



Sunday Service Trinity 11-
23rd August 2020

Sunday Service Trinity 10-
16th August 2020

Sunday Service St James Day
26th July 2020

Sunday Service- Trinity 6
19th July 2020

Just a couple of reminders. The first is that there is no need to book a place in Church for either the 8am or 10am Masses. There's space for all! And second, Sunday School has been running each week throughout the summer and will continue to do so, albeit with a few social distancing restrictions. Thanks to Maria and Sinead for making that possible. Please do support their care of our children.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS It is becoming quite a tradition to open the autumn season with



another First Communion preparation course. Already enrolled are Barnaby and Matilda Powell, Amariah Greenaway, Tayah Phillips and Ava Wilson. *If anyone else, aged 8 or above, would like to take part, please let me know asap.* The group will be meeting in

Church on Tuesday afternoons at 3.45pm, starting on September 15th. The Admission to First Communion will take place on Sunday 18th October, St Luke's Day.



CONCERT: Now that we are allowed to hold musical events in Church again, we are delighted that a really good a cappella Choir which Ros Ford is attached to, has agreed to sing a concert in aid of the ARC Food Bank, on *Sunday 27th September at 6pm.* Many of the singers are also in Epiphoni which sang a sell out concert as part of the Proms a few years ago. Tickets will be

limited but we hope that we will sell every single one for the ARC Food Bank which Damien and his team are running locally. Boxes full of first class fresh food make their way to about 60 families and they are literally a 'God-send'.

WE NEED YOUR REPOSES PLEASE! To be able to send you newsletters and other Church information, we need your permission under current GDPR regulations. We promise not to bombard you with unlimited stuff but as a congregation we are so widely scattered that regular electronic mailing is the only way we can easily keep in touch. Adam Dickson our administrator has sent out letters asking for written GDPR permission. Hardly any have come back yet. Please do help us by getting those replies back to Adam this month.



HELLO TEXAS! As part of the seminar day at the end of August for Joe Ammoun, an ordinand at Oak Hill Theological College we managed to share (via Zoom) in noon day prayers with Suzanne Smith and members of her congregation at our link Church in the US - Grace Church Alvin in Texas - although it was 6pm for Joe and I, back here in Islington! It was part of a long day for Joe as we visited the ARC Food Bank and the St Peter's Summer playscheme, met with a young family requesting baptism for their young son and another couple who wanted to think about what the Cross meant to Christians. In between we thought about how a parish Church operates and why we do what we do; we also looked ahead to the kinds of changes to Church life that might be needed in the future. Helping to train future priests in a real privilege and St James' looks forward to helping more students to show what a modern catholic parish like ours gets up to.

CROWD FUNDING! Each year we get out the Crib figures for Christmas - and each year I reflect on how knocked about and broken the plaster figures have now become. One shepherd has no fingers at all! While we were away in France we came across some lovely new ones, made by monks in a monastery near Tournus not far from Taize. They are made out of resin so won't get chipped like the old ones and we thought that others might like them too. At the PCC meeting on Monday 7th September I am suggesting that we could 'crowd fund' a new set of Nativity figures (whether these or some others) for display here this Christmas. We hope that people might be willing to buy - perhaps with someone else - one figure in the set. More details will be available after the meeting.



FINALLY It is Harvest on the first Sunday of October (4th) so we really do hope we can all get together for that!

Keep safe!

Best wishes as ever,
John

Birthdays and Anniversaries in September

BIRTHDAYS Very many happy returns on Wednesday 2nd to Dionne Carter and on Friday 4th to Jill Hetherington. On Monday 7th to Eva Kasella, a day she shares with Evelyn Holtom who will be 2; on Wednesday 9th to Poppy Wheatley who will be 10 and on Thursday 10th to Chris Sabine. On Sunday 13th to our chief flower arranger Norah Hodge; on Wednesday 16th to Ken Thompson and to Shirley Chinery; on Thursday 17th to our Communications Officer Kerri Allen and to Charlie Seabrook who will be 11; on Friday 18th to Alastair Hume our Assistant Treasurer and on Saturday 19th to our Electoral Roll Officer Vera Taggart.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES September 13th; Revds Travis and Suzanne Smith, Texas (2006); 17th: Matthew and Nicole Jean-Baptiste (2015); Sid and Rosemary Ross (1959).



May God bless every £1 we give so that St James' will be here, not just for today and for tomorrow, but for the future he wants to create.